

Current State of Japan – South Africa Cooperative Relationship: September 2015

Following an invitation from the Government of Japan, H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa visited Japan from 22 to 25 August 2015, accompanied Hon. Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Nomaindiya Mfeketo, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon. Mzwandile Masina, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and Hon. Bheki Cele, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. During his stay in Japan, the Deputy President paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Mr. Ramaphosa also had meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Sadakazu Tanigaki, members of the Japan-African Union Parliamentary Friendship League, as well as senior members of Keidanren (the Federation of Economic Organisations).

Seizing this opportunity, both governments summarised the current state of the Japan – South Africa Cooperative Relationship including the progress made since the Joint Communiqué between Prime Minister Abe and President Jacob Zuma, who visited Japan in June 2013 at the invitation of the Government of Japan, as follows:

1. General Statement

- Both sides share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Since 2010, the two countries have developed a comprehensive and close relationship both politically and economically, under the strategic cooperation partnership.
- Since its launch in 1999, the Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum has been held at ministerial level to facilitate discussions on bilateral issues such as trade and investment, as well as development and global challenges, including cooperation in the United Nations arena and stability of regional situations. Both sides will continue to work together to maintain and deepen the discussions.
- Japan has hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) since 1993, contributing to the peace, security and development of Africa, in harmony with initiatives led by Africa such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Whilst taking note of Africa's Agenda 2063, the long-term strategy adopted by the African Union (AU), both sides will cooperate with each other towards the next TICAD meeting, which will be held in Africa for the first time in 2016.

2. Industrial Development and High-Quality Infrastructure Development

- The total bilateral trade between Japan and South Africa increased to 93.8 billion Rands (910 billion Japanese Yen) in 2014, and more than 130 Japanese companies are currently operating in South Africa. Japan has created more than 150,000 local job opportunities in South Africa. During the summit meetings in 2013 and in 2014, Prime Minister Abe and President Zuma discussed strengthening the relationship especially in the areas such as infrastructure development. South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) highlights the importance of economic infrastructure investment, as a being critical for providing basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications and public transport, in order to meet the social and economic objectives of the country.
- The National Development Plan (NDP) sets the overall vision for South Africa's economy and society on the road to 2030. Emanating from this strategy, the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) aims to provide the targeted actions for sustained and deepening industrialisation. The Industrial Policy Action Plan, as well as the New Growth Path and the Black Industrialist Programme, is in place to accelerate South Africa's industrialisation. The integrated energy plan will ensure energy security. Operation Phakisa will create opportunities in the ocean economy. All these strategies and plans offer a diverse platform for investment opportunities.
- The Government of South Africa has engaged in policy implementation such as stable labour relations, a transparent immigration system and the stabilization and expansion of the energy grid. The Government of Japan looks forward to the progress of South Africa's efforts in this regard.
- Recognizing the vital importance of the automotive industry in sustaining the economic relationship between Japan and South Africa, as well as the industrialisation of South Africa, both sides have developed intergovernmental cooperation for the development of supporting the industry as well as enhancing global competitiveness. Both sides will continue to promote further cooperation in this field.
- Both sides have implemented a cooperative project to enhance operational efficiency at the Port of Durban and will continue to promote cooperation for the development of transport infrastructure in South Africa as a promising hub to the Southern African region.
- South Africa has developed new models that bring the public and private sector together by increasing the participation of independent power producers ("IPPs") in providing renewable

energy. Both sides welcome further progress in constructing the large power plants at Medupi and Kusile, which will contribute significantly to the stable energy supply in the country. The South African Government is also working on revitalising the nuclear power programme, as well as new renewable energy programs. This includes developing the Great Inga Project with the Democratic Republic of Congo and other partners, which will have the capacity to provide energy for the African continent and beyond.

- Both sides recognise the serious energy challenge in South Africa and acknowledge the Japanese technology and experience in the energy sector, whose contribution to the issue is anticipated. Both sides recognise that coal remains an important energy resource to sustain economic growth, and share the importance of clean coal technology, including highly efficient coal-fired power generation, as some of the effective measures against climate change. For this purpose, both sides also share the understanding on the importance to utilising public financing from OECD member countries and other multilateral and regional financial instruments.
- The Second Japan-Africa Ministerial Meeting for Resource Development was held in May 2015, discussing ways to promote Africa's resource development. It was co-chaired by the Ministers of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Department of Mineral Resources of South Africa. Both sides affirmed the importance of regular dialogue between the concerned Ministers and Directors-General to promote the sustainable development of the mining industry in South Africa, the study of a mutually beneficial value-added policy and human resource capacity development. Both sides also acknowledged the roles of the South African Government and the Japanese private sector in South Africa's mining industry.
- In September 2013, both sides affirmed the strengthening of cooperation in the areas of water resource management and water-related disaster risk reduction, and have exchanged information on water relevant systems and technology through co-hosted seminars. Bilateral cooperation for human resource development in the water sector has made progress. Japan annually sponsors 20 municipality officials from South Africa for training on drinking water supply, waste-water treatment plants and water laboratories.
- In May 2015 the two governments conducted an agricultural policy dialogue with the participation from both public and private sectors, to widely discuss matters regarding the development of agriculture, food industries and food value chains. Both governments confirmed that the agricultural policy dialogue would be held periodically towards further development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries. Japan is implementing capacity building and training projects. The Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project

(SHEP) has implemented training in Japan for agricultural experts from South Africa and is also considering the possibility of sending JICA experts to help enhance the management of farms and increase farmers' income through strengthening of small farmers' organisations.

