

PRESS RELEASE



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Africa and Japan Civil Societies' Advocacy Work toward TICAD IV Announcement of "Voices 2008" in TICAD Ministerial Conference in Gabon (March 20-21)

The "Voices 2008" will be unveiled at Civil Society Session of Gabon Ministerial Meeting which possesses great importance for the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 28th-30th 2008 in Yokohama, Japan.

To let TICAD reflect voices of civil societies, the Voices 2008 has been created from a collaboration between TICAD IV-NGO network (TNnet)*¹ and African NGOs*² through their dialogues in the past opportunities such as symposiums, two regional preparatory meetings in Zambia and Tunisia. The Voices 2008 is organized into TICAD IV 4 areas of cooperation (economic growth, MDGs, peace consolidation, environment/climate change) from the grass-roots points of view based on their actual experiences.

The Civil Society Session will be held right after lunch time for 1 hour on March 20th aiming to promote inclusion of civil society to the TICAD process, to reflect the voices of civil society in Africa and Japan to the TICAD preparatory meetings, and to show the importance of civil society to the TICAD co-organisers and African governments by contributing to constructive inputs to their discussion.

Note to editors:

*¹ TNnet was established in March 2007 with an aim to enhance information sharing and communication among Japanese NGOs for the TICAD IV. There are 35 Japanese NGOs related to Africa in our member list.

*²Over 100 African NGOs contributed to the Voices 2008:

African Development Programme (Ghana), Network Africa Asia (Cote d'Ivoire), Président de l'Association Pour la Défense des Consommateurs(Cameroon), PELUM Association (Zambia), Youth Network for MDG(Madagascar), Social Watch (Benin), Global Call Against Poverty (Kenya), Kenya Youth Education&Community Development program (Kenya), Education for life institute (Kenya), Center for Reforms Management (Kenya), Network for Good Governance (Cameroon), Kenya Debt Relief Network (Kenya), Environment Development Action in the Third World (Senegal), Africa Public Health Alliance&15% Now Campaign, IPPF Africa Region representing 44 Member Associations etc.

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