

国際連帯税フォーラム
NGO FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY LEVIES
FORUM DES ONG POUR LES PRÉLÈVEMENTS DE SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE

presents

A Partnership Project of the Fifth Tokyo International
Conference on African Development V (TICAD V)

International Symposium on African Development, International
Solidarity Levies, and Financial Transaction Tax: Recommendations from
Global Leaders on Securing Innovative Financing
Including UNITAID for Achieving MDGs



NGO FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY LEVIES (FISL),
RESULTS JAPAN, UNITAID, UGOKU-UGOKASU (GCAP JAPAN), AFRICAN
LEADERS MALARIA ALLIANCE (ALMA), PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY LEVIES (PGISL), LEADING GROUP ON
INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT, YOKOHAMA NGO NETWORK

Thursday, May 30, 2013
Kanagawa Prefectural Civic Hall, Yokohama, Japan

PROGRAM AGENDA

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Osamu Shiohama**
Secretary General, Japanese Parliamentary Committee on World Federation

I. Opening Remarks

1. **Ms. Noriko Shirasu**, Managing Director, NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies (FISL)/President, RESUTLS Japan
2. **Mme. Yoriko Kawaguchi**, President, Parliamentary Group for International Solidarity Levies (PGISL)/Member of House of Councillors

II. Reports and Discussion:

Moderator: **Dr. Takehiko Uemura**, Professor and Director, Global Cooperation Institute for Sustainable Cities, Yokohama City University

1. **Moderator** (Topic: *Significance and Developments in the areas of International Solidarity Levies and Financial Transaction Tax*)
2. **Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka**, Singer, Roll Back Malaria Goodwill Ambassador, South Africa (Topic: *Let's Learn about today's Africa!*)
3. **Mr. Usman Shamsuddeen**, Minister of Planning, Nigeria and President of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development (Topic: *The role of innovative financing in the implementation of the MDGs and the post-2015 agenda for development*)
4. **Mr. Denis Broun**, Executive Director, UNITAID (Topic: *UNITAID is Innovative Financing Facility for Global Health*)
5. **Mr. Tsunehiro Ishibashi**, Secretary General, Parliamentary Group for International Solidarity Levies (PGISL), Member of House of Councillors (Topic: *Activities of PGISL and report on status of deliberations in the National Diet*)
6. Moderator's summary

III. Closing Remarks and Proposal Going Forward

Mr. Tetsuji Tanaka, Managing Director, NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies (FISL)/President, Association of Citizens for International Solidarity Taxes (ACIST)

OVERVIEW

1. Objectives

- 1) Examine the scorecard of MDGs and discuss the role of innovative financing mechanisms (international solidarity levies, financial transaction tax) to achieve the MDGs in Africa and contribute to the implementation strategy of the post-2015 development agenda;
- 2) Learn the importance of ownership regarding financing for development from Nigeria (current President of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development) and other African countries that have introduced international air ticket levies;
- 3) Learn the six -year experience of UNITAID operated mainly through revenues from IAT and its future prospect;
- 4) Energize discussions on IFMs (ISL, FTT) in Japan and Africa through above discussions

2. Overview

Pursuant to the above objectives, the symposium will be organized as follows: (1) opening remarks from the host and Japanese parliamentary group; (2) learn about ISL (incl. FTT) from the experts; (3) have Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka (South African singer and Roll Back Malaria Goodwill Ambassador of Mali) talk about the status quo of Africa; (4) hear reports from Nigeria (President of the LG) and other African countries that have introduced IAT; (5) hear reports on IFM in general and UNITAID in particular.

BACKGROUND

On June 1-3 of this year, TICAD V, or the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development will be held in Yokohama, Japan. The main themes of the conference revolve around economic development and the achievement of the MDGs. Since 2000, the MDGs have contributed to an unprecedented acceleration of poverty reduction in Africa. In his 2012 MDG report, the United Nations Secretary General highlighted the achievement of three MDGs in the areas of extreme poverty eradication, improvement of slum residents' lives and access to safe drinking water. However, the progress made remains very heterogeneous and many targets in nutrition, child mortality and maternal health won't be achieved by 2015, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Considering the current work of the UN on the agenda for development, it is particularly timely to engage a discussion on the status of the MDGs in Africa before TICAD V.

One critical component of the achievement of the MDGs as well as the implementation strategies for the post-2015 agenda for development is finance. However, considering the fiscal crisis and the financial difficulties in donor countries, the trend of decreasing ODA budgets is unlikely to be reversed. For instance, Japan's ODA budget (general account) has been decreasing consecutively for 15 years in a row.

Under such circumstances, a general consensus has emerged on the necessity to mobilize alternative sources of financing as a complement to ODA which must remain a central component of development financing. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as the international solidarity levies (ISL), appear as one of the most promising solutions to raise significant additional funds for development on a more stable and predictable basis. While ISL have been already implemented in more than 10 countries in the form of air ticket levies, 11 European countries including France and Germany are in preparation to implement a financial transaction tax (FTT) by 2014. France has already implemented an FTT at national level and decided to allocate 10 percent of its revenues to development and the fight against climate change.

Amongst the countries that have already introduced the air ticket levy, 8 are African countries (Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Niger and Nigeria). The revenues of the tax can be allocated to the national budget or to an international organization. UNITAID, an international drug purchasing facility fighting HIV/AIDS, TB and endemic diseases such as malaria, is mainly funded thanks to the revenues of air ticket levies implemented in various countries. Under the UNITAID framework, the African countries are not the aid recipient but an active player in procuring the funds, thus exercising ownership over its projects.

During its first six years of operation since its establishment in 2006, UNITAID has accumulated over USD 2 billion in funding and provided funds for fighting infectious diseases in 94 countries around the world. . One of such typical projects is pediatric treatment of HIV infections and development of cutting-edge diagnostic tools. UNITAID plays an important role in the area of global health by targeting these underserved markets and establishing a framework where manufacturers can supply quality public health products at a reduced price. This is realized through a long-term and predictable stream of funding provided by the governments.

In Japan, an all-party parliamentary group, the Parliamentary Group for International Solidarity Levies (PGISL), was established in February 2008 and the government's Tax Commission have discussed the possibility of introducing the ISL in an almost yearly basis. Last year in August 2012, the National Diet passed the legislation on a comprehensive tax system reform, effectively legalizing the government's commitment to introducing the ISL. Article 7 Sec. 7 of this law read, "consideration of international solidarity levy shall be conducted in accordance with the progress in international developments." However, the level of the Japanese government's commitment remains at best at a consideration stage and thus mobilization of public interest on ISL is vital in promoting its introduction.

For that purpose, the NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies has hosted an international symposium in October 2012 in the margins of the annual general meeting of IMF/World Bank. To continue the ongoing effort, we will host this international symposium on IFM at the occasion of TICAD V which will

begin on June 1st. The participation to this event of a globally well-known singer from South Africa who also serves as the Roll Back Malaria Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka, has already been secured. Mr. Denis Broun, Executive Director of UNITAID will also be invited. The presence of Nigeria, who currently holds the Presidency of the Leading Group as well as a representative from one of the African countries which has implemented an air ticket levy would also add a great value to the discussions.

ORGANIZERS

Host:

- NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies (FISL)
- Ugoku/Ugokasu (GCAP Japan)
- RESULTS Japan

Co-host:

- Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development
- Parliamentary Group for International Solidarity Levies (PGISL)
- African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)
- Yokohama NGO Network (YNN)
- UNITAID

Sponsor:

- Japan Parliamentary Committee for World Federation (JPCWF)
- Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU)
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Chirac Foundation
- City of Yokohama

