

## **International Symposium**

Hosted by Asian and African Studies Group, Faculty of Economics and Graduate School of Economics

Sponsored by Suntory Foundation

## **Toward Sustainable Cooperation of Higher Education and Academic Research between Africa and Japan**

**Date** : Thursday 2 June 2016 : 13:00~17:10

**Venue** : Kansai University, Senriyama Campus, Faculty of Economics, Conference Room

**Chairperson** : Katsuhiko Kitagawa (Kansai University)

**Organizer** : Asian and African Studies Group, Faculty of Economics and Graduate School of Economics

**Funder** : Suntory Foundation

**Organizing Committee** : Professor Katsuhiko Kitagawa (Kansai University), Professor Michiko Kitaba (Kansai University), Professor Kenta Goto (Kansai University), Professor Mika Yamana (Kansai University), Professor Toshihiro Sawayama (Kansai University)

**Presenter** : Professor Kweku Ampiah (University of Leeds), Professor Scarlett Cornelissen (Stellenbosch University) , Dr. Zvakanyorwa Wilbert Sadomba(University of Zimbabwe), Visiting Professor Naoko Tsuyama (Kansai University), Professor Shoko Yamada(Nagoya University), Professor Goto Kenta (Kansai University), Professor Mika Yamana (Kansai University), Professsor Toshihiro Sawayama (Kansai University), Dr. Yukihiro Morimoto(Tsukuba University), Associate Professor Shinji Takada (Shimane University)

## **Background/Objectives**

The Resolution adopted by the 70th General Assembly on 25 September 2015 reads : Transforming our world : the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are announced to demonstrate the scale and ambition of this universal Agenda. The Goal 4 of SDGs is to ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

“The Development Cooperation Charter : for peace, prosperity and a better for everyone “ was decided by the Cabinet of Prime Minister, Abe on 10 February 2015. The Priority policy issues by region in this Charter can read : “ With respect to Africa, Japan will provide assistance through joint efforts of the public and the private sector through the process of the Tokyo International Conference

on African Development (TICAD) so that Africa's remarkable growth in recent years based on expanding trade, investment and consumption will lead to further development for both Japan and Africa. Japan will take particular note of Africa's initiatives toward regional development and integration at the sub-regional level. Meanwhile, Africa still has countries that are prone to conflict or are burdened with an accumulation of serious development challenges. Bearing this in mind, Japan will continue to actively engage in assistance for peacebuilding and assistance to fragile states from the perspective of human security, providing necessary assistance with a view towards establishing and consolidating peace and stability, and solving serious development challenges in the region."

The new Charter emphasizes strengthening the foundations for sustained implementation. Promoting development education reads : "The government will promote development education at school and various other places. The objective is for the public to develop the capacity to assess various aspects of development challenges facing the world, understand how these challenges relate to Japan, regard the challenges as their own for independent analysis, and participate in actions to address these challenges. " And developing human resources and solidifying foundations for development cooperation reads : "Fostering human resources for development cooperation remains an important issue in the face of diversifying development challenges. In particular, promoting development cooperation in such areas as the rule of law, governance, finance and ICT calls for strengthening the institutional structure such as by training and securing the necessary human resources. The government, industry and the academia will therefore work as one to promote the training and development of globally competent human resources with specialized expertise among consultants, researchers, students, and employees at universities, private sector and NGOs/CSOs in addition to the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA. Efforts will also be made to increase opportunities for such persons to fulfill their capacity within and outside Japan and to make institutional and structural improvements. " "In order to play a leading role in shaping the philosophy and trends in international development cooperation by making use of its strength, the government will also work with universities and research institutions among others to reinforce the intellectual foundations, including research capabilities to plan and disseminate development cooperation. This may take the form of joint policy research by researchers from Japan and developing countries or intellectual networking of such researchers."

At the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in 2013, "Yokohama Declaration" stated the importance of strengthening sustainable cooperation of education and academic research between Africa and Japan. In this regard, African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) Master Degree and Internship Program was

announced and Africa Business Promotion Support Network (AB-NET) was launched by Africa Business Community in Japan and its office was opened at Asia Representative of Africa Development Bank in Tokyo. Moreover, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability of United Nations University and Japan-Africa Academic Network have already started its project towards strengthened academic partnership between Africa and Japan for sustainable development, specifically to promote more Japanese students to study in Africa for academic capacity building through a variety of exposure and experiences in the field.

In this background, this international symposium is organized with the theme of “ Toward Sustainable Cooperation of Higher Education and Academic Research between Africa and Japan” in order to consider the way how to construct Africa-Japan Education and Research Cooperation Promotion Support Network (AJERCPS-Net). In this period of global crisis, it is of critical importance to :

- 1) Support to facilitate education and research activities of institutions of higher education and advanced research in the field of Africa through the cooperative network
- 2) Expand to opportunities to share various sources for education and research Japanese institutions and African partners
- 3) Facilitate to improve in the institutional design of primary and secondary education in order to advance the knowledge of Africa among the promising next young generation within Japan in particular.

The first session discusses on the topic of sustainable cooperation of higher education and academic research between Africa and Japan, on which each speaker presents his/her viewpoint primarily based on experiences as teaching staff and academic researcher. The second session discusses on recent development and experiment in this field presented by three speakers and unreserved suggestions and comments by the participants is highly appreciable.

TICAD VI is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of August 2016. This symposium attempts to consider how to construct reciprocal and cooperative framework and institutionalize academic research and higher education between Africa and Japan. A quarter century or one generation have already passed after TICAD process started since 1993. Time has ripen when we have to deliberate how to rear able and gifted persons of new generation in order to make TICAD process sustainable toward the end of the twenty-first century. This symposium is expected to be significant opportunity to discuss how to facilitate cooperation for education and research between Africa and Japan.