

**Report**  
**on Workshop held during the 2007 G8 Alternative Summit (Germany)**

**Partnership for Africa towards 2008 TICAD**

- How can African, International and Japanese civil societies create an effective partnership for achieving pro-poor policy in Africa towards 2008? -



Nikolaikirche (St. Nicolai), Rostock, Germany

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Organizers: Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA)

TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) <http://www.ticad-csf.net>

with the support of ActionAid International

Chairperson: Joseph Ssuuna (Administration member of C-CfA, Secretary General of PELUM)

Participants: 13 from European countries, 12 from Japan (including 1 journalist), 3 from African countries and 1 from the United States.

Opening speech: What is TICAD ? / Importance of 2008 for Africa

【Minoru Obayashi (TCSF)】

- ◆ My speech will consist of a brief introduction to the relationship between Africa and Japan, and then the importance of 2008 TICAD (Tokyo International Conference for African Development).
- ◆ Although the share of Japanese ODA designated for Africa is small, Japan is one of the largest donors to Africa. However, our economical relationship is insufficient and, except for that with South Africa, international trade between Japan and African countries is very limited. Furthermore, there are not many Africans living in Japan.
- ◆ For the average Japanese citizen, Africa used to be a very distant place. But recently, the interest in Africa is drastically increasing, especially maybe since 2005 when the White Band project arrived in Japan and attracted young people's concern. In addition, during an event called "African Festa", which is organized by the Japanese Foreign Ministry and has played an important role in helping Japanese citizens to understand Africa, the number of visitors is increasing year by year and reached nearly to 70 thousand last year.
- ◆ The next topic is about TICAD. Since the first meeting in Tokyo in 1993, TICAD has been held every 5 years in Japan with the promotion of partnerships between Asia and Africa as its main object. The 4th TICAD will be held in May 2008, a month before the G8 Summit in Japan.
- ◆ In addition to a number of recommendations submitted to influence on TICAD, the Japanese civil society should work together with African civil society to facilitate working on the coming 4th TICAD more than ever. TCSF is now planning to commit to work effectively on the TICAD process while supporting the activities of the Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA), which was established in April this year.
- ◆ Since there are many participants, including those from European, African and Japanese civil societies today, I can expect active and straightforward discussion between the participants today.

Appeal from African civil society towards 2008 TICAD – for our partnership -

【Joseph Ssuuna (Civic Commission for Africa)】

- ◆ Among other workshops organized during the G8 Summit, this workshop may be the only opportunity in which an African works as the chairman. Although African issues are the main agenda of the Summit, we can hardly find any voluntary contribution by Africans

themselves. When looking back at the past, in any matter related to the development of Africa, decisions have been unilaterally made by the donor and that does not seem to be a fair situation. This is the reason why this workshop is very important. The idea of the Civic Commission for Africa is that African civil society will take the initiative in advocacy efforts regarding African development.

- ◆ As mentioned above, all the decisions regarding support for Africa have been made by the donor, but that does not mean that Africa is sleeping. Africa is now drastically changing. For example, we would never have been able to establish a group such as C-CfA even two years ago. But now we can do so. The point we would like to make is “Let Africa go ahead”. C-CfA has been established because now is the right time, and because African countries are becoming democratic.
- ◆ We should put a new image into practice – that of “Africa, we can overcome problems”. We Africans should not continue denigrating ourselves. All countries, including Japan and the European nations, have social problems, poverty among them. Just as Japan and Europe have a strategy to support the poor, we Africans should also have a way. On the other hand, there are other measures that may make the poor more vulnerable and we should be careful not to take such measures.
- ◆ Please provide us, Africans with a capacity you have, the capacity that is not like the one the World Bank and IMF have been imposing to us for long time. We want to work together with people in other continents as partners. Not as pupils, but as partners, we are wishing to share future prosperity with Japan and Europe.

Development Policy Manifesto for German EU Presidency prepared through partnership between African and German civil societies

【Anke Kurat (Venro/Germany)】

- ◆ Because Germany is the holds the presidency of the EU Council for the first half of this year, VENRO, a German civil society association, organized the EU presidency project "Prospects for Africa - Europe's Policies" to compile the recommendation for African policy of the EU in cooperation with African civil society and to facilitate advocacy activities. Visit [www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de) for details.
- ◆ The recommendation was prepared by collaboration of 27 groups and organizations from Europe and Africa. It is a unique recommendation since it entails not only development aid but also other sectors, such as trade justice, human security and agricultural issues.
- ◆ Having issued the Manifesto, VENRO is working hard to realize the recommendation by making a presentation several times at the EU Parliament, organizing a campaign to send open letters and issuing newsletters.
- ◆ The EU presidency will be held by Portugal for the next term and collaboration with

Portugese civil society will become essential.

