



*Kansai university and Faculty of Economics*



## **International Symposium**

### **Africa and Asia Entanglements in Past and Present : Bridging History and Development Studies**

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**Africa-Japan Relations : “New TICAD”, International Cooperation and Post 2015**

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#### **Abstract**

What kind of international cooperation is likely to emerge within Africa-Japan relations in post-2015? The post-2015 agenda of the 8 Millennium Development Goals is about ‘sustainability.’ It is a call for global action for the pursuit of sustained prosperity.

This paper is a critical reflection on TICAD programs and agendas. What would be the features and policy mission of the post-2015 TICAD? In the past four decades or so, especially at post-Cold War politics, international relations have been rapidly changing to respond to specific local, regional and international *désiderata*. I claim that these changes are not random, though they might not be linear.

The working premises are that: Within realist and neo-realist perspectives, all the states-states relations are essentially power relations. All the power relations are functionally ideological. Cost-benefit analysis may inform us why a given political actor behaves the way she/he/it does. However, not all the nation-states articulate their interests and objectives the same way.

Since 1993, the agendas and policy priorities of Africa-Japan economic, political and cultural relations have been shaped mostly by strategies and mechanisms articulated in declarations and resolutions made through TICAD’s programs. They have been serving as the backbones of the Japanese foreign relations with Africa. These declarations and programs are examined in identifying their policy values within broad intellectual and theoretical framework of the imperatives of new International cooperation schemes. How have their declarations, agreements and resolutions been converted into national policy arenas in a world politics that is moving toward multipolarity?

Using historical-structuralist approaches, I will examine Africa-Japan relations broadly from the end of Cold War era to present; I will identify the main principles behind them; (3) And I will historically analyze the features and main themes of TICADs and how Africa collectively has been responding to TICAD’s decisions.