

**Remarks by Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu,
Ambassador of Japan
On the Occasion of the Hand-over Ceremony
For Emergency Relief Goods in Response to Floods Disaster
December 6th 2013, at IOM Storage**

Hon. Mr. Clement Taban Dominic, Undersecretary, Ministry of Gender,
Children and Social Welfare

Mr. David Derthick, the Chief of Mission, IOM South Sudan

Mr. Atsushi Hanatani, the Chief of Representative, JICA South Sudan

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, let me begin by conveying the words to the people who were affected by the floods, still burdened with many hardships, our heartfelt condolences go out to them. And together with the people gathered here today, I would like to express our sincere hope that days of peace and quiet will return to them as soon as possible.

Responding to the appeal made by Hon. Awut Deng Acuil, Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare on 19th October, the Government of Japan has

decided to provide the emergency relief goods which include 1,600 blankets, 1,600 jerry cans, 200 tents, 200 mosquito nets and 96,000 aquatabs to the Government of South Sudan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You might remember, on the 11th March, 2011, Japan was struck by a huge earthquake and tsunami, which resulted in more than twenty thousand deaths and missing people. We saw how the natural disaster devastates people's lives and witnessed their pain and sorrow. At the same time, we received so much goodwill as well as emergency relief goods and contributions including from South Sudan who sent us messages of condolences. These messages and contributions from our friends around the world helped us in various ways, which we shall never forget.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are reciprocating courtesy which we received two years ago. One of the most difficult challenges we faced at the disaster was how to reach out to the people in need.

Learning from own experience, the Embassy of Japan together with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare had held many discussions on how we can best reach out to the people in need. Responding to our urgent issue,

the Inter-Governmental Task Force for the disaster response led by the said Ministry together with Ministry of Cabinet Affairs quickly assessed the needs and made the distribution plans. We are handing over these relief items to the flood victims and asking the Government of South Sudan for prompt distribution through their proper systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Sudan is bestowed with many blessings; natural resources, sunshine, and water. Wisely utilizing and maximizing these potential is the biggest challenge for South Sudan and each and every South Sudanese. Utilizing the potential of the Nile River that enables transporting huge volume of commodities, including delivering disaster relief operation, is one of them throughout the seasons

In this context, today, I have the privilege to inform you that Japan is starting the Project for Improvement of Juba River Port early next year in order to increase the capacities of transportation from the capital to the regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, let me pray once again for those people who have suffered from the floods, and the goods will ease their sorrow.

I thank you.

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