



Sasakawa Africa Association official side event at TICAD VI

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), one of Japan's longest serving NGOs in Africa, is hosting an official side event at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The Symposium will take place in the Lenana Hall on Saturday 27 August 2016 from 2-4pm. Attendees are invited to attend from 1.30pm for light refreshments.

The Symposium, entitled "Contributing to Social Security and Jobs through Agriculture: 30 years of Sasakawa in Africa", will examine the changing face of agriculture across the continent and discuss the challenges that lie ahead. It will be opened by Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of SAA's principle funder, The Nippon Foundation, a private foundation based in Japan.

The keynote address will be given by Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, and a message from Jimmy Carter, former US President and SAA founder, will be read. A panel of experts will deliver short speeches before the floor is opened to the audience for questions.

SAA was founded in 1986 by Japanese philanthropist Ryoichi Sasakawa; Nobel Laureate Dr Norman Borlaug, and former US President Jimmy Carter. Established in response to the devastating famine that gripped the Horn of Africa, they reasoned that rather than relying on food aid, it would be more sustainable to put the right technologies, supported by good agronomic practices, into the hands of farmers.

Today the Sasakawa Africa Association, chaired by Kenyan Professor Ruth Oniang'o, works with smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda to strengthen every stage in the agriculture value chain. This includes crop productivity enhancement; postharvest and agro-processing extension; public private partnerships and market access; and evaluating and sharing technical knowledge.

Through the continual support of The Nippon Foundation, which has spent an estimated \$200 million over the full 30-year history of the program, SAA, now in its 30th anniversary year, has influenced the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and government extension agents across the continent.

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