AFRICA-JAPAN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA 2013

- Youth Proposal for TICAD V -

This proposal paper was adopted by youth participants in Africa Japan Student Summit, held from 18th to 28th March 2013 in Yokohama and other cities in Japan organized by TICAD V Student Project, taking several researches into consideration implemented by TICAD V Student Project and partnering organizations.

PREAMBLE

For the first time in 20 years of the TICAD process, we, youth, assembled in Yokohama from 18th to 28th, March 2013 to make our voice heard,

believing that youth participation is an important development because youth are the largest part of the population,

believing that youth participation shall be pursued because youth are the driving force who bear and lead the future world,

believing that youth participation has an outstanding impact on African development and Africa-Japan relations because youth are not committed to any social status, which enables the youth to objectively express opinions,

and believing that youth participation is essential to solve a wide range of issues, such as employment and education because youth are the major actors of those issues,

we hereby propose the following:

1. EMPLOYMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR

2. EDUCATION

3. HEALTH

4. PEACE EDUCATION

5. SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

6. COMMUNICATION

Target 1: Promote Qualitative Human Resource Development

According to the World Bank, 3 out of 5 young people in Sub-Saharan Africa are unemployed (World Bank, 2010). We identify rifts between acquired skill and current job market as one of the core problems. Hence, youth should be empowered with access to qualitative education. Hands-on skill-based learning for capacity building and entrepreneurial training in strengthening potentials is strongly advocated for a competitive job creation. Furthermore, we recognize the pivotal role played by vibrant cooperation between academia and industries to match this target. The prioritization of youth empowerment by all concerned stakeholders will materialise the opening up of better opportunities for education, capacity building, employment and entrepreneurship.

Target 2: Restructure Informal Sector and Encourage Social Entrepreneurship

In Africa, it is estimated that 9 out of 10 workers in rural and urban areas are engaged in the informal sector (ILO, 2009). This sector is constrained by limited access to technology, credit facilities, education, and skills development, limiting its expansion and profitability. Therefore, we strongly advocate that the organization and centralization of the informal sector is an important step towards easing financial support and expanding scales of marketing. Social economy provides complementary paths to development, bringing together in a coherent manner, and the concerns for economic sustainability. Social entrepreneurship should be harnessed as a tool to alleviate poverty and foster rapid growth, through expansion and easier access to capital through channels such as micro-finance with priority being given to the low-income groups. A focus on informal sector and social entrepreneurship will ensure holistic sustainability, such as social benefit at local level, wealth creation, and conservation of the ecosystem, and empowerment of people.

Target 3: Catalyze Investment by Public/Private Sectors

Governments must tackle the issue of resource allocation. Since 2000, aid and private capital were steadily flowing to the African continent (World Bank, 2012). Yet, malinvestment remains a crucial challenge for Africa. Public and Private investments are still not aligned nor well coordinated. Improving the mechanisms of decision-making is strongly advocated to address this issue. The management of natural resources should be optimized to generate direct benefit for local communities supported by good governance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and environmental protection. In addition, shared vision on the importance of trade agreements between Japan and African countries has been acknowledged as a potential trigger for future investments. To this end, initiatives such as the US *African Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA) and the *Everything but Arms* (EBA) are the possible models that Japan could adopt. This could be a pathway to generate economic benefits not only for the current time but also for the future generation.

Target 4: Foster Conducive Environment for Investment

The investment environment in Africa is challenging for both local and foreign investors, despite its huge business potential. In most African countries, the start-up and operation of firms are not conducive as stated in the *Ease of Doing Business Index* (World Bank, 2012). Major factors of concern include erratic energy supplies, inefficient taxation system, unpredictable economic laws and limited access to credit and information. We therefore recommend viable initiatives by the African governments and relevant stakeholders to foster the set-up and sustainability of new businesses. These include access to credit, information, elimination of unnecessary bureaucracy and investment in reliable sources of energy. We support development of predictable and transparent economic laws, reinforced by good governance. Furthermore, the design of tax policies should foster a win-win situation for both domestic and foreign investors in general, Japan in particular. A conducive investment environment will foster the start-up and sustenance of local enterprises thus expanding employment opportunities. In addition, we project that this would attract foreign direct investment and its accompanying benefits.

Target 5: Improve the Agricultural Sector

Agricultural development and food security is an important global concern. It is a bearing sector that can generate employment and become a driver of African economic growth (World Bank, 2007). We recognize the fact that subsistence farming based on traditional practices is still prevalent in Africa. Land-grabbing is also an emerging issue for concern. However, agriculture has huge potential to be transformed into a market-oriented activity, liable to support economic expansion. Therefore, we recommend an increase in investment for a more modernized and environment-friendly agricultural practices. Providing the sector with technologies for research, irrigation, and machinery will ensure an increase in productivity along with food security. African governments should have policies that safeguard the rights and interests of smallholders. To meet international food standard requirements, Japan and other development partners should support projects that emphasize on strengthening the quality control and standards in Africa and build food trade agreements between Africa and Japan on fair access to the market. The transformation of the agricultural sector will create new job opportunities for youth.

Target 6: Revitalize Tourism

Africa's vast touristic potential still remains largely untapped, although it has seen significant growth that justifies the need for further investment. Tourism in Africa has shown greater resilience to the world economic crisis than in other regions, with tourism arrivals growing from 37 million in 2003 to 58 million in 2009 (UNWTO, 2010). The existing stereotypical image of Africa, such as the state of insecurity and lack of adequate infrastructures, have undoubtedly led to a reduction in Africa's attractiveness as a tourist destination. We advocate employment generation through the enhancement of tourism. Renewing Africa's image and making existing tourist destinations more attractive can be further enhanced through the promotion of local products, enhancing security, development of infrastructures, and branding of tourist destinations through the mass media. Therefore, we foresee that further growth of tourism in Africa and Japan will drive creation of jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurship; reducing poverty, preserving cultural heritage and building global connections.

Economic Development

EDUCATION

2

Target 1: Create Job Opportunities for Graduates

African countries have been called upon to initiate a range of actions to deal with youth unemployment. According to "African Development Indicators 2008/09" report, the substantial difficulties of youth participation in the labor market are clearly pointed out, the situation of women is severe, which leads to a trend where most females get married and become housewives instead of following professional carrier paths. The problems above can be solved by; eradicating nepotism and favoritism in African companies and governments, and encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI). If this is realized, more graduates will be able to find jobs and contribute to the development of their country.

Target 2: Improve the Quality of Teachers, Curriculum and Education Management

The poor quality of teachers and curriculum in some schools of Africa has affected educational progress and discourages students from learning or putting effort into studying. The government of Japan could assist some African governments by sharing ideas and giving assistance towards improving the standards of teachers by providing research facilities, and teacher training programs to improve teaching skills.

Target 3: Increase the Quality of Education in Africa Through Collaborative Networks between Japan and Africa Based Tertiary Institutions

South Africa has attracted a diverse range of international students, in line with international trends while most of the universities in other African countries have negligible numbers of international students (OECD, 2012). An increase in the enrolment of international students in African universities would enhance competition and stimulate African students. This will contribute to an improvement in the quality of education at universities in Africa. The government of Japan should therefore support the setting up of a parastatal organization to overlook the implementation of study abroad programs in Africa, which will facilitate increased enrolment of Japanese students at African tertiary institutions, in accordance with the demands arising from globalization. The mandate of this organization could extend to coordinating intra-Africa exchanges as well as Africa-Japan exchanges of lecturers, researchers and students. Japanese companies could also be encouraged to offer scholarships for African students to study in African universities, to prevent brain drain and contribute to endogenous development of African countries.

Social Development

2. EDUCATION

Target 4: Increase Awareness of the Value of Education

In Africa, the gross enrolment ratio of the official primary school age has improved. However, the Global education Digest (2011) shows that 42% of students drop out before the end of primary school in Sub-Saharan Africa. The core of this issue is that even though students enroll in schools, they do not realize the value of education as a mean of increasing their knowledge and sharpening their personalities. To address this issue there is the need for extensive awareness campaigns, regular communication and engagement with stakeholders through sensitization campaigns. Such campaigns could be emphasized through the provision of guidance and counseling services extending to both school children and their parents. Also, these campaigns do not only ensure the continuity of schooling among children, but can also enhance their performances.

Target 5: Provide Aid for Vulnerable Groups to Improve Accessibility and Universal Coverage

The UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for primary education is seen as having low probability of being achieved in Africa by 2015. In 2010, 33 million children of primary school age in Sub-Saharan Africa could not go to school (United Nations, MDGs Report 2012). The number of vulnerable children, who do not have access to formal education, especially in rural areas, keeps increasing. These problems are caused by the limited number of mainstream schools, special schools and financial barriers. The accumulated effect of these problems has led to an increasing rate of illiteracy, high poverty levels and low levels of human resource development. It is therefore recommended that Africa-Japan collaboration should focus on the establishment of special schools, development of day care centers in rural areas, expansion of the capacity of existing schools, provision of means of transport such as school buses and bicycles for students, and the construction of new schools in rural areas in Africa. This will result in equal access to universal education in Africa.

