



Briefing Paper

21 November 2007

TICAD IV NGO Network (TNnet)

Development of Civil Society Engagement in TICAD IV Process

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“Voices of African and Japanese Civil Society towards 2008” shared at the Civil TICAD Symposium held on October 27th in Tokyo

The Japanese and African civil society organisations have been actively engaging in the process leading up to TICAD IV. Civil TICAD Symposium was successfully hosted by TNnet, with participation of over 10 representatives from African civil society, on October 27th at UN House in Tokyo. This symposium announced “the Voices of African and Japanese Civil Society Towards 2008”, outlining the civil society’s demands and expectations for TICAD IV. The symposium’s audience, including the Japanese Government, UNDP, and Tokyo-based diplomatic community of African countries, received “The Voices” favourably. It affirmed that civil society’s input is seen more and more crucial for enriching the discussions surrounding development in Africa towards TICAD IV.

Recent development and the “Voices”;

- **March 9th, 2007:** TICAD IV NGO Network (TNnet), a coalition of 26 Japanese NGOs that have been working in Africa / with African matters in Japan, was established due to coordinate the engagement of Japanese civil society with TICAD process.
- **May 30th, 2007:** The 1st TICAD MoFA-NGO Periodic Consultation Meeting was held with the attendance of H.E. Mr. Shuichiro MEGATA, Ambassador, Personal Representative of Prime Minister for Africa, Director-General for African Affairs at Waseda University, Tokyo.
- **July 20th, 2007:** The 2nd TICAD MoFA-NGO Periodic Consultation Meeting was held at Waseda University, Tokyo.
- **September 17th – 18th:** The “Voices of African Civil Society” was prepared by 27 African NGOs from 13 countries during the JICA Africa-Asia NGO Networking Nairobi Workshop was held in Nairobi. 85 people, including 9 Japanese NGOs and 2 Asian NGOs participated in the workshop.
- **September 20th:** The 3rd TICAD MoFA-NGO Periodic Consultation Meeting was held with the attendance of H.E. Mr. Shuichiro MEGATA and all the new officials who belong to the office of Director-general for African Affairs at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo.
- **October 24th-26th, 2007:** The “Voices of African and Japanese Civil Society” was prepared based on the “Voices of African Civil Society” made in Nairobi during the JICA’s Africa-Asia NGO Networking Tokyo Workshop in Tokyo. 14 African NGOs and 36 Japanese NGOs participated to the workshop.
- **October 27th, 2007:** The Civil TICAD Symposium “Re-thinking African development from the point of view of Civil Society – What can TICAD do to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”



(Organiser: TNnet / Co-organiser: UNDP) was held at UN House in Tokyo. Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Bank, *Mainichi Shinbun*, one of the largest newspapers in Japan, and *Asahi Shinbun*, the second most circulated out of the five national newspapers in Japan supported this event.

H.E. Mr. Osamu UNO, Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has given an opening speech. The African and Japanese Civil Society shared their “Voices” towards 2008 TICAD IV, and emphasized importance of role of Civil Society in African Development and necessity of consolidating all the efforts to achieve MDGs. H.E. Mr. Elly Elikunda Elineema MTANGO, Dean of African Diplomatic Corps /Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E.Mr. Shuichiro MEGATA, Ms. Marjon KAMARA, Director of Africa Bureau of UNHCR, Prof. Shuichi MURATA, Resident Representative, UNDP have given positive comments to the proposals of the presentations by African and Japanese Civil Society. 300 people participated in the symposium, and it was broadcasted world widely by Internet TV, Our Planet. http://www.ourplanet-tv.org/whats/2007/20071107_15.html



- **October 30th-31st, 2007: at TICAD Regional Preparatory Meeting in Lusaka**, the African and Japanese Civil Society (TNnet, PELUM Association and NGOCC) have organized a civil society session as a side-event. 5 NGOs based in South-eastern region of Africa, 10 Zambian NGOs and 3 Japanese NGOs based in Zambia and 2 NGOs from Japan participated to the TICAD meeting as observers. (*The traveling cost of the 5 African NGOs and 1 representative of TNnet were supported by TICAD co-organisers.)

Mr. Joseph Ssuuna, Civic Commission for Africa/PELUM Association shared the statement made during the session at the plenary of the TICAD Regional Preparatory Meeting, and welcomed by the chairperson, H.E. Mr. Nobutake ODANO, TICAD Co-organisers and participants of African governments. It was very first time for the civil society to organise such a session, and share its statement at the plenary in the 14 years of history of TICAD.

Preamble:

Civil society commends all TICAD initiatives aimed at enhancing Africa growth and development.

Civil society has an active role to play in shaping and enriching the TICAD processes, including participatory planning and monitoring and evaluation of the TICAD outcomes. However, to date, the involvement of civil society has not been institutionalized. In addition, TICAD has not been fully discussed in the public domain and hence remains a closed government to government dialogue.

The active participation of the civil society organizations in the development process is essential if the benefits of Africa's positive economic growth are to be felt and owned by all citizens.

Promoting inclusiveness and participation of all citizens enhances good governance and commitment to consolidation of peace and democratization.

- **November 9th, 2007: TICAD MoFA-NGO Periodic Consultation Meeting** was held at Waseda University in Tokyo. The outcome of TICAD Regional Preparatory Meeting in Lusaka was shared by MoFA and the representative of TNnet who participated to the meeting, Ms. Rumiko Murao.

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