

The 1st JAPAN – AFRICA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERS' MEETING
Meeting Summary

October 23, 2008
Cabinet Office

Ms. Seiko Noda, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy hosted the 1st Japan-Africa Science and Technology Minister's Meeting at Mita Kaigisho in Tokyo, Japan on October 8, 2008. Ministers responsible for Science and Technology Policy of Japan and African countries got together for the first time to discuss the direction of science and technology cooperation.

At the meeting, ministers introduced the overview of respective Science and Technology Policy and exchanged views on the direction of science and technology cooperation between Japan and African countries.

Ministers reaffirmed that science and technology is essential to accelerate growth and to resolve problems that African countries face today. Moreover, they acknowledged that science and technology is an important cooperative activity in promoting Japan's science and technology diplomacy, and that further expansion of cooperation is necessary to resolve global issues by utilizing the excellent results of Japanese science and technology.

Based on these recognitions, they reached a consensus on promoting the following two activities as concrete measures to strengthen partnerships:

1. Establish a policy dialogue mechanism to deepen mutual understanding through the following measures:
 - We continue to convene the Japan-Africa Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting.
 - We launch a technical working group composed of officials in charge of science and technology policy or scientists from respective countries to follow up the decisions of the ministerial dialogue.
 - Japan organizes an African Science and Technology Research Mission composed of representatives of Japanese ministries and research institutes involved in the first half of 2009.
 - We strengthen cooperation between the Japanese government and the AU commission/NEAPD Secretariat.

2. Expand Science and Technology cooperation between Japan and African countries through the following measures;
 - Japan continuously promotes various forms of ongoing science and technology cooperation between Japan and African countries implemented by ministries involved.
 - We will expand science and technology cooperation by making active use of Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development jointly implemented by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).