

## Opening Address

**Sadako Ogata**, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA):

Thank you, to the panelists, for being here coming all the way from their African respective countries and to the audience. We promise you a very interesting symposium.

As a way to start this symposium, I would like to say that Africa today is really marked by economic growth, exceeding more than 5% per annum, owing not only to the rise in oil and mineral resources, but also resulting from settlement of protracted conflicts and economic expansion in emerging markets, and this noted progress is really what we all admire.

The objective of the TICAD meeting that is starting tomorrow is really to advance policy debate and forge collaboration in order to further accelerate the economic growth that we have all noted through private sector initiatives or public sector leadership. Various modalities are attempted and debated. And I think this is what we'd like to figure out from the words of the African leaders today.

It is really also another question. They talk about Asian miracles that they are interested in. Are they really interested in Asian miracles? What are the Asian miracles? The objective of this afternoon's symposium is to learn and respond to growing African interest in the Asian experiences, and somehow try to map out common action plans. In this connection, I want to emphasize that this current symposium provides an opportunity to gain from the insights and experiences of the African leaders as they have worked out their respective development strategies. Does the Asian experience in their view have any relevance? But I have no intention of over-expounding on the Asian successes. I would like, then, to find out how they look at the world at large and also at Asia.

At the opening I wish to introduce a short video message from Prof. Joseph Stiglitz who had planned to be here this afternoon, and to share with you findings from a wide range of policy dialogues that Prof. Stiglitz had carried out, particularly focusing more recently on interaction between Africa and Asia. After this short video introduction, I shall call on each one of the panelists who has indicated certain thematic entry points to contribute to the overall discussion. And the general debate will follow, and after that a question and answer session between the audience and the panelists. So we'll spend a few minutes to observe and listen to what Prof. Stiglitz has to say.