

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu**  
**Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan**  
**on the Occasion of the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony**  
**at 14:00 on 19th November, 2013, Juba, South Sudan**

Distinguished Guests,

Representatives of organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who made it here today, especially those who have traveled all the way to Juba for this Grant Contract signing ceremony for Grassroots Human Security projects. This is my first address to the public as the newly appointed Ambassador to South Sudan, and I am very honored and delighted to be here for the start of three new grassroots projects.

Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects, namely GGP, is one of Government of Japan's core development assistance tools to support South Sudan's peace, stability, and sustainable development. While we are engaged in national development projects such as infrastructure rehabilitation, technical cooperation etc., and work closely with the Government of South Sudan, we also mobilize GGP to support grassroots-level small scale community development projects with a view to enhance Human Security aspect of the people of South Sudan, projects that are mainly initiated by the civil society organizations. The Government of Japan promotes more inclusive and robust economic and social development of South Sudan, and this requires us to ensure our assistance reaches out to greater number of ordinary 'people', who are the engine of South Sudan's nation building, in an efficient and sustainable manner. In this regard, GGP plays an important role in supporting civil society organizations

that are often very instrumental in responding to the needs of the communities and people who are unfulfilled with basic human needs such as access to socio-economic services.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today, we have just completed the signing of Grant Contract of three projects. Let me briefly introduce these projects to you.

The first one is “*The Project for Improving Hygiene, Water and Sanitation for Primary School and Community of Moli Boma*”. Community Action Water Program Organization (CAWP) has called on the Embassy in 2012 for the first time. Since then, they have been actively advocating the needs of the Moli Boma of Pageri Payam in Eastern Equatoria State in the areas of improved sanitation. Despite the administrative process which took over a year, CAWP was very patient and we have finally succeeded in signing a grant to build 7 boreholes and a latrine block for Moli Primary School, and to provide the community with sanitary education and training for borehole maintenance for the sustainable and improved sanitation of Moli Boma community.

The second project is “*The Project for Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Care System at Rijiong Primary Health Care Center*”. The recipient organization, MAGNA South Sudan, has been working on the improved health service provision in Terekeka County of Central Equatoria State. The organization is addressing the needs of Rijong PHCC very well, and they are eager to promote more women to seek ante-natal and post-natal services, and choose to deliver babies at the PHCC with safer system. The construction of a maternal ward well equipped with obstetric medical equipment at Rijiong PHCC will greatly contribute to the improved maternal and child health care in the community, in conjunction with the ongoing MAGNA’s capacity building program of the local health personnel. I am hopeful that this project will also have a good implication on the overall reduction of the alarming rate of Maternal Mortality of Central Equatoria State.

Lastly, we are also extending our support to a dedicated women’s organization, Women Training and Promotion Association (WOTAP), for the implementation of “*The Project for Construction of*

*Khor-Ghana Jadeed Center for Women Development and Pre-education in Wau*". The project is expected to empower a number of socially and economically disadvantaged women in Khor-Ghana Jadeed community. Over the years, the organization has trained and produced a number of micro-business women in Wau, and it has been WOTAP's dream to continue serving the local women by establishing the Center for Women Development. Together with the kindergarten adjacently constructed, the Khor-Ghana Jadeed Center for Women Development will become the place for women with children where they can achieve their goals and dreams.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these three organizations are very dedicated in serving goods to support South Sudanese people, and I believe that we have chosen the right partners to promote the improved welfare of the respective communities. Meanwhile, equally important is the support of the local authorities that can facilitate the smooth and successful implementation of the projects. In this regard, I would like to kindly ask the representatives of the Government of South Sudan who are present today, for your warm support and cooperation to these organizations.

As I come to the end of my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Embassy is organizing a Media Tour on Japan's Official Development Assistance to South Sudan on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November. A number of media personnel will be invited to the tour of different sites of our development projects around Juba, and it is expected that the details of which will be broadcasted and reported on the major TV programs and newspapers. I hope that this will become another opportunity for you to get to know more about Japan's partnership with South Sudan in the areas of development cooperation.

In conclusion, I wish you all the best for the respective projects, and I look forward to seeing the community's faces with big smiles and hopes in their eyes at the end of these projects. Thank you very much.

(End)