



The 4th Africa Emerging Markets Forum was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on June 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. The conference was a joint project between the Emerging Markets Forum staff and the Ivorian Ministry of Planning and Development, led by Minister Albert Toikeusse Mabri. The forum hosted the largest number of participants ever, with more than 150 men and women from the Ivorian government, Ivorian private sector, and international business and development community arriving in Abidjan to discuss the vision outlined in "Africa 2050: Realizing the Continent's True Potential." Former heads of state and government in attendance included Raila Odinga (Prime Minister, Kenya), Tertius Zongo (Prime Minister, Burkina Faso), Benjamin Mkapa (President, Tanzania) and Horst Koehler (President, Germany). The Ivorian Ministers of Economic Infrastructures, Industry, Agriculture, Economy and Finance, Defense, Environment, Health and Culture all participated in the forum, and Ministers of Economy and Statistical Forecasting from Mali, Djibouti and Algeria also attended. 27 countries in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia were represented, including the entire G7 and 12 of the G20. Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara himself attended much of the proceedings, chairing one session and presenting remarks during another.

Hundreds of copies of the overview of the JICA-supported "Africa 2050" study were distributed to participants in both English and French: demand was so high as to nearly exhaust the total number of copies available. Presentations were given by Callisto Madavo, Theodore Ahlers, Michel Camdessus, Anil Sood and Abdoulie Janneh. Horst Koehler also spoke at dinner regarding the UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly on the eradication of extreme poverty entirely. The sessions followed the substantive path outlined in the report: vision, strategy, demographics and inclusion, growth and job creation, and governance. The discussion was candid and productive, with participants ranging from agriculture organizations to securities regulators debating the hotly-contested topics. We would again like to thank JICA for its significant intellectual and financial support, without which this forum would not have been possible.

As the forum drew to a close, the body of participants issued the communiqué, tying the Africa EMF to the Lough Erne G8 meeting. The Abidjan Declaration points out that mobilizing resource rents requires effective action against tax evasion, and diversifying away from reliance on these rents requires lower trade barriers, both issues discussed at the G8. The heart of the declaration calls on African governments to work with the G8 to reduce the many varieties of fiscal fraud and facilitate regional integration through open trade.

Africa 2050 will be further discussed at a third international summit in Washington, D.C.