

May 27, 2015

**Remarks by KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan
on the Occasion of
the Presentation of the Letters of Credence to the Government of South Sudan
at the Presidential Palace, Juba**

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make remarks on this important occasion of the presentation of the Letters of Credence from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan.

Japan has been supporting South Sudan even before its independence, extending a wide range of peacebuilding, humanitarian and development assistance to your self-help efforts, most notably through JICA. In addition, Japan is currently dispatching an engineering contingent of its Self-Defense Forces to UNMISS, working for the benefit of this country.

I conveyed to the president that I will do my utmost to further promote the friendly relations between our two countries. In particular, I would like to work, in cooperation with South Sudan, to further expand our support in such fields as infrastructure, agriculture, livelihood of the people, and governance, and also to deepen our mutual understanding and exchanges in various areas.

For this, and for the prosperity of this country toward the future, it is critical for South Sudan to achieve peace as soon as possible. No time can be wasted. I believe this conviction is shared by so many in this country. A Japanese proverb says, "Heaven helps those who help themselves". We are, and I am, always ready to support you.

Japan is already restarting a number of major development projects in Juba, as peace is gradually coming back to this place. I am hoping that, by the strong will and concrete actions of the Government and the people of South Sudan, peace prevails throughout this country, so that South Sudan and Japan can work together to achieve enduring prosperity and happiness of everyone in this country.