Social Development

Target 1: Improve Health Care Quality, Accessibility & Coverage

With the release of the 2010 World Health Report (WHO, 2010), universal coverage has been placed high on the global health policy agenda. Universal access to health services depend on the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best health outcomes. One of the factors limiting access to health care in some African countries is the long distance between homes and health facilities. This makes the seeking of medical attention difficult, which is compounded by the high cost of medical services and poor emergency services. Another factor is limited access to insurance, due the inability to pay for premium and ineffective insurance systems. African governments and their partners should therefore provide opportunities for training health care personnel to meet the manpower demands in African countries. It is against this backdrop that the establishment of universal health care insurance systems, modeled to suit local context and increased spending on health to match the demand for services are imperative for development.

Target 2: Enhance Strategies to Curb the Prevalence of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Trends indicate that some African countries have been affected disproportionately by both Communicable and NCDs. The dangers of the above diseases are that they result in unnecessary and premature deaths. African Governments could support and fund measures, such as recruitment and training of qualified health personnel, availing universal access to treatment, care and support for HIV/AIDS, T.B, and malaria, strengthening the capacity for research and development to combat these diseases in Africa. All of the above can also address poor nutrition, which is linked to maternal and child health, as well as high rates of diabetes, strokes and cardio vascular disease later on in life. Other methods could include funding community mobilization and public education campaigns, to raise awareness of the dangers of these diseases.

Target 3: Enhance Public Sensitization and Raise Awareness of HIV/AIDS

Although the reduction of HIV/AIDS is part of one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the progress of combating HIV/AIDS has been assessed as being "off track" (MDGs report 2012). Inadequate access to Anti-Retroviral treatment and stigmatization can be identified as the core challenges for eradicating HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection. The promotion of public sensitization and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS should be a priority of African governments. This target can be attained by promoting blood testing, providing education in schools about the use of condoms and safe sex, encouraging Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) and funding national Anti-Retroviral rollout programs in Africa. These measures would prolong the lives of victims and help them cope with the disease.

HEALTH

3

Target 4: Discourage the Use of Illicit Drugs and Smoking among Youth

According to UNODC (2012) the rate of the usage of illicit drugs, such as cannabis and cocaine, is 3.8-12.5% between the ages of 15 and 64 in Africa. In Japan the rate of smoking among youth is 31.5% for male and 11.4% for females (MHLW, 2012). Youth in both Africa and Japan, who will become leaders of the future world, are at risk of premature deaths, mental health problems, which could result in a potential reduction in the human resource capacity of Africa and Japan. Measures to regulate drug use and smuggling in Africa should be strengthened through the usage of computerized checking and screening methods at points of entry and transit in African countries. The government of Japan and TICAD V co-organizers could further assist African countries by offering capacity development programs for specialists in narcotics and anti-drug trafficking techniques.

Target 5: Improve Waste Management in Africa

Poor waste management caused by improper refuse disposal and obsolete methods is a concern in Africa. Even a small amount of waste can contain a lot of toxic substances, which can cause serious diseases. This is due to lack of awareness of the dangers associated with the unsafe disposal of waste. African governments can scale up investment in public education campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of waste management. Furthermore, to improve the waste management, African countries can learn more about effective and efficient systems from their development partners. Japan has a comparative advantage in this regard due to the level of technology, expertise and experience in modern and innovative approaches to waste management, which can be shared with Africa. Such cooperation and assistance can decrease the threats to health and occupational hazards posed by poor waste management methods in Africa .

Social Development

Target 1: Make Peace Education Compulsory in the Curriculum up to Secondary Level and Train Human Resources for That Purpose

One of the reasons for the spread of conflicts is the lack of peace education, which is critical in achieving the aim of reducing the risk of wars. Thus, students need to learn about peace as a human value. African ministries of education should consider peace education as a priority in the curriculum. In addition, they should provide appropriate training for human resources, especially teachers. As a result, students will recognize the need for a purposeful and effective peace education as far as it meets the objectives of educating children up to secondary school about the value of peace so that in the long run the number of wars and conflicts in Africa will be reduced.

