



*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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### **The TICAD and Lusophone Africa in the New Millennium**

**Pedro Miguel Amakasu Raposo de Medeiros Carvalho (University Lusiana of Porto)**

#### **Abstract**

After a brief historical evolution of Japan's relations with Lusophone Africa so-called Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP), which refers to the five African countries using Portuguese as official language, this paper turns then to the evolution of the TICAD process toward the PALOP with focus after the new millennium. Against some literature that affirms that TICAD has served mostly Japanese interests, the author argues that the TICAD has served both Japan's and the PALOP interests, and why not all the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), established in 1996, including Brazil, Timor-Leste and Portugal. In other words, if one thinks that the TICAD has only benefited Angola and Mozambique, as within the PALOP they are the most blessed with natural resources, we are mistakenly. The major conclusion is that the TICAD process, particular after TICAD IV has also served the interests of the small PALOP countries, such as Cape Verde, one of the few African countries to remain on track to meet all eight MDGs, Guinea Bissau a fragile state that took advantage of Japan's position at the UN, and Sao Tome and Principe that after TICAD IV (2008) saw an increase of ODA from Japanese government.