

THE NINTH TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD 9)

## Seminar: Japan-EBRD Partnership

### to Promote Market Economy Transition in Africa

**Co-Hosts** : Ministry of Finance, Japan & European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Venue** : Exhibition Hall D (S-06), PACIFICO Yokohama

**Date** : 21 August 2025

**Time** : 18:30-19:30

**Online Streaming:**

**Japanese**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NjA4MTEyZmYtODljZS00ZmMyLWFhNDEtMTAyZjNINzY1Zmly%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22172f4752-6874-4876-bad5-e6d61f991171%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221c3231a3-d6d0-4405-b9e7-937c8782e8f6%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjA4MTEyZmYtODljZS00ZmMyLWFhNDEtMTAyZjNINzY1Zmly%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22172f4752-6874-4876-bad5-e6d61f991171%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221c3231a3-d6d0-4405-b9e7-937c8782e8f6%22%7d)

**English**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzhkNzdiZWltNjQ0YS00MzA2LWEwMzEtMWEyOWY2OGNINmYw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22172f4752-6874-4876-bad5-e6d61f991171%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221c3231a3-d6d0-4405-b9e7-937c8782e8f6%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzhkNzdiZWltNjQ0YS00MzA2LWEwMzEtMWEyOWY2OGNINmYw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22172f4752-6874-4876-bad5-e6d61f991171%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221c3231a3-d6d0-4405-b9e7-937c8782e8f6%22%7d)

**Background:**

Africa is home to a vibrant and dynamic young generation, with over 60% of its population under the age of 25. This demographic presents immense potential for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. In light of this, major Japanese firms are increasingly interested in diversifying their investments in Africa, extending beyond traditional infrastructure and large-scale projects.

In 2025, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) expanded its geographic scope to include Sub-Saharan Africa, marking a strategic milestone in its global engagement. Since its founding, EBRD has played a key role in supporting the transition to market-oriented economies and promoting private sector and entrepreneurial development across its countries of operations. With extensive experience gained through working in diverse economic environments - from Central and Eastern Europe to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean - EBRD brings a wealth of proven expertise. This knowledge base is expected to offer valuable insights and practical approaches for fostering inclusive and sustainable economic transformation in Africa, where demographic dynamics and untapped market potential offer unique opportunities for growth.

Japan has been a strong supporter of the EBRD's activities since its founding membership at the establishment of the EBRD in 1991. The Japan-EBRD Cooperation Fund (JECF) is the main vehicle of Japanese donor fund, that has played a key role in providing technical assistance, capacity building, and policy advice. Through this fund, Japan has actively contributed to the economic development of the EBRD's countries of operations, the strengthening of their private sectors, and the promotion of sustainable investments in the environmental and energy fields.

### Objective:

The session aims to:

- Explain the rationale behind the EBRD's recent decision to expand its operations to Sub-Saharan Africa, and how EBRD can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic transformation in the region.
- Highlight the strategic importance of this expansion, the potential for private-sector-led growth, and the ways in which the EBRD's expertise in green finance, infrastructure, and policy reform can support inclusive and resilient economies across selected African countries.

### Agenda:

Time	Activity	Responsibility
18:30-18:35	Opening Remarks	Mr. Katsunobu Kato, Finance Minister of Japan
18:35-18:40	Speech	Ms. Odile Renaud-Basso, President, EBRD
18:40-18:50	JECF Signing Ceremony	Mr. Kato and Ms. Odile
18:50-19:05	Presentation on SSA	Ms. Heike Harmgart, Managing Director, EBRD
19:05-19:15	Q&A Session	
19:15-19:20	Closing Remarks	Mr. Ichiro Oishi, EBRD Board Director for Japan