Target 2: Establish Permanent and Independent Institutions for Peace Education and Conflict Resolution

Most countries in Africa have experienced and are still experiencing conflicts ranging from civil wars to religious and inter-ethnic conflicts. Considering the fact that peace education is essential for the resolution and prevention of such conflicts, conflict-affected countries need to set up permanent and independent institutions with qualified personnel for both peace education and conflict management. These institutions will play a key role in conflicts resolution in addition to promoting and carrying out peace education. Archived confessions, evidence and experiences collected by these institutions from both victims and perpetrators of conflicts will provide key resource materials for peace education. Through the establishment of such institutions, peace education will be promoted, thereby enhancing sustained peace and stability, and assist in the reconciliation and healing process.

Target 3: Enhance Opportunities for Direct Involvement of Youth in Peace-related Activities

Youth in Africa are highly predisposed to incitement in wars. According to studies by Oxfam-GB, armed conflicts cost African economies on average US$18 billion a year. In addition, years of protracted armed violence have, in some countries, destroyed up to 70 percent of health networks. Consequently, this poses a severe threat to sustainable development and peace. Hence, it is imperative that the following should be considered. Firstly, African governments should recognize the role of the youth as peace building agents and empower them accordingly. Secondly, youth in Africa should prioritize the importance of peace and becoming actively involved in its promotion. This can be done through their participation in awareness-raising campaigns, cultural exhibitions, sports competitions, and other peace-related activities. As a result, this will reduce the involvement of youth in violence and other criminal activities, create a deeper understanding of peace, strengthen motivation for peace, and create a sense of solidarity among youth.

Peace and Stability

Target 4: Promote Peace Education through Mass Media and Culture

Education systems provide options of peace studies at all levels, but this can only be accessed by people who can afford formal education. Peace awareness should be raised among all sectors of society to prevent the formation of risk groups. Mass media and culture, such as art, music and oral tradition are accessible to people who were unable to access in the education system. Media is able to disseminate information to the general public widely and rapidly. In addition, the media plays an important role in shaping people's opinions. For this target to be achieved the following needs are proposed. Firstly, there is a need to promote the external and internal media reforms under the recognition of the role of media in peace education. Secondly, there is a need to promote cultural affairs related to peace education through an organized structure. Lastly, there is a need to establish a committee that includes the concerned victims of conflicts in order to promote media reforms and culture. As a result, everybody regardless of their social positions in the society will have a strong awareness of peace which shall lead us to sustainable peace.

Peace and Stability

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

5

Target 1: Reform the Judicial and Electoral System and Establish an Independent Anti-corruption Institution

Currently, in some African countries, there is an increase in the culture of impunity due to a compromised judicial and electoral system, whose independence is interfered with by the executive and the legislature bodies. Consequently, these lapses are the primary cause of instability within those African countries. Therefore, reforms in the judiciary are necessary so that laws will be fairly applied and enforced on all citizens under all circumstances, regardless of their positions in society. In addition, electoral processes need to be reformed to establish a fair and transparent system, where the will of the people cannot be subverted. The sense of belonging to a society, in which equality, fairness and transparency are practiced, will lead to stability in those concerned countries

Target 2: Reform the Quality of the Conditions of the Police Institutions

In some African countries, the conditions of the police force are poor, for instance, low salaries, inadequate and inferior equipment and poor police facilities. Moreover, the conditions for recruitment into the police force are not sufficient. Due to the low entry requirements, there is a lack of motivated and qualified officers, making them inappropriate personnel for the security sector. In addition, the harsh working conditions make police officers vulnerable to corruption for their survival. In order to achieve the target, we suggest that the minimum entry requirement of the police force to be raised, increment of the police budget for the improvement of its training and better remuneration for the prevention of corruption, equipment be modernized. and promotion of transparency and accountability within the police force. Through these measures the following outcomes will be achieved; strong and professional police force, drastic decrease in bribery and corruption, an improved relationship between police and civilians and improved discipline, as well as self-dignity within the police force.

Target 3: Strengthen Communal and Collective Security Mechanisms

In Africa, where many countries are facing various scales of conflicts, there is a need to foster a collective and holistic approach to security reform. This will entail a strategic coordination and cooperation among local actors, national governments, and relevant regional organizations. For enhanced coordination in the security sector, the following should be adopted: a concordance approach to security operations where both civilians and security forces can cooperate; a common training institution for African peacekeeping forces; the involvement of traditional leaders in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR); a strong and independent civil society that will act as an intermediary between the government and the citizens in the materialization of the DDR process; and the implementation of the protocol on non-proliferation of small arms and illicit weapons by all African states. If the foregoing are undertaken, there will be an improvement in civilian and security forces relations, a coherent strategic approach to peacekeeping, and the eradication of small arms and illicit weapons in the African continent.

