

Remarks by Mr. Mitsuhiro KOBAYASHI,
Charge d'affaires ad interim of Embassy of Japan
on the Occasion of the Ground-breaking Ceremony for
The Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba in South Sudan
On 17th October 2013, Juba, South Sudan

H.E. Hon. James Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan

Hon. Ms. Jemma Nunu Kumba, Minister of Electricity, Dams, Irrigation & Water
Resources

Hon. Mr. Riek Gai Kok, Minister of Health

Hon. Mr. Christopher Serafino Wani Swaka, Mayor of Juba City

Hon. Mr. Atsushi Hanatani, JICA representative

Excellences,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Sixteen months have passed since the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan had exchanged the notes for “*The Project for Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba*”, a Grant Aid project funded by Japan. Today we are

officially commencing the construction work after all the preparations including leveling the ground by Japanese contingent of the project had successfully completed.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard to move this project forward, especially those at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, South Sudan Urban Water Cooperation (SSUWC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

H.E. President Salva Kiir's visit to Japan in June on the occasion of the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) hosted by the Government of Japan made a remarkable progress in building solid foundation of the partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. During TICAD V summit , Japan, as a responsible member of international community, renewed its commitment to contributing to the consolidation of peace in South Sudan. In a nod to this, the Government of Japan has opened the Embassy in Juba in July by upgrading the functions of the Japanese liaison office that had been established in 2011. Following this, today's ground-breaking ceremony is a new milestone for the acceleration towards Japan and South Sudan's future-oriented partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, allow me to mention one more good news. Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu, head of liaison office and Chargé d'affaires ad interim after establishing the Embassy were appointed as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of South Sudan on 11th October by the Emperor of Japan. He will be coming back at the end of this month. Now we, Japan look forward to South Sudan to establish South Sudan Embassy in Tokyo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan's assistance to South Sudan is characterized by a strong focus on longer-term development, and represented by some of the large infrastructure projects including today's project for Water Supply System of Juba, Construction of New Nile River Bridge, and Improvement of Juba River Port.

As South Sudan still hovers around the transition from humanitarian to development phase, international community tends to remain focusing more on humanitarian assistance that makes up 55 per cent of entire international support to the country. Meanwhile, the Government of Japan, that has been contributing more than 310 million US dollars to South Sudan since its independence, promotes "development" and over 65 per cent of that has been allocated to development assistance so far.

The Project for Improvement of Water Supply System is one such development assistance. Currently only 8 percent of total population in Juba has access to safe and clean water. The project aims to provide safe water to 60 percent of the Juba population and providing them with the opportunities to enjoy the rights to easily access to the safe water. Not only fulfilling the basic needs of individuals, the project also encourages women and children to stay healthy and productive, and spend more time on their development rather than collecting water for the daily use of their family.

We believe that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. This concept, so called "*human security*" is the essence of the Government of Japan's assistance to South Sudan, and becomes the foundation for our support to the wellbeing of the individuals, stability and growth in South Sudan. Humanitarian aid alone cannot attain this, but when longer-term development assistance is effectively combined to it, we think that we are finally able to

solidly contribute to the sustainable development and consolidation of peace in this country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The project we are celebrating today has already shown that “partnership” is one of the keys for the successful development. Meanwhile, equally important for successful development is an essence of “ownership”. While Japan is committed and ready to support the country’s endeavor as a partner, the way forward should be initiated and lightened by the owner - the Government of South Sudan- so that all the partners will not lose the way to go. It is my strong hope that, with a strong ownership of the Government of South Sudan, will lead to the successful implementation of this project, and will pave the way for the country’s future water supply system development.

As I close my remarks, I wish the successful completion of the project, and look forward to the day many people in Juba can enjoy the easy access to clean water and better livelihood.

Thank you very much.

(End)