

TICAD8

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

TICAD 8 (Tunisia, August 27-28, 2022) was full of anomalies: COVID-19 limited the number of conference attendees, the number of participating companies and exhibitions was limited, side events were online, and unfortunately, the Japanese Prime Minister was unable to attend. TICAD VI, held in Kenya, had about 6,000 participants; this time, the number is about 2,000. However, small numbers do not necessarily mean that there are no results. I feel that Japan's unique approach, which focuses on "people" and "quality," is steadily taking shape, and I believe that we should continue to follow this path.

While Africa faces many challenges, such as excessive debt, environmental problems, fragile infrastructure, and poverty, TICAD, under the pandemic, has renewed our awareness of the importance of raising the level of health care. People's health creates the labor force, food and infrastructure, leading to economic development. As the global economy and politics are dysfunctional due to COVID-19, African countries are being asked to be autonomous.

The African Development Association has realized and presented several projects that could help in this regard. For more details, please read this report. But at the same time, these projects are just getting started. We want to continue to grow these projects and spread their impact throughout Africa, using Tunisia as a gateway.

Tetsuro YANO
President, AFRECO

TICAD 8 ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA

INOUE BALLOON Workshop

In early spring of 2021, Toray Medical Co. Ltd. and Dr Kanji Inoue, the inventor of the INOUE BALLOON, shared their intention to make the INOUE BALLOON widely known throughout Africa and to help save the lives of African people, especially pregnant women and unborn children. They had worked in Kenya and Ethiopia to promote the INOUE BALLOON but expect to do so more quickly and efficiently in Africa. AFRECO believes that the propagation of the INOUE BALLOON would be in line with the idea of UHC, promoted by the Japanese government. Also, it would be a good idea to feature it at TICAD 8, and AFRECO has been lobbying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Tunisia in Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Tunisia, and other related organizations. As a result, with the support of JICA, Toray Medical and AFRECO organized an African medical seminar from August 24 to 25 with Dr Habib Gamra (Prof. of Cardiology, Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital), a leading INOUE BALLOON specialist in Tunisia, as a partner. We invited doctors from various countries to Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital in Monastir, Tunisia, for the training workshop and held lectures by Dr Inoue and Dr Gamra.

The African cardiology associations recommended 21 physicians from 18 countries whom they thought could use the Inouye balloon immediately upon returning home after the workshop and its technology. But due to conflicts, visa issuance conditions, and passport theft, the finalists were from 12 countries (Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Libya, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Niger, Tanzania, Mauritania, and Cote d'Ivoire). In addition to observing the procedures performed by Dr Inoue and Dr Gamra (4 cases on the first day and 3 cases on the second day), the participants learned how the INOUE BALLOON works and experienced how to use the INOUE BALLOON while using a model of a heart.

On the 25th, from 17:00, Dr Inoue gave a lecture on the history of INOUE BALLOON development and Dr Gamra on complex cases of PTMC. In addition to the invited African physicians, the audience consisted mainly of Tunisian cardiologists. During the discussion, many doctors emphasized how many African people could be saved using the INOUE BALLOON. At the same time, many doctors complained about the high price of the INOUE BALLOON for African people. They also voiced the need for more training opportunities to use the INOUE BALLOON.

The training sessions and the lectures were streamed to the world via ZOOM. The viewers were not only from Africa but also from Europe.

In addition, the Tunisian Ministry of Health invited Dr Gamra to speak at "Investing in health in AFRICA, perspectives and challenges" on August 27 (The City of Culture, Tunis). Dr Gamra presented the workshop and stressed the importance and necessity of the INOUE BALLOON.

* The INOUE BALLOON is a type of catheter used in percutaneous transluminal mitral valvotomy (PTMC) to treat mitral stenosis caused by rheumatic fever or rheumatic heart disease. Rheumatic heart disease is still prevalent in Africa, and many young patients, especially women of childbearing age, suffer from heart failure. About 60% of these patients have mitral stenosis, which PTMC has a high potential to save. In addition, PTMC is less physically demanding on the patient, and in most cases, the patient can walk home the next day, allowing pregnant women to receive treatment with peace of mind.