Peace and Stability

COMMUNICATION

6

Target 1: Establish a Network of African and Japanese Students in Japan

Although there are over 1000 African students in Japan, there is no organized structure to facilitate coordination amongst them. The above impedes communication and cultural exchange between Japanese and African students, when compounded by the fact that African students are sparsely spread out at various tertiary institutions across Japan. Most African students therefore tend to suffer alienation and other social challenges, perpetuating negative stereotypes about Africa. Similarly, there is no equivalent association of Japanese students with interest in Africa, which can project a positive image of Africa or facilitate interaction between Japanese and African students in Japan. The establishment of a network of African and Japanese students can facilitate this interaction and cultural exchange. It can also strengthen bonds of friendship and collaboration between Japan and Africa. We believe that through the creation of this framework, the government of Japan should support student activities that can foster the relationship between African and Japanese students.

Target 2: Promote Easy Access to Educational Exchange and Cooperation between Africa and Japan

African students studying in Japan constituted only 0.8% of all international students studying in Japan (JASSO, 2012). As at 2010, Japanese students constituted only 0.2% of international students studying in Africa. Obstacles associated with the acquisition of visas can be cited as one of the factors contributing to these statistics. The cumulative result of this has been limited interactions between the youth in Africa and Japan. This can be ameliorated by supporting African governments and educational institutions in providing more exchange programs and relaxing the processes of visa acquisition on both sides. This will increase the number of opportunities for visits from both Africa and Japan. Moreover, an Africa-Japan student association should be established to work as a platform for African and Japanese students to deliberate on educational issues and challenges. This will enable students to acquire and share knowledge and attain experience and leadership skills through direct interaction with each other.

Target 3: Create Conducive Environment for Mutual Understanding, Social Awareness and Cultural Interaction between Africa and Japan

The importance of media in raising awareness of Africa's challenges such as famine, HIV/AIDS, poverty, war, cannot be denied. However, the recurrence of these images inadvertently ends up changing Japanese people's perceptions about Africa. The media has tended to project these negative images than the positive stories that Africa has to tell. Thus, any mention of Africa in Japan has tended to invoke the above described images of despondency in the minds of Japanese people. We need to correct these negative images by reporting more of the positive stories and through objective journalism. There is limited knowledge about African cultures and languages among both African and Japanese people. In a nutshell, the language problem should be addressed through the promotion of language exchange programs in both Africa and Japan. The above scenario is proof that there are low numbers of Africans learning Japanese language matched with a concomitantly low number of Japanese people learning African languages, which further limits cultural exchange and mutual understandings.

Target 4: Initiate Economic Relationships between Africa and Japan

There is no Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between African countries and Japan, although Japan has signed agreements with 13 countries and regions other than Africa (MOFA, 2013).The above problem can be solved by promoting Japan's investment in Africa and by increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to African countries. The other solution is through sharing Japan's advanced technology related to mineral and energy resources development, in order to facilitate the stable growth of these sectors in Africa. Bilateral and regional trade between Japan and Africa can be enhanced by forming treaties such as FTAs. This will enable African economies to grow and allow them to access Japan`s market for their natural resources and mineral deposits. By adopting the above recommendations, Japan should have a framework of coordinating and contributing to the growth of African economies.

