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Space cooperation between France, Japan and Africa. CNES attends sixth TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) in Nairobi

For its sixth edition, and for the first time since its inception in 1993, TICAD (the Tokyo International Conference on African Development) has been held on the African continent, in Nairobi. CNES, which in 2015 signed a framework agreement with Japan on the use of space assets in order to encourage sustainable development and security, was part of the French delegation led by André Vallini, Secretary of State for Development and French-speaking nations.

Japan organized the first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993, to promote development, peace and security in Africa through multilateral partnerships. TICAD has since become a leading international forum, driving efforts to mobilize international development aid for Africa. To this end, it aims to foster high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners on issues related to economic growth, trade, investment, sustainable development, peace, stability and security. TICAD is a summit meeting co-organized by the United Nations Office for Africa, the Japanese government, the African Union Commission (AUC), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

CNES attended the event as part of the French delegation, which was led by André Vallini and included the special representative for French-Japanese partnership, Louis Schweitzer. France is a key partner of Japan, with CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall signing a new framework cooperation agreement in 2015 during the official visit to Japan of Prime Minister Manuel Valls accompanied by a delegation of French business leaders. The successor to a previous agreement signed in 2010, it focuses on the use of space assets for sustainable development, security and climate change research, all of which are vital issues for Africa.

Space can also be expected to garner plenty of attention at November's COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in the wake of decisions reached at Paris's COP21. These decisions resulted in the New Delhi Declaration, which came into effect on 16 May and marks a turning point in the use of space assets to curb climate change.

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