

STATUS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND RWANDA



This briefing note offers an overview of Japan as a donor to Rwanda, and examines possible opportunities for Rwanda in its future cooperation with Japan, with a view to facilitating high-level discussions by representatives of the Government of Rwanda.

Key Issues:

- Under the TICAD V which took place May 2013 Japan Prime Minister pledged \$32billion for the next five years. These funds are planned to be implemented under the three governing pillars of TICAD V are: 1. "Robust and Sustainable Economy," 2. "Inclusive and Resilient Society" and 3. "Peace and Stability". They have six key strategic approaches as the direction of development in Africa for the next 5 years; promoting private sector-led growth, accelerating infrastructure development, empowering farmers as mainstream economic actors, promoting sustainable and resilient growth, creating an inclusive society for growth, and consolidating peace, stability and good governance are identified as strategic approaches.
- The Government of Japan provides an annual average amount of US\$ 8 to10 million to Rwanda through various assistance schemes.
- Japan is not a budget support donor in Rwanda. However, Japan offers flexibility through its Non Project Grant aid scheme as a form of indirect balance of payment support.

I. OVERVIEW AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The cooperation between the Republic of Rwanda and Japan has been in existence for many years and this only operated through the Japanese Embassy in Nairobi. However, year 2010 saw a Japanese embassy opened in Kigali.

Japan had been absent since 1994 in terms of bilateral cooperation until 2004, on Rwanda's request, Japan decided to recommence its bilateral assistance.

In 2004, The Government of Japan and Rwanda held a Policy Dialogue Meeting and June 2005 for the Government of Japan to prepare and recommence full scale assistance to Rwanda.

In August 2005 the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was established in Kigali to coordinate the aid programs as well as other cooperation activities.

II. CURRENT INTERVENTIONS

At the global level, Japan has set a number of priorities among which poverty reduction, human rights promotion, and sustainable development increase.

Within Rwanda Japan's interventions are in the following methods;

- Non-Project Grant Aid
- Technical Support
- Program Approach

These interventions fall under the Energy, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Education and Transportation Sector. JICA has implemented over 42 projects in Rwanda.