

A view of TICAD9 from Uganda

The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) was held in Yokohama, Japan from August 20th to 22nd. This conference, which invites African leaders to discuss African development comprehensively, began in 1996. This year marks the 9th time it has been held. This year's summit was held after thorough preparations, including a ministerial meeting last year. Uganda sent a large delegation to Yokohama, including H.E. Vice President Alupo and three ministers, showing high expectations for Japan.

I was involved in TICAD4, which was also held in Yokohama in 2008. TICAD is an intergovernmental conference where many African leaders gather in Japan to discuss with the Japanese Prime Minister, international organizations, and development officials, and its core principles remain unchanged to this day. What I felt was a very significant development this time in the vast expansion of participants. There have been participants from companies and NGOs in the past, but this time, I felt that one of the achievements was gaining many participants with various backgrounds and ideas, including startups and students. The diverse challenges Africa faces and the diversity of people tackling them have already been pointed out, and I believe it was TICAD that embodied that.

Many people from Uganda that have implemented a lot of things also participated. The whole picture is not easy to grasp therefore, we set up an opportunity in Uganda to hear directly from the participants and share their experiences.

Specifically, the following people shared their experiences at TICAD9:

- . Toyota Tsusho/CFAO
- . COURIEMATE (Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto)
- . RICCI EVERYDAY (Ms. Chizu Nakamoto, featured in our September issue)
- . SUNDA TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL (CEO Aya Tsuboi)
- . NPO CORE(Yuka Iwamura)
- . JICA experts (ICT promotion, agriculture, ODA)

There were also some critical comments that the area of private companies and other stakeholders was more lively than that of public institutions at TICAD9. Apparently, there were over 200 themed events and over 300 MOUs signed. There were also comments that in future, the focus should be on more specific individual achievements rather than just the number of MOUs as the outcome of the conference.

Although they did not participate in TICAD9, some people who independently launched projects through crowdfunding and Japanese university students participated in this gathering.

I strongly feel that the number of people interested in Africa, and seeking some kind of involvement including solving social issues, is definitely increasing.



Audience listening to the presentation

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