

THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN THE TICAD PROCESS

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PRESENTATION MADE
BY
H.E. MR. ESTIFANOS AFEWORKI
OF
THE STATE OF ERITREA
&
DEAN OF THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN TOKYO
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INTRODUCTION

- After the end of the cold war Japan's Tokyo Initiative of Cooperation for African Development or what is popularly known as **TICAD process have been set-to-sail in the then prevailing geo-political wind mainly to influence the UN Reform Agenda**. Other initiatives from Asia, Europe and Americas have also followed suit after.
- The African Diplomatic Corps has been actively involved with the TICAD co-organizers in the continued improvements made to the TICAD process as well as in monitoring and evaluating the outcomes in the past.

INTRODUCTION

- In the last three decades new economic giants such as **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** remained in a steady development track and have become global economic forces to reckon with. The influence of these economies in Africa have also outpaced significantly by all measures Japan's presence in the African countries.
- Japan's omnidirectional global policy was also prevalent during this period of history: G7(G8), ASEAN, China, the fight against terrorism, nuclear energy, maritime issues, North Korea, India, Republic of South Korea, Central Asia, Middle East Oil, Japan US Alliance, TICAD, UN Peace Keeping, Djibouti Military Base, Trans Pacific Trade Partnership, Pandemics & Health Security (SARS virus, Ebola, COVID-19), and lately the Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

INTRODUCTION

- Therefore, the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo, have been engaged, without losing sight of these phenomenal developments and new influences of Japan and other Asian economies that prevailed in the African continent, through an active **continued collective diplomacy - both with the public and private sector - to promote and encourage Japan to tap into the huge investment potential and opportunities** availed in the African countries since the founding of TICAD in 1993.

INTRODUCTION

- **1993 TICAD** was basically human security centered. Hopefully, it is a high expectation of the **African Diplomatic Corps** that **2022 TICAD 8** shall put **fully its strategic priorities on resource and investment diplomacy**.
- **TICAD8** will be an opportune time to exchange candid conversation from the prospective of mutual interest of Japan and African countries, both in short and long term, and to narrow down the existing architecture of power and economic rivalry complimented with omni-directional regional, country specific policy orientations globally.
- The African Diplomatic Corps has been sharing with its counterparts continuously the African wisdom: **“when elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers”**.

INTRODUCTION

- Hence, the objective of my presentation in this seminar of today, in my capacity as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, is to assist and enhance the continued mutual deliberations between Japan and African countries to improve the TICAD process and make 2022TICAD8 in Tunis ground breaking.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PREVAILING WIND OF CHANGE IN AFRICA



