

GRIPS Development Forum Webinar Invitation

“TICAD 8 and Beyond: Japan’s Approach to African Development in an Evolving Global Environment”

The 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) will be held in Tunisia on August 27 and 28, 2022. This time, TICAD8 will take place amid a complex global environment, in shadow of the war in Ukraine and prolonged impact of Covid-19. At the same time, it will provide a valuable opportunity to show Japan's renewed commitment to African development and think about whether and how Japan should adjust and enhance its partnerships with Africa.

At this critical juncture, GRIPS Development Forum is pleased to invite prominent experts to discuss renewed partnerships between Africa and Japan from diverse angles: **Ms. Céline Pajon**, Head of Japan research at the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), who studies Japan's strategic role in Asia-Pacific and Africa; **Mr. Ryuichi Kato**, Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who has been extensively engaged in strengthening partnerships with Africa, including his contribution to the previous TICAD conferences; and **Mr. Yusuke Takahashi**, Country Director of Ajinomoto Foundation/KOKO Plus Foundation, who has been engaged in the Ghana Nutrition Improvement Product in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service, based on Ajinomoto’s long-standing business experiences in West Africa.

We look forward to your active participation.

Date and time: Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 17:00 - 18:30 (JST: GMT+9 / UTC+2)

Location: online (Zoom)

Language: English (no translation)

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_js1z7HLbSa21vqOCL8jZ1A

* The registered personal information will not be used for anything other than sending information on development forum events. Please register with your true name, not your initial or nickname.

Programme :

- 17:00~17:10 Opening and introduction
Prof. Izumi Ohno (GRIPS Development Forum)
- 17:10~17:20 “Should we expect an adjustment of Japan’s approach to Africa in the era of Covid and war in Ukraine?”
Ms. Céline Pajon (Head of Japan Research, IFRI)
- 17:20~17:35 “Rising importance of Africa in a global community: how can Japan become a ‘chosen’ partner?”
Mr. Ryuichi Kato (Vice President, JICA)
- 17:35~17:50 “Experiences from the Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project (tbc)”
Mr. Yusuke Takahashi (Country Director, KOKO Plus Foundation)
- 17:50~18:25 Q&A discussion
Moderator: Ms. Sayoko Uesu (GRIPS Development Forum)
- 18:25~18:30 Wrap-up comments and closing
Prof. Izumi Ohno (GRIPS Development Forum)

Profile of panelists:



Ms. Céline Pajon: Head of Japan research, the Center of Asian Studies, IFRI. She specializes in Japan's foreign and defense policy and the evolving international relations and geostrategic setting of the Indo-Pacific region.



Mr. Ryuichi Kato: Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Previously served as Managing Director of the African Department of JICA. He has been engaging in fostering various partnerships with Africa.



Mr. Yusuke Takahashi: Country Director, KOKO Plus Foundation / Representative in Ghana, the Ajinomoto Foundation