Target 5: Increase Sister Cities Relationship between Africa and Japan while Enhancing the Existing Ones
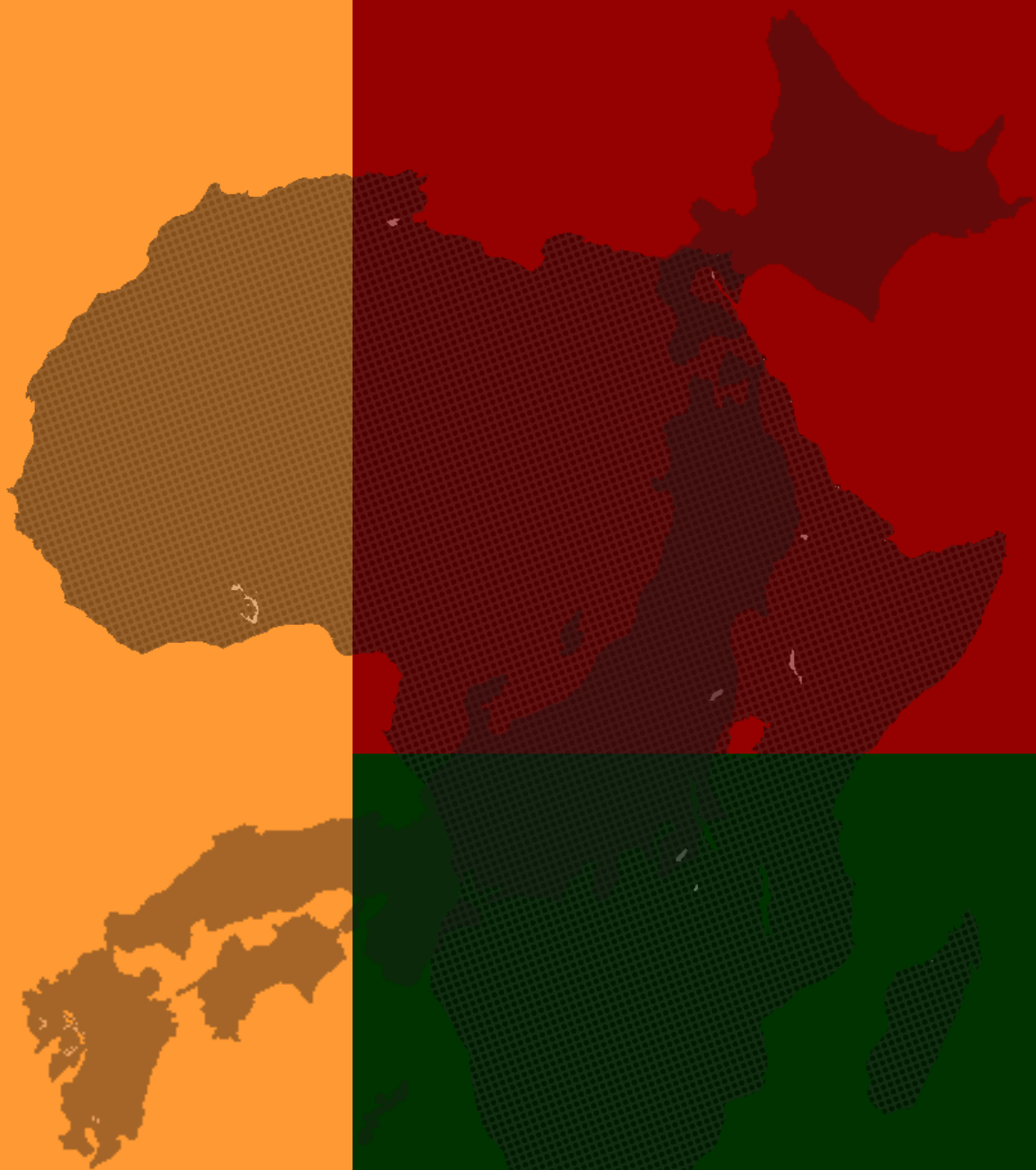
Of the 1631 sister city partnerships that Japan has, only three of them involve African cities (CLAIR, 2013). This situation highlights the need for more interaction and partnership between Africa and Japan. This state of affairs breeds misunderstanding and a perpetuation of stereotypes between African and Japanese people. To improve this situation, Africa and Japan should increase the number of sister city partnerships between their local authorities. We believe that the aforementioned is the most effective way of promoting interaction and partnership at both central and local government levels. This could be achieved through educational and cultural exchange programs, tourism and opportunities to learn each other's languages, by establishing business relationships and so on. We are convinced that implementing these programs would greatly improve and facilitate smooth communication and mutual understanding between the African continent and Japan, resulting in a quantum leap in Africa-Japan relations and cultural diplomacy.

AFTERWORD

We, participants of Africa Japan Student Summit, make the following requests to the TICAD V co-organizers, international society, local actors and all the other stakeholders to take our proposal into due consideration, to solve the problems we are facing and to consider the youth as one of the main actors of the future TICAD process and all other policy making processes concerning development. We invite all citizens reading our proposal paper to recognize the importance of Africa-Japan partnership and appreciate our motives with regard to future generations.

We hereby declare that we shall also make efforts in shaping our future world.

AFRICA JAPAN STUDENT SUMMIT
TICAD V STUDENT PROJECT
2013