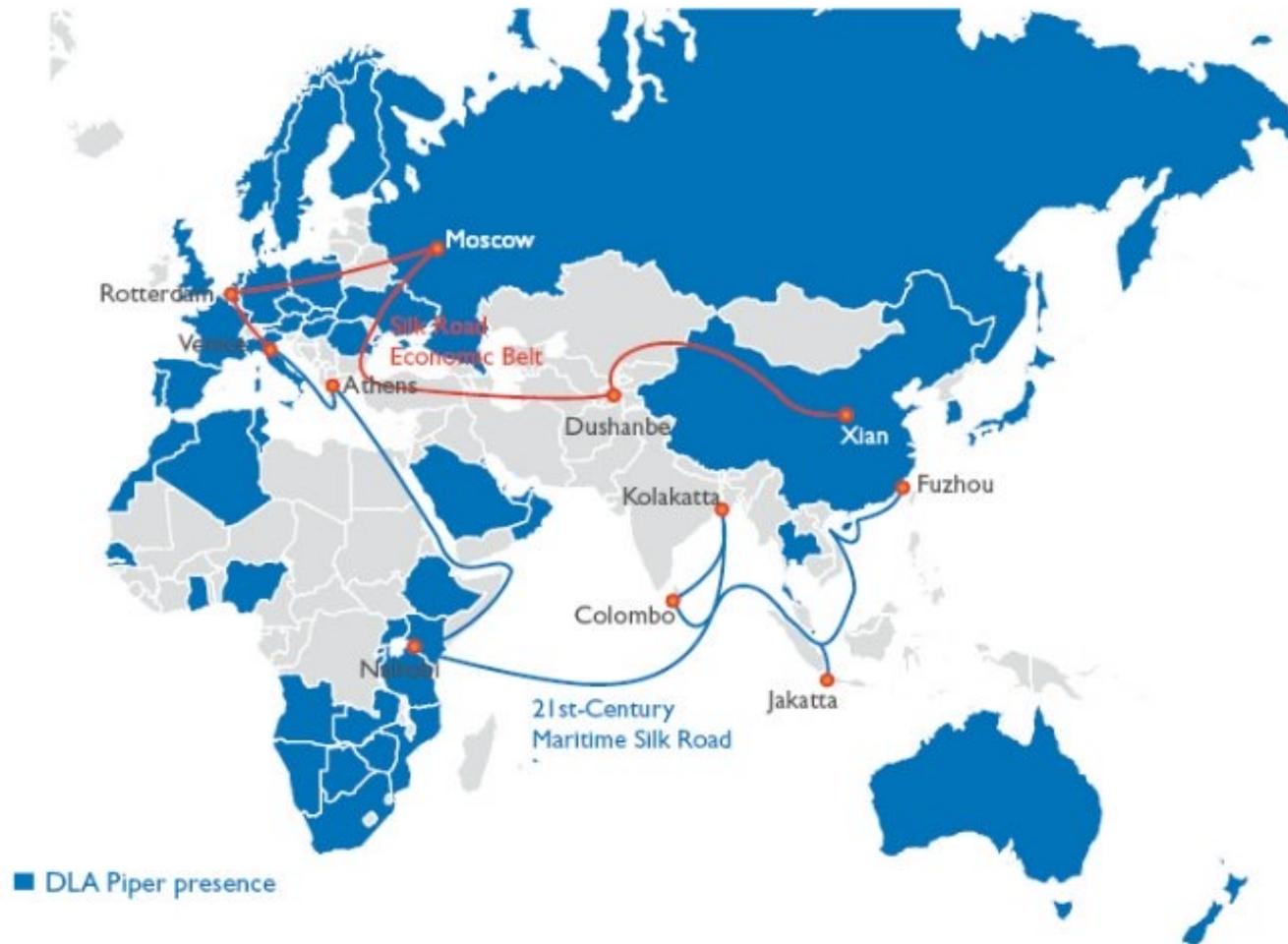
- The key architect of the foreign policy of China (**PM Chou En Lie**) was **diplomatically barred** from addressing the Organization of African Union (OAU) Summit held in Addis Abeba Ethiopia in 1964. He was instead received, away from the capital as a guest of honor by Mayor Haregot Abay of Asmara in the then province of Ethiopia. **8**

CHINA FUNDED US\$200 MILLION TO BUILD AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE CENTER AND OFFICE COMPLEX IN 2012



- Phenomenal expansion of diplomatic, political, cultural, trade and investment activities with China were witnessed in the continent of Africa since 60th.

CURRENTLY CHINA HAS SIGNED MOU ON ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD INITIATIVE WITH MORE THAN 140 COUNTRIES



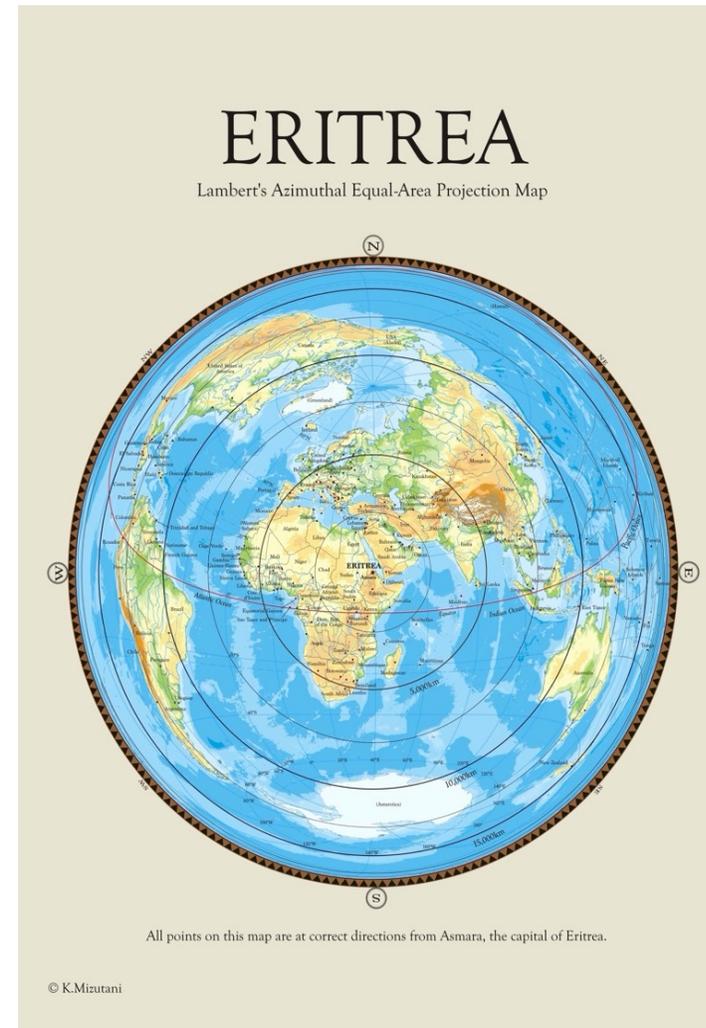
STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA

Described by many economists as: THE FINAL ECONOMIC FRONTIER

- **Population:** 1.4 billion people out of the world 7.753 billion live in Africa (2020)
- **Land Mass:** 30.37 million km² immensely rich in biodiversity
- **Natural resources:** rich in mineral and hydrocarbon resources
- **Countries:** 54
- **Trade Corridors:** Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean
- **Huge business opportunities for Japanese companies' investment:**

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA

- Agriculture
- Rich biodiversity
- Fisheries and marine resources
- Industrialization
- Mineral & hydrocarbon resources
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Free economic zones
- Other services



JAPAN AND AFRICA POSITION ON UN REFORM

- Post cold war international stage were lime lighted by intensive diplomatic activism especially on the cardinal issue of UN reform and membership of Japan, other economic powers and Africa in the UNSC.
- At bilateral levels and through multilateral dialogues the African Union proposal to reform UNSC and its proposed request - to enlarge by 2 permanent sets and provide one permanent seat for Africa (54 member countries) and Japan's reform proposal to have one seat - were and are still on the table for mutual understanding.
- African Diplomatic Corps and our heads of states have been actively engaged to promote Africa's and promoting common understanding on this cardinal issue with Japan through out the TICAD process.

UN REFORM

- **The African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo has been engaged with Japan in a diplomacy of building trust with each of our countries**, through the TICAD process by fostering and enhancing mutual commitments, **to international peace, expanding trade and investments**. It was also actively involved with Japan and the co-organizers of TICAD to successfully promote and include the African Union Commission as a co-organizer since TICAD6.
- **Investing in building peace and cooperation through “Africa solution to African problems”** continue to be the main pillar of cooperation between African countries and Japan in the TICAD process.
- Being the third biggest economy and maritime nation, it was and still is imperative for the African Diplomatic Corps collective diplomacy and Japan to explore ways and means to join efforts - specially in mutual activities of **maintaining stability and ensuring prosperity in the African and global sea trade routes**.

TICAD8 DIPLOMACY ON ENERGY & RESOURCES

- African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo has been extensively promoting African countries prospects via mutual synchronized investment ventures to Japanese companies, through several forums in Japan and Africa, by organizing various **private and public diplomacy events, festivals, seminars, exhibitions, media every year and recently through WEBINAR.**

TICAD8 DIPLOMACY ON ENERGY & RESOURCES

- **Japan stood 7th in trade, 5th in ODA and 10th in FDI in the African continent in 2014.**
- Japan has been a key catalyst in the creation of the tiger economies of Asian countries in the last sixty years as well as in the BRICS countries in the last thirty years.
- Therefore, the African Diplomatic Corps is convinced that **active negotiations of the Bilateral/Trilateral Consultations on possible Investment Agreement and High-Level Diplomacy On Business** between Japan and African countries is a key pillar that can contribute to the success of the coming **TICAD8**.

TICAD8 DIPLOMACY ON ENERGY & RESOURCES

- Prospects and opportunities for FDI from Trans National Corporations (TNCs) of Japan in oil, gas and mining developments in Africa are currently very high.
- Hence to ascertain success of those important activities **TICAD8 should definitely focus on energy and climate change issues, including but not excluding alternate source of energy and the promotion of active resource diplomacy as one of its main pillars.**

TICAD8 DIPLOMACY ON ENERGY & RESOURCES

- Japan started the Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) for Africa in the early 1970. The first Yen-loan Agreement was signed with Ethiopia in May 1973. This period coincides with the beginning of Nippon Mining and investment activities in Eritrea.
- As in the past, location, business, resources and partnerships shall still be the corner stones of future Japan – Eritrea and other African countries relations.
- The master plan study made by Japan for the two ports of Eritrea in 1974 i.e. Massawa Port and Assab Port is still on hold but a need to a revisit is always there.

ENVISAGED KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION IN TICAD8

- As a take-off point to revitalize economic diplomacy with Japan by African countries and to forge a working tie-up with local stake holders following areas of cooperation were continuously promoted by the African Diplomatic Corps in the TICAD process:

A) AGRICULTURE, WATER & FISHERIES

B) ENERGY, MINING AND MANUFACTURING

C) MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE

D) INFRASTRUCTURE & RESEARCH

- - - School/s- - - Hospital- - - Hotel/s - - - Railway/s- - - Road/s- - - Bridge/s- - - Port/s & Harbor/s- - - Urban improvement & coastal development - - - geothermal, solar, wind, bio-fuel & other clean energy mechanisms

- - - ICT- - - Training in Japan

E) BUSINESS CONFERENCE/S IN EACH AFRICAN COUNTRY

- - - (including & not excluding other partners)

F) ENHANCE MUTUAL DIALOGUE/VISITS

GROUND BREAKING 2022 TICAD8

- Strategic priorities of TICAD8 should definitely focus on mutual cooperation's:
 - Boasting economic growth,
 - Accelerating infrastructure and capacity building,
 - Empowering farmers and fishermen as the main stream economic actors,
 - Promoting sustainable and resilient growth,
 - Creating an inclusive society for growth,
 - Consolidating peace, stability, democracy and governance,
 - Respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of African states, and
 - Fostering exchange of sports, music, art, cinema, media, scientific and cultural dialogues

CONCLUSION

- In summary , the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo has been engaged in its collective diplomacy with state and non-state institutions, cogorganizers of TICAD, private sector and civil society organizations in support of a pragmatic apporoach for building genuine partnerships between Japan and African countries - by consiously avoiding rehitoric and politization in its activities, and
- Hence it is the African Diplomatic Corps high expectation that TICAD8 will present ground breaking strategic actions and milestones of buisness partnerships to be realized within a specific time frame (2022 – 2025).

PEACE WILL PREVAIL

THANK YOU FOR LENDING ME YOUR EARS,
ARIGATO!

TECHINICAL COOPERATION-LOAN-GRANT & OTHERS

Japan Economic Cooperation and ODA Outlook