Attitude of Japanese civil society towards 2008 TICAD

【Sayaka Funada-Classen (TCSF : TICAD-Civil Society Forum)】

- ◆ This is a brief introduction in order to save more time for discussion. As you can see on the PowerPoint slide, TICAD 4 will be held in Yokohama in advance of the G8 Summit, which will be held in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan in July 2008. It has been said that the major issue during the Toyako Summit will be “climate change and Africa”. If true, this would be very desirable for civil society, but we still do not know what the actual agenda will be. Whether it is true or not, the development of Africa will be discussed as the main agenda item during TICAD 4 to be held just before the Summit, and therefore early contributions from African, international and Japanese civil societies will be critical. Establishment of consensus regarding how to make the most of such a good opportunity would be an issue for us.
- ◆ On the subject of the activities of Japanese civil society, “2008 G8 NGO Forum” has already been established in preparation for the G8 Summit in Toyako. The members are from nearly 90 Japanese NGOs, some of which are represented here today. Regarding TICAD, Japanese NGOs whose area of activity is in Africa have met and organized “TICAD IV/NGO Network (Tnnet), and TICAD-CSF works as the secretariat.
- ◆ As an action by the civil society towards TICAD, TCSF is going to organize “Civil TICAD (TICAD by civil society)” at the end of October this year, inviting African civil society, using this Alternative Summit as a model. TCSF is also considering organizing an event for citizens in Yokohama immediately before the TICAD 4 main session.
- ◆ Learning from the experience of the German civil society that has hosted this Alternative Summit, TCSF desires to find any clue for potential interaction to be developed with African civil society.
- ◆ Another important piece of information to be shared today is that 3 major strategies of TICAD have already been announced: 1. Acceleration of African development and investment (supporting “active Africa”); 2. Promotion of “human security” in Africa; and 3. “African-led” conservation of the environment (against environmental and climate change). But it is difficult to find any message from these strategies indicating that poverty reduction should be the main issue. Furthermore, it is also said that the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) will become a part of the above strategy 2 (ie. human security). We in civil society should keep our attention focused and find out more about this matter.

Questions and answers

【Question】 “Question about C-CfA. There are many NGO networks already existing in the

African region. Is there any reason to establish another network?"

【Answer-Joseph】 "PELUM, which I work for, is also a network of nearly 200 organizations in Africa. I understand the difficulty and importance of networking. I can understand what your question means but I welcome building many different networks. I want to recognize networking as the people's initiative and I want to take its positive side. Since C-CfA has been established only recently, it should go through trial and error. A variety of networks is evolving in Africa and we do not need to be negative because I believe networking will lead to a strong power in the future."

【Question】 "Isn't Africa a historic creation?"

【Answer-Joseph】 "Our cooperation is also a historic creation. For the next history, for the future, we want to bring our energy together to create equal dignity and prosperity."

【Question】 "It seems most of the time has been spent in preparing the Manifesto and nothing has changed even with such a wonderful Manifesto. Public pressure should be essential. When comparing with 2005, I cannot see many actions performed in this Alternative Summit."

【Answer-Anke】 "I am afraid if we might have given such an impression. But it was our first experience of preparing a recommendation in cooperation with African civil society and I think it is indispensable. We do not spend our time only in drawing up the manifesto. We also organized demonstration walk and are having a music concert tomorrow. We know action is also important."

#### Comment

【Rashid Al Mahmud Titumir (ActionAid International)】

- ◆ There are several "P"s that ActionAid considers important. They are Power, Politics, Participation, People, Perspective and Partnership. The term "white responsibility" is now in vogue and I just heard someone say "historic creation". Comprehensively, "Negotiation" will be a key term.
- ◆ The important thing is to build people's power, eliminate double standards, and to do so all over the world. When building up a partnership, seeking governmental accountability while calling for accountability to the public, as Obayashi pointed out, is important.
- ◆ We should think "whose agenda?" when we talk about the Summit agenda.

【Tinashe Nhete (Practical Action)】

- ◆ There are many different networks, both national and regional. In order to clearly justify a network, it should demonstrate its function. There should be a reason why the network should exist before the network actually exists.
- ◆ The problem of African civil society is dependency on external funding. It has not been able to recruit internal resources. Each process is determined by external funding.

- ◆ More than policy recommendations, African civil society should be a service provider. So that the government will recognize the opinion of the civil society, the civil society should demonstrate service alternatives. That is the true “alternative”.

【Tatsuo Hayashi (Hottokenai Sekai no Mazushisa)】

- ◆ We have been making an attempt to spread the White Band campaign and communicate with people so that they will be interested in Africa. I am pleased to hear the opinion from African citizens. There are important things to be learned from African civil society.

Closing speech

【Joseph】

- ◆ I have been invited to attend the AU Summit to be held in Ghana at the end of this month as an observer. C-CfA will have its own meeting there and I would like to discuss cooperation with more African civil society organizations and networks.

【Obayashi】

- ◆ In today’s workshop, the trends in Africa and Europe in 2007 and potential actions towards 2008 were introduced. A ball has been thrown to you. A seed has been sown, the seed that will improve the world. What I expect you to do is to help the seed to grow where you are.