- Both sides are considering phytosanitary measures for lifting the ban on importation of South African avocado, and the Japanese Government sent officials of a plant quarantine authority to South Africa in August 2015 to verify the phytosanitary measures established by South Africa.
- Both sides have initiated the process to enable export of their respective beef to the other's markets.
- During the Deputy President's visit to Japan, the two governments met to follow up the agricultural policy dialogue held in May and discussed a framework for further development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries. The two governments reaffirmed to continue dialogue.

3. Human Resource Development and Technology Transfer

- Japan has implemented Employability Improvement training at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), which has been expanded to South Africa's other Universities of Technology (Durban, Mangosuthu, Cape Peninsula, Central and Vaal). Training will focus on strengthening cognitive skills and introduce *Kaizen* for industry needs in order to improve productivity. Based on this project, Japan is considering establishing a "TICAD Human Resource Development Centre for Business and Industry" in South Africa.
- Under the 5-year African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (ABE Initiative) announced under TICAD V, Japan plans to train 100 South African youths by the end of fiscal year 2016 for Master's Degree studies at Japanese universities, in conjunction with internships at Japanese businesses. Participants are expected to become leaders who can bridge Japanese future investments in Africa.
- JICA has sent an advisor to the Department of Basic Education in South Africa to promote education in Mathematics. JICA has also sent 20 volunteers to South Africa, approximately half of whom are teaching mathematics and computer technology in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges.
- Through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, organised by Japanese Government and local authorities, a total of 516 South Africans have been to Japan to teach

English at local schools since the inception of the programme in 1997.

- Twenty-six academic engagement agreements between universities and research institutes of Japan and South Africa have been concluded. Two comprehensive bilateral agreements between the universities and research institutes were also concluded.
- Since 2008 Japan has annually sent volunteers to various Science Centres across South Africa. Their role is to support Science Centres with developing teaching materials for science experiments, as well as developing the methodology pertaining to exhibitions.

4. Research, Development & Innovation and Technology Transfer

- After concluding the Japan – South Africa Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement in 2003, joint research projects in South Africa have been awarded by the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).
- In May 2015 JSPS jointly hosted, with the NRF, the fourth annual meeting of the Global Research Council in Tokyo, where science-funding agencies from around the world discussed mutually acceptable paths to greater international research collaboration.
- Since 2014, JICA has sent a technical expert to the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and implemented the capacity building project in the area of earth observation for space collaboration. The project aims at enhancing knowledge of earth observation technology and its applications, including ALOS-2, and shaping the priority of utilisation and overview of development plan in South Africa and the South African Development Community (SADC). As a part of the project, delegates from SANSA, the South African governments and state-owned entities will visit the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center and Tanegashima Space Center in August, 2015.
- There have been four joint research projects in South Africa under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS):
 - “Production of Biofuels Using Algal Biomass” (2015-2020)
 - “Establishment of an Early-warning System for Infectious Diseases in Southern Africa Incorporating Climate Predictions” (2014-2019)
 - “Observational Studies in South African Mines to Mitigate Seismic Risks” (2010-2015);
 - “Prediction of Climate Variations and its Application in the Southern African Region” (2010-2013).

- A symposium on the Hydrogen Society was held during the Deputy President's visit to Japan. Policy makers, representatives of the private sector, research institutions and academia of the two countries introduced current activities and discussed possible collaboration in this field.
- South Africa looks forward to Japan taking up a Research Chair position in a South African University, strategically aligned to Japan's internationalisation strategy for universities, and to further send postdoctoral fellows to South African universities.

5. International Arena, Peacebuilding, and Security

- The Japanese and South African Governments share the understanding that the year 2015, which marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, is a significant year for United Nations reform. South Africa's support for the reform of the UN, specifically the UN Security Council, is guided by the Ezulwini Consensus (African Common Position). The two countries share the recognition on the urgent need to reform the UN Security Council and will cooperate, including within the Intergovernmental Negotiations in New York, to positively influence the reform process.
- Both sides have worked together in the international arena over various issues including the post-2015 Development Agenda, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, climate change and health, including measures against infectious diseases and the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The two governments will further enhance cooperation in the international arena. Especially with regards to climate change, both sides will work closely together to reach an agreement on a fair and effective international framework with full participation of all countries at the 21st session of UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) to be held at the end of this year.
- Japan recognises the significant role that South Africa plays in promoting peace and security in Africa. South Africa acknowledges Japan's support of peacekeeping training centres in Africa and it being one of the largest contributor to peace keeping operations on the Continent. The role of Japan as a pro-active contributor to peace offers the possibility of trilateral cooperation on peacekeeping operations.
- Both sides have promoted disaster prevention cooperation. South Africa sent Rescue South Africa to assist with a rescue operation during the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Japan conducted rapid disaster response capacity building projects for the Southern African countries, including South Africa, in 2014. In addition, Japan hosted the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015.

6. Japan – South Africa People-to-People Engagement

- The Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of Pretoria was established in 2010 to celebrate the Centennial of the establishment of official relations between Japan and South Africa. It has now become a hub of providing information on Japanese politics, culture, and economy and of promoting academic interaction and research.
- On the tourism front, both sides have seen a good exchange of visitors. South Africa has an intent to increase cooperation between the two countries' Tourism Agencies to further increase tourism.