

For Immediate Release



Message from the Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan
on the occasion of the 4th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of South Sudan

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to congratulate the Government and the people of South Sudan on the 4th anniversary of its independence. This day, 9 July, makes us recall your hard-earned achievement of independence as one nation and one people after a long struggle for lasting peace and prosperity.

This year, we also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the start of Japan's Official Development Assistance in South Sudan upon the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Japan, once reduced to ashes by war 70 years ago, has followed the path of a peace-loving nation and has managed, with unwavering efforts, to achieve today's peace and prosperity.

With such an experience, Japan would like to see the leaders of South Sudan embrace the differences, engage all stakeholders and work hand in hand with the international community. We urge all parties to continue making peace a top priority so as to end, as soon as possible, the unnecessary sufferings that the South Sudanese people have so long endured.

Japan has, to date, always directed its assistance to the critical needs of this country, such as infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, vocational training, governance, and security, to mention but a few. JICA, the Japanese Engineering Contingent of UNMISS and a number of Japanese NGOs contribute in their respective ways.

In March 2015, construction work on Freedom Bridge started with Japan's support. We believe that this bridge serves not only as a means of transport but also as a symbol of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of South Sudan and Japan.

As South Sudan continues, four years on, to confront the challenges of nation-building, Japan renews its commitment to standing by the people of South Sudan, in good times and bad times, to achieve together a society in unity, peace and prosperity.

Mabrouk Aleikum! Shukran Jazilan!