

## TICADV1

TICADVI the sixth iteration of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI) Summit was held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-28 August 2016. This was the first time ever a TICAD Summit was held in Africa since its inception in 1993 and that of itself made it a Big Deal.

Prime Minister @AbeShinzo said "At long last and exactly as promised #TICAD has come to Africa"

I must admit I get kind of intoxicated at these Big Set-Piece Events because I believe Serendipity can be shaped. Being in the right place at the right time is not a new concept. While chance is an intrinsic element of serendipity, I believe that you can significantly alter the probability and quality of the unexpected encounters in our lives. So with that in mind, I intercepted the Prime Minister Super Mario Shinzo Abe and told him how I worked in London for Sumitomo Bank and that the Japanese had built the Nyali Bridge in my home town of Mombasa and my Friends then were Yoichiro and Daichiro Sakamoto. I met with President Museveni and said "You don't remember me Do You?" [Hot Chocolate circa 1977], I made a bold Promise to President Nyusi, caught up with the President of the African Development Bank and more and all in the space of a few short hours. Its not very often that such environments are found and Kudos to the Organisers The Governments of Japan and Kenya.

The Japanese Prime Minister pledged \$30b over the next 3 Years and said

"Throughout the Continent I cannot but think we are witnessing a "quantum leap""

"This is an investment that has faith in Africa's future," he said.

"Let us advance together, Africa and Japan...The Future abounds with blazes of bright colours"

Japan, of course, trails China which recorded total trade with Africa of about \$179 billion in 2015 versus Japan's approximately \$24 billion and given the level of geopolitical contestation between the two, a lot of commentary tends to be seen through that prism of geopolitical competition. Japan does not need to compete in every country in Africa because for China the votes at the UN are critical whereas for Japan UN votes does not carry the same import. So I expect Japan to pick its African Spots. And if you think about it The Indian Ocean is an appendage of the South China Sea.

"Japan bears the responsibility of fostering the confluence of the Pacific and Indian Oceans" said the Prime Minister.

So I do foresee Japan [alongside the US and India] seeking to contain and triangulate China in the Indian Ocean.

Another issue post Fukushima is Japan's Energy Security. Here too I expect Japan to seek a serious Foothold in the nascent East African Energy supplies which run from Mozambique through Tanzania up to Kenya and inland. Japan's Energy Security is a key Issue. Interestingly if you look at the Japanese Investments, there are concentrated in Energy, Ports, logistics, and what I would call choke-points.

What I have found is that once Japan Inc makes the decision [and it can be frustrating getting to that Decision Point] then They are all in.

The President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim said that his message to investors at #TICAD6 is "get in on the deal now invest in Africa"

The Japanese have in my opinion made the decision to get in the deal now. That can only be a good thing for Africa.