The INOUE BALLOON is produced and marketed by Toray Medical, Inc.

Press Conference

In cooperation with other stakeholders, AFRECO has been working on medical and health projects that will benefit the people of Africa and take shape toward achieving UHC. Tunisia, in particular, is an ideal partner for Japanese companies and organizations that wish to expand their business and educational activities in Africa, both in terms of language and economy. To share Japanese know-how and technology with the Tunisian people and to work together to help Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, the following four projects were developed and presented at the Sheraton Hotel in Tunis on August 26, 2012. At the beginning of the meeting, H.E. Mr Ali Marabet, Minister of Health, welcomed the participants and encouraged them to promote cooperation between the two countries in health care.

1. Introduction of the INOUE BALLOON and workshop

The presentation's content will be the same as the INOUE BALLON workshop mentioned above.

2. First made in Tunisia, COVID-19 test kit production and sales

At the urging of the African Development Association and the Tunisian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan, G-Cube (a semiconductor engineering company based in Kobe, Japan) and

UNIMED (a pharmaceutical company based in Sousse, Tunisia) signed an MOU on June 14 to collaborate in the field of manufacturing and marketing COVID-19 antigen and antibody test kits. They agreed to develop test kits and medical devices not only for COVID-19 but also for other endemic diseases in Africa.

For TICAD 8, they announced that NIPPOMED, a joint venture between the two companies, will be established on the UNIMED site. The goal is not only to transfer technology from Japan to NIPPOMED but also to use NIPPONMED as a base for the widespread dissemination of pharmaceuticals and medical devices produced in Japan and Tunisia to African and Middle East countries.

Taking advantage of TICAD8, G-Cube has concluded an MOU with the Tunisian Pharmaceutical Industry Company (SIPHAT) for developing and producing functional foods using artichokes and is considering a joint venture with SIPHAT. In addition, there are talks with the Institute of Infectious Diseases at El Manar University to conduct collaborative research with Nagoya University on developing external diagnostic medicines for various infectious diseases and disorders.

3. Training of Bio Medical Engineers in Africa, with Tunisia as a hub

To train medical engineers in Tunisia in 2019, the African Development Association has signed an MOU with the Higher Institute of Medical Technologies attached to El Manar University (ISTMT, Tunis, Tunisia) to cooperate in the establishment of a faculty. For Tunisia, which aims for advanced medical care, training people who can maintain, manage, and adequately handle medical equipment is not only an essential step but also necessary to lead sub-Saharan Africa in terms of medical care.

At TICAD 8, the Foundation for the International Promotion of Clinical Engineering (Tokyo), in the presence of H.E. Shinsuke Shimizu, Ambassador of Japan to Tunisia, signed an MOU with ISTMT, promising to send lecturers to train engineers and cooperate in guiding local faculty. ISTMT is the first national university in Tunisia to offer Biomedical Engineering (BME) course.

On the occasion of TICAD 8, Morinomiya University of Medical Sciences, where Dr Tomotaka Naramura and Dr Yoshihiro Tsuji, affiliated with the Foundation for the International Promotion of Clinical Engineering, teach, received a joint research request from NATURODETOX (Tunisia) to verify the effectiveness of their products.

4. Toiletry product development for human resource development and creation of new industries as part of the university exchange

Toa University (Yamaguchi) and Monastir University, through student exchange and online joint classes, are working to improve sanitation in Africa:

Acquire hand-washing habits among children.

Assist with refugee camps.

Create local employment.

Educate entrepreneurship to develop Tunisian human resources and create new industries.

The company is working on the development of toiletry products.

As its first product, the company is developing a soap. It is mild to the skin and suitable for both children and adults. It uses Tunisia's olive oil as the main ingredient, blended with precious prickly pear cactus oil and natural essential oil from Tunisia. With an eye on the global palm oil problem (deforestation of tropical forests, decrease in wildlife), the company is also considering extracting and blending Tunisian date oil as a raw material to replace palm oil.

