

Japan Commits \$3.2 million to Girl-Child Education in Nigeria and West Africa

Japan has committed \$3.2 million for the capacity-building of teachers to promote safe and quality education for girls in Nigeria and West Africa, emphasising its positive impact on economic growth and development.

On 11 July 2024, Ambassador MATSUNAGA Kazuyoshi and distinguished guests gathered at the National Conference for Girl-Child Education on the theme "The Teacher We Need for Quality Girl-Child Education in Nigeria," organized by UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA).

The conference highlighted the significance of girls' education in promoting gender equality and empowering women across Nigeria.

Aligning with Japan's Foreign Minister, Ms. Kamikawa Yoko's priority on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), which she emphasised during her visit to Nigeria in April, the conference stressed that empowering women and girls is key to achieving peace and stability, especially in Nigeria where security is a significant concern.

The 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) further emphasised the importance of addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls and providing them access to quality education. At TICAD8 in 2022, Japan made a pledge to improve access to quality education for 4 million girls in Africa. Actions are now being taken to fulfil that promise.

The UNESCO IICBA project focuses on capacity building for teachers in West Africa, including Nigeria. This initiative will enhance teachers' skills and practices, improving girls' educational experiences and outcomes. By investing in girls' education and empowering women, we pave the way for a brighter, more prosperous future for Nigeria and the entire African continent.

