

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

**Plenary on Item 6:**  
**Economic development in Africa: Intra-African trade:**  
**Unlocking Private Sector Dynamism**

**Speaker: Japan**

**Thursday, 19 September 2013**  
*Not checked against delivery \**

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Item 6 "Economic Development in Africa"  
Intervention by **Japan**

Thank you very much, Mr Chair,

Japan would like to thank Mr Draganov ドラガノフ and Mr Tesfachew テスファチユ for their introduction. Japan believes that topic of this session is very important and timely, and we have observed this year's Economic Development in Africa Report with great interest.

We welcome the approach by UNCTAD secretariat, to share the best practices and lessons learned from the other regions, this year, Great Mekong Sub-regions. Japan has been actively supporting the development of economic corridors in Greater Mekong Subregion area, together with other donors, especially ADB. We would like to share our view on the regional cooperation, based on our experience in the Greater Mekong subregion.

we believe the keyword for the development of Greater mekong Subregion is "strengthening connectivity" .

Some of the feature we can share for the development of Africa includes,  
- existence of strong regional policies to strengthen integration, and  
- importance of comprehensive development of both hard and soft infrastructure.

First, on the strong regional policies to strengthen integration,

In 2010, ASEAN leaders agreed on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity at the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam. Right after the agreement of Master Plan, Japanese Government established a joint committee with ASEAN to formulate a concrete plan to support the Master Plan of ASEAN connectivity.  
2 visions are included in this plan. First,

formulation of the vital Artery for East-West and Southern economic corridor, and Second, Maritime ASEAN Economic Corridor.

These visions were backed up by the long experience of Japan's support to the development of economic corridors in ASEAN. However, the existence of strong regional master plan by ASEAN leaders greatly facilitated the cooperation with Japan.

Second, importance of comprehensive development of both hard and soft infrastructure.

Japan, with close cooperation with ASEAN countries, has supported the vital physical infrastructure as well as soft infrastructure.

For example, opening of the 2nd Mekong International Bridge, in East-West Corridor, dramatically shortened the travel time between Hanoi and Bangkok from 2 weeks by sea shipping to 3 days by land transport, which greatly facilitated the regional trade.

At the same time, Japan has been also supporting soft infrastructure, such as customs upgrading and trade facilitation to achieve seamless flows of goods in Asia, which also contribute to the increase of regional trade.

Such comprehensive approach on both hard and soft infrastructure will benefit the strengthening of connectivity in the region and should also be seek in Africa.

These lessons from Asia is well reflected in our support to Africa.

In last June, Japan together with UN, World Bank and African Union organized Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD V, with participation of 39 head of states from African countries.

One of the issues discussed was the importance of

developing economic corridors to boost intra-African trade.

Based on our experience in Asia, Japan is currently supporting the 5 major growth corridors in Africa, by constructing roads, ports and other essential infrastructure. We are also supporting the smooth flow of goods by implementing One Stop Boarder Posts at 14 borders. This includes capacity building of custom administrations and customs upgrading.

Japan is committed to continue to support Africa under the TICAD initiative, to achieve further enhancement of intra-African trade.

We are looking forward to the afternoon session for further discussion.

Thank you, mr Chair.

