

**Inauguration of
“The Project for Improving Facilities and Equipment of
Multi-Service Training Center in Juba”
Speech by Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu, Special Representative,
Head of the Liaison Office of Japan in Juba**

Honorable Acting Minister, Mr. Kwong Danhier Gatluak,
Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource
Development,

Master of Ceremony, Ms. Hellen Achiro, Undersecretary of the
Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource
Development,

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

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my utmost pleasure to attend the inauguration ceremony of “The Project for Improving Facilities and Equipment of Multi-Service Training Center in Juba” which is funded by the Government of Japan with total cost amounting to one billion one hundred twenty nine million Japanese Yen (¥1,129,000,000), approximately about fourteen million US dollars (\$14,000,000) under grant aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in

2009.

First and foremost, let me extend my highest appreciation to those who have spared no efforts in completion of this project, especially the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development, MTC Juba, Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) and JICA.

Since long before the country's independence, Japan has been committed to supporting the people of South Sudan through bi-lateral and multi-lateral co-operations. Our record shows that , since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, Japan has provided both South Sudan and Sudan with economic assistance amounting up to more than seven hundred thirty million US dollars (\$730,000,000). Also in our gesture to enhance our bilateral relations, the Government of Japan has established a Liaison Office here in Juba, since September last year with a view to expanding it into a full-fledged embassy in near future. Meanwhile, we at the Liaison Office are all committed to work together with various partners, including other international donors and organizations, in assisting the efforts of the people of South Sudan n in reconstruction of this country.

As all of you gathered here may well know, Japan herself has gone through particularly difficult periods of reconstruction of its nation in our modern history: our encounter with advanced western world in mid-19th century obliged us to transform our society, into a modern state, a self-imposed metamorphic expanding for more than half a century: at the end of the Second World War, Japan had to reconstruct itself, literally from the ashes: we have witnessed and overcame many a natural disaster throughout modern times, to which last year's earthquake and Tsunami are only but a most memory.

But through all these experiences from difficult times, we have learned that whatever situations we may find ourselves in, we have but to count on our own selves to stand up and start walking again. Therefore investment in our own selves is the most viable investment we can think of, and it is expected on each one of us to exert maximum efforts to that end, namely enhancement of human capacity.

It is under these notions, to help those who are helping themselves to enhance their capabilities, which Japan's international cooperation has begun in 1955 in a form of technical cooperation. And since then, our commitment in capacity building of our partner countries has remained as one of the pillars in our

international cooperation.

South Sudan and its people have come across long and winding way through internal conflicts, but today, people of South Sudan are asked to stand up and walk on their own feet to face the challenges of rehabilitation and development of this new country.

And now I hope you understand better why the Government of Japan has decided to launch SAVOT - "Project for Improvement of Basic Skills and Vocational Training in South Sudan" in September 2006. The project has gone into its Second Phase and vocational trainings coherent with the development needs in this new born country is on going.

When I first came to Juba, almost two years ago, MTC Juba was one of the project sites that I had a chance to visit. Needless to say SAVOT project was ongoing then, but MTC, although well maintained and kept by able hands of both managers and students, but facilities and its housing could not hide its age. I was told then that rehabilitation of the MTC itself was already conceived and ongoing.

Vocational training requires updated facilities to meet the demand of the market. And as an old saying goes, "You should not

put new wine in an old bottle.” Therefore Government of Japan has, through JICS, rehabilitated two existing workshops, constructed seven new buildings and installed new facilities from furniture to PCs.

We believe that MTC has now become more capable than before to meet the market requirements by providing trainees with the skills in a number of areas including automobile, architecture, electricity and carpentry,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of South Sudan, in its SSDP- South Sudan Development Plan, places emphasis on the need for vocational training. In order to promote and support the efforts of the Government of South Sudan, Japan, as a friend of South Sudan, will surely continue to support such initiatives by the people and the Government of South Sudan.

So ladies and gentlemen, as I close my remarks, I hasten to add that now that new MTC is in hands of its true owner, the people of South Sudan. And as such, it is the role of you, the people and Government of South Sudan to make every endeavor to overcome the difficulties in using this Center to maximum of its potential and to the benefit for the people of South Sudan, as

giving a boy with a fishing rod and teaching him how to fish is one thing, but no one can force the boy to fish on his own good sake.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(End)