

Explore Abidjan 2026

The 6th Interprofessional Panel of International Organizations, Cooperation Agencies and Consular Chambers

Sub-Saharan Africa is at a breaking point.

Its forests — the continent's climate stabilizers — are disappearing fast. Nearly 80% of Africa's biodiversity is tied to them, and with every hectare lost, the region loses more than trees. It loses medicinal flora that rural communities have relied on for generations as their frontline pharmacy.

At the same time, water security is collapsing under human and chemical pollution. The UN projects that by 2050, one in four people worldwide will live somewhere hit by recurring water shortages. In Sub-Saharan Africa, that could mean **more than 400 million people** without reliable access to drinking water — and a resurgence of waterborne disease on a scale the region hasn't seen in decades.

This is the crisis the 6th Panel exists to confront.

Why Abidjan. Why now.

On **October 29, 2026**, at the CRAEE UMOA Auditorium in Plateau, Abidjan, heads of government, UN agencies, regional development banks, and global industry leaders converge for one purpose: turning diagnosis into action.

Confirmed and returning partners include the **World Health Organization**, **UNFPA**, the **African Development Bank**, the **African Union**, **Bayer** (Central & West Africa), **JICA**, and academic institutions like **Tokyo Tamagawa University**. Past editions have drawn the presidencies of Botswana and Burundi, and ministries spanning water, agriculture, health, defense, and foreign affairs across the continent.

The Panel is co-organized by **AfriJapan & Africasia International Cooperation** and the **Municipality of Saint-Martin-de-la-Lieue** (France), reflecting the event's core identity: a genuine Africa–Asia–Europe partnership built on shared responsibility, not charity.

The centerpiece: Facobly

At the heart of this year's edition is the **Facobly project** — a landscaping and reforestation initiative to rescue an classified forest that had degraded by more than 90%, now being restored with WHO support. It's the Panel's proof of concept: that the diagnosis can become a working model other communities can replicate.

As Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, has put it: the connection between human health, environmental protection, and natural resource management can no longer be treated separately — the climate crisis *is* a health crisis, and it demands unified, urgent action.

Ferdinand Bleka, President of AfriJapan & Africasia, frames the stakes even more starkly: every hectare of forest lost takes with it active compounds, ancestral remedies, and the future of local pharmaceutical industry — a quiet disarming of Africa's health defenses.

What's at stake for participants

This isn't a conference for observers. The Panel is built to produce:

- A shared scientific diagnosis of the ecological threats facing the region
- A validated roadmap for protecting groundwater reserves
- The official launch of the Facobly pilot landscaping project
- Signed technical and financial agreements between investors and embassies

Entry is free, by official invitation only. Every participant receives the event's dedicated magazine at check-in.

[View the full programme →]