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STS *forum* Special Session  
“Science and Technology Collaboration between  
Developed and Developing Countries”  
May 29, 2008, 15:08–15:14Pan-Pacific Hotel, Yokohama

President Kagame, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all in Yokohama for this special session hosted by the Science and Technology in Society forum on the occasion of TICAD-IV.

Our theme today is: “Science and Technology Collaboration between Developed and Developing Countries.”

First, I would like to express the extent of the expectations that we all have toward TICAD-IV regarding science and technology cooperation with developing countries, and with African countries in particular.

But before going any further, let me introduce the Science and Technology in Society Forum, also known as the STS Forum, which is your host today for this special session on the occasion of TICAD-IV in Yokohama.

I founded the STS Forum to bring together not only scientists and specialists but also policymakers, business leaders, and media leaders from all over the world. While the progress of science and technology and their applications are bringing prosperity and better quality of life to humankind, they also raise important issues such as climate change and energy supply, chemical and nuclear weapons, information security, appropriate protection of intellectual property rights, human health for both developed and developing countries, and others.

These issues are what we call the "lights and shadows of science and technology." Because these problems are increasingly complex in the context of our globalized world, they are beyond the control of any single country and the scientific community alone. Therefore, a multi-national,

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multi-stakeholder approach is indispensable, making the STS Forum a unique platform for discussing crucial issues pertaining to the future of humankind.

The STS Forum had its inaugural meeting in November 2004, and annual meetings have taken place each year since then in Kyoto, Japan.

The 4th Annual Meeting of the STS Forum took place from October 7 to 9, 2007 under the overall themes of "Harmony with Nature" and "Innovation." It was attended by approximately 600 participants from 70 countries, regions and international organizations and included 7 Nobel laureates and 38 university presidents, policymakers including 26 ministers, business executives and opinion leaders. From Japan, Prime Minister Fukuda participated.

At that meeting, we proposed that "joint research in developing countries should be encouraged with the participation of researchers and scientists from developed countries. A portion of official development assistance (ODA) should be used for this activity, in order to harness the human potential of developing countries combined with the financial power of developed countries." We have recommended to the G8 countries that they discuss this proposal at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Meeting taking place this coming July.

I hope that this proposal will be discussed not only at the Summit but also at TICAD-IV, and that each country will begin considering how to give shape to this idea.

From now on, cooperation between developed and developing countries will be necessary to resolve the global issues facing humankind such as climate change, infectious disease, problems with water and food supplies, and others. I hope this meeting will provide a new opportunity to tackle such problems together.

Finally, the 5th Annual Meeting of the STS forum will be held from October 5 to 7 this year in Kyoto. I look forward to as many distinguished participants as possible coming and joining the discussion at the annual meeting of the STS Forum this year or in the future.

I am sure that today's special session will contribute substantially to strengthening and deepening the relationship between Africa and Japan, particularly in the domain of science and technology cooperation. At the same time, I sincerely hope that these efforts will lead to a larger role for Japan in the development of African countries. I also hope that TICAD-IV has presented a good opportunity for African leaders to express their ideas, aspirations and proposals. For my part, let me commit myself in grasping the opportunity provided by TICAD to do the best I can to promote economic investment into Africa in relation to science and technology collaboration. As an example, I want to say that we are currently implementing a joint research program led by IAVI, or the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative based in New York, which will develop a new AIDS vaccine based on the discoveries of a Japanese scientist. I eagerly await concrete results from these many exciting endeavors.

Japan is already thinking of specific actions in the science and technology cooperation area. As many of you gathered here may already know, in his speech at TICAD-IV Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda mentioned that Japan will send scientists and researchers to universities and research institutes in Africa in order to conduct joint research with young researchers locally, to find creative solutions to diverse problems. In this respect, Prime Minister Fukuda also announced that Japan will convene a Japan-Africa Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting.

It is my strong desire that all these endeavors will deepen and strengthen Japan's ties with Africa, and that Japan will make a substantial contribution to the African continent's development through capacity building in science and technology.

I now have the pleasure of inviting President Paul Kagame to the podium. Professor Calestous Juma, who is also joining us here, had recommended that we invite President Kagame as our keynote speaker, describing President Kagame as "the champion of science and technology in Africa." We are extremely honored and grateful that this champion has agreed to be with us today.

Your Excellency, the floor is yours. Thank you very much.