



AFRITRADE PULSE

TICAD 9 IN FOCUS: CO-CREATING AFRICA'S FUTURE WITH JAPAN

20–22 August 2025 • Yokohama, Japan



Why TICAD 9 Matters

- Japan’s flagship platform for Africa since 1993, jointly co-hosted by UN, World Bank, AUC, and UNDP.
- This edition pivots toward “co-creating innovative solutions with Africa”—moving from aid to equal partnership

Three Landmark Pillars

- **Economy:** Business-driven trade, infrastructure, start-ups, digital health.
- **Society:** Public healthcare resilience, UHC, youth empowerment.
- **Peace & Stability:** Enhanced governance, tech for disaster & security

Japan's Strategic Shift

- Moving from aid to business-led models:
“Made with Japan” partnerships.
- Plans to deploy JETRO's largest-ever Business Expo
—196 Japanese firms promoting trade zones,
including pop culture & innovation sectors.

Youth Leading the Charge

- “Youth TICAD 2025” (Aug 18–20): 100 high-potential leaders co-creating a Youth Agenda 2055.
- Emphasis on co-generation of policy among Japanese and African youth.

Innovation & Industrialization Highlights

- UNIDO-Japan's Vienna pre-event spotlighted circular economy, Kaizen manufacturing, U-SPARK digital tools.
- Japan plans to champion green energy (hydrogen), circular waste systems, vocational training, and joint scientific R&D

What This Means for Africa

- **Trade & Investment:** Expanded access to Japanese markets for African exports and SMEs through structured trade platforms like the Japan Fair Expo.
- **Value Chains:** Strong alignment with Africa's drive to scale integrated value chains and SEZs across the continent.
- **Tech & Green Growth:** Supports Africa's ambitions in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, clean energy, circular economy, and digital infrastructure.
- **Youth & Skills:** Accelerates investment in youth-led innovation, skilling, and entrepreneurship to tap into Africa's demographic dividend.
- **Health & Resilience:** Reinforces Africa's push for self-reliant health systems and localized pharmaceutical manufacturing post-COVID.

Eyes on the Horizon

- Watch for **Yokohama Business Expo** (20–22 Aug): Tech & infrastructure link-ups.
- Follow **Youth Agenda 2055** rollout (18–19 Aug).
- Anticipate joint **Japan–Africa ODA innovation packages** announced.
- Results from TICAD9 must flow into Africa’s industrialization agenda, our policies, and AfCFTA implementation.

Stay Ahead with AfriTrade Pulse!

Africa now has a unique opportunity to co-design its future with global partners—underpinned by real demands and strategic leverage.

For policymakers, investors, and industry leaders, the message is clear: invest where Africa is building—and it starts here.

