



The message from Prime Minister Shinzo ABE on the occasion of Japan-Kenya Conference on Infrastructure

Your Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, government officials, representatives of Kenyan companies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Your Excellency and all the participants at the occasion of Japan-Kenya Conference on Infrastructure under the joint-efforts of Japan and Kenya, co-organized by our two governments.

As we are all aware, there is an astounding number of Japanese companies operating in Kenya. It goes without saying that Kenya has long been and continues to be Japan's largest development cooperation partner in Sub-Saharan Africa. You may notice that many infrastructure projects are currently underway with Japanese funding. I sincerely hope that these projects will further strengthen the Japan-Kenya relationship.

My government has advocated for promoting investments in 'high-quality infrastructure.' In short, the concept of 'high-quality infrastructure' is one which comes with features of easy-to-handle, long-lasting, environmentally-friendly, and resilient to natural disasters. Such infrastructure development would certainly enhance the connectivity of African states and give birth to numerous employment opportunities locally. In addition, 'high-quality infrastructure' would not only contribute to upgrading the skills of the local labor power, but also uplifting the living standards of the population at large.

Your Excellency, during your visit to Japan this March, we were able to reach an agreement that Japan and Kenya will work together to incorporate Japan's advanced techniques in meeting high demands for major infrastructure development in Kenya, starting with the development of Mombasa Port and Olkaria Geo-thermal Power Plants. In particular, Japan places great importance on Mombasa which is key to extensive development in the region. I, therefore, strongly believe that it is of great importance for Japan to work hand-in-hand with Kenya to further develop Mombasa Port .

For more than 20 years, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which has constituted a major pillar of Japanese foreign policy towards Africa, also places importance on 'high-quality infrastructure' along with human capacity building for Africa. The next TICAD summit is expected to be held here in Africa. Toward our joint endeavor at the Conference, I intend to enhance partnership with Africa and foster a win-win relationship.

I hope that today's meeting will provide an invaluable opportunity to share Japanese experience and skills, through deliberations by experts and leaders in various sectors. This prime opportunity, I believe, will promote a better understanding of 'high-quality infrastructure' among people of Kenya, thereby contributing to an enhanced cooperation in the field of infrastructure development in Kenya.

To conclude my remarks, let me wish today's Japan-Kenya Conference on Infrastructure a big success.



Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan