

GRIPS Development Forum Webinar Invitation

Japanese Strategic and Economic Partnerships with Africa in a Turbulent Era: Achievements, Challenges, and Way Forward

GRIPS Development Forum is pleased to organize a webinar on Japanese economic diplomacy in Africa, inviting Ms. Céline Pajon, Research Fellow and Head of Japan Research at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) as a main speaker. She published the report “Assessing the Japanese economic diplomacy in Africa under the Abe administration between its strategic priorities and realities on the ground” in December 2020 by IFRI.

Rising geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 crisis are affecting the deepening of partnership between Japan and African countries. Under such complex situations, we consider it useful to discuss the achievements and challenges stemming from Japan’s recent policy initiatives, including the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) and its implications for Africa, then explore pragmatic ways to enhance strategic and economic partnerships with Africa. We also hope that the discussions will be informative for the upcoming Eighth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD VIII) planned for 2022 in Tunisia.

Date & Time: Tuesday, 13 April, 2021 17:00 - 18:30 (JST: GMT+9 / UTC+2)

Speakers: **Ms. Céline Pajon**, Research Fellow, Head of Japan Research, Center for Asian Studies, IFRI.

Dr. Katsumi Hirano, Executive Senior Research Fellow, IDE-JETRO.

Language: English (no translation)

Program:

17:00	Introduction
17:05 - 17:35	Presentation by Ms. Céline Pajon, IFRI
17:35 - 17:50	Comments by Dr. Katsumi Hirano, IDE-JETRO
17:50 - 18:00	Comments by Prof. Izumi Ohno, GRIPS
18:00 - 18:25	Q&A, Discussion (moderated by Ms. Sayoko Uesu, GRIPS)
18:25 - 18:30	Concluding remarks by Mr. Mohamed ELLOUMI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tunisia to Japan

Registration: Send email to Ms. Uesu (s-uesu@grips.ac.jp) and Ms. Iwata (yu-iwata@grips.ac.jp) stating your name, title and organization by 9th April. An invitation email will be sent to you in advance. Questions and comments will be taken via Chat during the webinar.

Speakers:

Ms. Céline Pajon researches and analyses Japan’s foreign and defense policy and the evolving international relations and geostrategic setting of the Indo-Pacific region. She is also an International Research Fellow at the Canon Institute for Global Studies (Tokyo) and a Senior Researcher of Japan Program at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).



Dr. Katsumi Hirano, former Executive Vice-President of JETRO and Executive Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), is a leading researcher in the field of African economies in Japan. With extensive research experiences in Southern Africa, he also has a deep knowledge of the Japanese investors in Africa.

