SMEs/SMIs centered industrialization for inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa – How can Japan help?

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Presentation outline

- Definitions and context
- Implementation outcome
- Winds of change
- SMEs centered industrialization
- How can Japan help?
### Definitions and context

**Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs)**
Firms that employ between 10 and 100 persons.
Based on definition in 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
(Nigeria, Sudan, the DRC, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, Cote d’Ivoire, Tanzania and Zimbabwe)

**Industrialization**
Transition form the primary sector of the economy (Agriculture, mining, etc.) to the tertiary sector (services and expand to knowledge economy), through the secondary (processing, manufacturing, etc.)

**Economic growth**
Economic growth is the increase in the value of goods and services produced by the Economy; generally referred to as the increase in the gross domestic products.

**Economic development (inclusive growth)**
A measure (by various indicators) of improvement in the economic well being and quality of life of a set of people. In our context, a reduction and elimination of poverty More restrictively, income poverty.

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### Definitions and context (cntd.)

**Biased economic and political world order geared to preserve the dominance of Western Countries (UN/World Bank/IMF/WTO...)**

**Post colonial governments recognized importance of industrialization**

- Import substitution (60-70s)
  - Inexperienced leaders
  - Inherited enclave economies
  - Fragmented continent
  - Endowed with vast natural resources
  - Abundant (unskilled) cheap labor
  - Through state owned enterprises

- SAPs
  - Macro-economic stability
  - Enormous negative legacies

- Export-oriented industrialization
  - Globalization

**Externally engineered to leapfrog at one bound the long and laborious path to industrialization.**
Implementation outcome

Over four decades, many industrialization strategies have been tried, but most have failed.

Failure of governance

From independence

1. Weak institutional capacity
2. Weak regulatory framework
3. Inadequate/imported policies
4. Poor implementation

The causes interpenetrate

Repeated failures have created a self-confidence deficiency syndrome

Need for new strategy to build the industrial sector from the ground up to achieve sustainable economic growth.

SMIs should become the prime agenda as they generate value adding activities based on existing domestic resources

Policies should be complemented by effective and operational policy implementation strategies (country specific)

Winds of change

Recent world trends offer a unique opportunity to change Africa's predicament

1. Increased economic growth
   - Without much diversification (non-inclusive)
   - Fueled by high commodity prices and windfall investments from India and China
   - Macro-economic reforms

2. New non-conditional donors
   - They understand Africa's challenges
   - Big competitors at the same time

3. Renewed focus on growth (DAC)
   - Growth diagnostics
   - Infrastructure development

Leverage the new relationship to diversify their economies and convert their comparative advantage into competitiveness.

The goal being to reduce vulnerability to fluctuations of World commodity prices (e.g. extractive final stage processing locally in Africa)

To realize the objectives of economic growth through Competitiveness on the one hand and employment generation and income distribution on the other hand, SMEs assume a critical role
SMEs centered industrialization

SMEs represent the biggest share in business establishments in practically all countries and play a key role in industrialization of developing countries.

The case of Botswana

*Botswana statistical report 2003*

1. >50% of consumer goods imported
   - Food / beverage / tobacco / etc.
   - Textile / footwear
   - Wood / paper
   - Metal / metal products
2. Large amount of hard currency used
   - On goods that could be produced locally
   - Diverting uses of valuable funds
3. ~80% of dairy/milk products import
   - Though Botswana is famous for livestock
   - They export meat

>90% of export primary products

During the same period

This reflects most of African countries

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Intra-Africa trade has tremendous potential and is yet to be fully exploited, for Africa this is a matter of survival

Intra-Africa trade

1. Regional cooperation
   - To enlarge markets
   - To build complementarity
   - Attract investors
2. Intra-African trade (% export)
   - 2005 ➔ 9.8%
   - 2005 ➔ 8.9% (Comparative to other region’s internal trade WTO 2006 data)
3. >43% manufacture products
   - 20% annual growth
   - Great potential for SMEs

Trade is an important leverage for growth as it increases country’s income

Challenges

- Structural deficiencies
- Economic performance
- Half hearted measures
- WTO accession
SMEs centered industrialization

It is economic freedom, especially for those at the bottom of the economic ladder, that offers Africa hope.

Why SMEs for Africa?

1. Gradual industrialization
   - Better use of existing local capacity
   - Supporting for future high-tech development
   - Invisible colleges (skills training)
   - Provide for structural change of economy

2. Labour intensive/create jobs
   - Equitable distribution of income
   - Expand economic space

3. Mostly locally driven
   - Increased measure of self-reliance
   - Easy to start with minimum financing
   - Focused on local and regional markets

Though mega-projects are still welcomed, especially to provide infrastructure. However, as long as mega-project centered industrialization strategy’s causes of past failures still prevail, mega-project centered industrialization will not deliver.

How can Japan help?

In a changed international context, and an increasingly interdependent world, Africa has assumed new importance to Japan.

During SAPs in the 1980s

1. Japan as late comer donor
   - Content as a silent donor
   - Neither academia nor government was intellectually or practically prepared

2. No constructive participation
   - Content as a silent donor
   - Neither academia nor government was intellectually or practically prepared

1. Today major donor
   - Self-help = ownership
   - Focus on growth drivers
   - Aid, trade and investment

2. Influential DAC member
   - A major donor to intellectually take the leadership in assistance to Africa

3. TICAD process
   - Understand the development challenges
   - Favorable circumstances

4. Past recipients mostly success
   - Under the leadership in assistance to Africa

5. No historical baggage
How can Japan help?

Arguably, there is in fact a good deal of common ground between Japan’s sustained focus on economic growth, and the concentrated, cross-sectoral approaches of China in so many African countries.

### Japan

1. Integrated approaches to aid, trade and investment by Japan
2. Substantial number of technical cooperation experts
3. TICAD and China’s Africa policy very similar
   - New strategic partnership for sustainable development based on the self-reliance principle
   - Almost no (World Bank/IMF type) conditionalities
   - >40 years experience
5. Schools/Hospitals

### China

1. China is still a difficult place to do business
2. Complementarity of initiatives
3. Substantial number of technical cooperation experts
4. Non-aligned movement years
   - Not a donor but a partner
   - Win-win not poverty reduction
5. Range of activities

Can Japan and China learn from each other about how Africa can move from poverty to growth.

How can Japan help?

Besides, (i) supporting infrastructure development, (ii) providing market access to African products, (iii) supporting human capital development - vocational and tertiary education.

### Areas to for assistance

1. Increasing the number and tenure of “Africa specialists”
2. Help reshape Africa’s image in Japan
   - Mapping out a detailed framework of risk in Africa
   - Promote transcultural education
3. Promote Japanese SMEs investment in Africa
4. Collaborate on green and bio-technologies

Increased involvement of Japan in Africa, at bilateral as well as multi-lateral levels.
1. There is need to go beyond acknowledging historical injustices to determining where Africa's self interests lie and steer the world appropriately by establishing stronger economic blocs within Africa and mutually beneficial partnerships outside Africa.

2. Africa needs to determine an adequate framework for herself a framework that is sensitive to international realities and opinions and which can get the buy-in from the rest of the World.

3. There is window of opportunity to redefine Africa’s role in the global community and Africa is looking to partners for not charity, to realize her full potential.

Conclusion

Thank You

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