



Concept Note for the SADC-Japan Business Investment Forum
9-10 June 2016

1. Title: SADC-Japan Business Investment Forum

2. Forum Objectives: The overriding objectives of the forum are: *i*) to expose Japanese private sector to bankable investment opportunities in the SADC region; *ii*) establish business linkages and facilitate meetings between SADC and Japanese private sector; *iii*) promote trade and investment missions between Japan and the SADC region; *iv*) learn from companies that have succeeded in doing business in the SADC region; *v*) promote the SADC regional industrialization strategy and roadmap.

3. Date, Time, Venue and Schedule of Events:

9 - 10 June 2016

Time: 09:30hrs – 17:40hrs

18:00 – 20:00: Network Reception

Doors Open: 08:30hrs for Registration (Day 1)

4. Venue: United Nations University Hall, 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 150-8925 Japan, Tel. 03-5467-1212, Fax.03-3499-2828

5. Theme: *“Embracing Vibrant Business and Investment Opportunities in the SADC Region”*

6. Organizers: SADC Embassies in Japan, SADC Secretariat and Nikkei Business Publications (NBP).

7. Supporters: The seminar is supported by UNU, UNIDO, MOFA, METI, AfDB, JICA, JETRO, JBIC, JOGMEC, JATA, Keidanren and Keizai Doyukai.

8. Expected Audience is 300 people comprising Japanese and SADC business executives and investors, Japanese Government Related Agencies, SADC Investment Promotion Agencies.

9. Overview: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a regional economic community (REC) made up of 15 countries namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SADC is one of five regional economic communities recognized by the African Union as building blocks toward achieving an African Economic Community.

SADC's main objectives are to promote peace, security and economic integration. Southern African countries are bound together by cultural and political affinities which have enabled them to solve internal conflicts in individual countries. SADC is relatively speaking, widely acknowledged as the safest and most politically stable part of the African continent. Even amidst the current global terrorism threat, SADC has to date recorded no terrorism-related violence.

On the economic front, the region's economic integration agenda is outlined in the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP, 2015-2020) and the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063). The RISDP includes a long term macroeconomic convergence and stability program, intended to deepen regional integration in support of industrialization.

In the period following the 2008/09 global financial and economic crises, macroeconomic performance in the African continent has been impressive. During the same period economic growth has been slow in developed economies in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Although there are still challenges of poverty and unemployment, Africa has in the last decade been the second fastest growing continent. The majority of African countries are diversifying their economies from heavy reliance on extractive industries to infrastructure, telecommunications, manufacturing and retail.

The Southern African region is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world. SADC is also viewed as the largest and most dynamic regional economic grouping in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). SADC accounts for about half of continental GDP and is also the richest with real per capita income two thirds above the continental average.

The 2015 World Bank “ease of doing business” report highlights that six of the top ten African countries providing a conducive business environment are from the SADC region, and five of the top ten investment destinations in Africa are in the SADC region as well. Furthermore, the 2015 IMF economic outlook report emphasized that six of the top ten fastest growing economies (by GDP growth) are in Africa, and out of these six, 4 are in the SADC region.

These impressive rankings are a direct result of the region’s stable democratic political climate, long established functioning free markets, large potential markets and population (350 million), huge raw material bases, abundant and inexpensive labour force, private consumption and strong investment in mining and infrastructure. The current global environment (slow growth, financial volatility etc.) has given SADC an opportunity to re-focus policies on diversification and structural transformation. Notwithstanding that the SADC region is better-off relative to other RECs, more needs to be done to improve its trade and investment potential in terms of total flows and positioning in global value chains.

In the pre-TICAD period the Japanese private sector and general public knew very little about opportunities existing in different parts of Africa. The misconception about Africa was that it was a huge, homogenous country dogged by wars, poverty and no positive outlook. The other big mistaken belief was that Africa was only about the continent’s commodities, and therefore too risky to do business in or with.

The TICAD Process has played a big role in shifting these false impressions since its inception in 1993. Now due to its substantial demographic dynamics, Africa is today seen more as an investment destination, a growth frontier and a future marketplace. The Japanese business community and general public is now realizing the rising potential of Africa and the existing opportunities as an emerging market where there is space to grow any type of business.

This year the TICAD Summit will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, marking the first time that the meeting takes place in the African continent. The TICAD Process has stimulated the progression of Japan–Africa relations, by stressing the importance of “Africa’s ownership” of its

own development as well as through partnership with the international community.

SADC deeply appreciates the role played by the TICAD Process in increasing interest by Japanese private sector to seek and establish trade and investment prospects in the region. In June 2013, Prime Minister Abe accompanied by high level Japanese business executives visited several countries in Africa. The visit added impetus to the importance of doing business with Africa, and was an indicator of the seriousness of Japan-Africa engagement.

It is in this regard that the 12 SADC Embassies in Japan are keen to engage more Japanese private sector, to enhance contribution to the economic development of the SADC region. The forum will serve as an avenue for policy dialogue and information and contacts exchange views between Japanese business community and their SADC counterparts. The forum will reassure Japanese private sector looking for robust economic growth during this prolonged, sporadic recovery from the 2008/09 economic crisis to look towards the SADC region. The SADC region boasts of stable governments, stable regulatory framework, ample natural resources and a young growing population longing for jobs and consumer goods.

10. Expected Outcome: Increased strategic collaboration between SADC and Japan leading to more investment and trade activities between them.

11. Program Day 1

Time	Program	SPEAKER
09:00 -09:35	Welcome Remarks	Chair SADC Ambassadors
09:35-09:50	Opening Addresses	<i>SADC Minister (TBC)</i> <i>SADC Executive Secretary</i>
09:50-10:00	Opening Remarks	<i>Japanese Minister (TBC)</i>
10:00-11:20	Keynote Presentation Session 1: Quality Infrastructure (Logistics, Transportation, Water)	Moderator Discussion by Panellists

11:20-12:30	Keynote Presentation Session 2: ICT & Social Innovation	Moderator Discussion by Panellists
12:30-13:30	Networking Lunch	
13:30 – 14:40	Keynote Presentation Session 3: Agribusiness & Food	Moderator Discussion by Panellists
14:40-15: 50	Keynote Presentation Session 4: Energy & Environment	Moderator Discussion by Panellists
15:50-16:10	Networking Break	
16:10-17:20	Keynote Presentation Session 5: Doing Business in SADC (Financing, M&A, Risk Management)	Moderator Discussion by Panellists
17:20-17:45	Wrap Up/Closing Session	Rapporteur/SADC Ambassador
18:00-20:00	Networking Reception (by invitation)	

Program Day 2

Time	Program	SPEAKER
09:00 -09:15	Opening Remarks	Chair SADC Ambassadors
09:15-13:00	1) Business Matchmaking Meetings 2) Workshop by Investment Promotion Agencies	Trade Promotion Agencies & Private Sector from SADC
13:30-	Site Visits Participants from SADC visit Japanese Corporations and Government Agencies	Trade Promotion Agencies & Private Sector from SADC

Note: Simultaneous Japanese to English interpretation will be provided. Please be aware that this program is subject to change.

Note: Those Institutions/ Organizations which commit to sponsor the Seminar will be duly recognized as such in the final program and at the seminar.