Taking advantage of TICAD 8, they have contacted companies producing soap in Tunisia and will work on soap production in earnest in the future.

MOU with Japanese Desk in Africa

The African Development Association signed an MOU with the Japanese Desk in Africa (JDA) at TICAD 8.

JDA was established in 2022 to support Japanese companies' business operations in Africa. JDA consist of three companies: MK Development, a company with an extensive network and business experience in Sub-Saharan Africa; BDO, which provides auditing, advisory, accounting, and tax services to both private and public sector organizations; and TRAVEL SUN, which provides logistics, interpretation, translation, and event support for Japanese companies and individuals travelling on business. JDA is an organization that supports Japanese companies to expand into Tunisia and Africa by meeting the needs and expectations of Japanese companies with a deep understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and customs. The organization supports Japanese companies in expanding their business in Tunisia and Africa. The press conference held in Tunisia was also made possible with the cooperation of JDA.

One of the JDA representatives, Hedi Ben Abbes, the president of the Tunisian-Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TJCCI), has allowed us to present to the association at every TJCCI meeting since late 2021, resulting This led to the partnership between G-Cube and UNIMED.

Although it was too late for the press conference, the AI diagnostic system (developed by NTT Data Group and Deeptek of India) by Qunie (Tokyo, Japan), which the JDA also introduced at the TJCCI meeting, will be tested at Abderrahmane Mami Ariana Hospital (Tunis, Tunisia). On the occasion of TICAD 8, Knier received a request from JDA to support the establishment of a private hospital in Tunisia and will continue to sift through the information as the country has the potential to become a base for the development of Japanese-style medical care. In addition, they will seek collaboration with a Tunisian company that is developing the desert to promote the agriculture and livestock industry and to introduce renewable energy.

In cooperation with JDA, we plan to introduce Japanese technology to Tunisia and, through Tunisia, to sub-Saharan Africa.

*Click here for JDA URL <https://japanesedeskinafrica.tn>

Exchange of opinions with dignitaries

Due to various restrictions on the holding of TICAD8, AFRECO was not able to exchange opinions with dignitaries as easily as at previous TICAD events. Still, on the other hand, we were able to discuss various issues at length with those who could make appointments. We also met with key figures from different countries at a dinner hosted by the Tunisian prime minister and a dinner hosted by the Tunisian president.

TICAD 8 OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT

“How to Cooperate in the Health Sector in Africa Towards Universal Health Coverage.”

Organizers: Ministry of Finance, African Development Bank, AFRECO Supported by: Japan International Cooperation Agency

The seminar was held online on August 25 at 21:00 JST based on the report "Survey on Japan's Cooperation in the Health Sector in Africa

(http://www.mof.go.jp/policy/international_policy/research/index.htm)," commissioned by the Ministry of Finance in 2021 and conducted by the African Development Association.

After a greeting by Mr Kentaro Ogata, Deputy Finance Minister of the Ministry of Finance, Tetsuya Fukunaga, Counselor of the Association, gave an overview of the survey mentioned above. Jun Hirabayashi, Director of Qunie, who surveyed with us, and Dr Naoyuki Kawahara, Representative of Rocinantes, a certified NPO, introduced Japan's technologies and products. Mr Mohan Vivekanandan of the Development Bank of South Africa also spoke about how non-government players in Africa can contribute to the achievement of UHC in Africa. The session was closed with words from Mr Taku Hanajiri, Director of the African Development Bank Representative Office in Asia. Approximately 180 people viewed the event.

"Seeking a healthier and better life through drug discovery and the use of traditional African medicines."

Organized by: Kumamoto University, NPO Rocinantes

In collaboration with African educational institutions and other organizations, Kumamoto University has been making various efforts to improve public health in Africa through the safe and secure utilization of traditional African medicines to help people lead healthier and better lives. In recognition of these efforts, the African Development Association (ADA) opened the seminar on September 20, starting at 16:00 Japan time, with the Kumamoto Proposal 2022, a new action plan to resolve current issues, following on from the Kumamoto Proposal 2019.