

**Remarks by Kiya Masahiko,
Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan,
on the occasion of the Medal Parade
of the 9th Japanese Engineering Contingent**

Her Excellency Madame Ellen Loej, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General,
Major-General Yang Chaoying, Deputy Force Commander,
Senior officials and commanders of UNMISS,
Col. Aizono Kazuhiro, Commander of the Japanese Engineering Contingent and all the members of the Contingent,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an immense privilege and honour for me to be invited on this important occasion of the Medal Parade to make a few remarks, on behalf of the Government of Japan as well as the Japanese community here in South Sudan.

I would first like to congratulate all the members of the Japanese Contingent on the significant achievements they have made. Last six months was indeed a distinct challenging period. As the SPLM-IO came back to bring peace to this country, there were new tasks as well as additional security precautions. Some engineering tasks must have been rescheduled due to changing security priorities. Nevertheless, the Japanese Contingent has always been responsive and has steadily completed their work one by one. They have not only undertaken the assignments in the UN camps in Juba but have also made progress in road maintenance in Juba and further beyond. In addition, they supported South Sudanese in their vocational training, improved a sporting ground in Juba, and took part in a number of cultural exchange activities, which were appreciated by so many.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation for cooperation and support kindly extended by all the units and members of UNMISS to the Japanese Contingent. Engineering work cannot stand alone. It needs force protection, medical care, transport, communications, public relations, coordination with other engineering work, to name but a few. This international collaboration in a real mission must have been a very precious experience for the members of our Forces, which they bring back home for their future assignments. I am also grateful for warm and consistent support from the people of South Sudan, expressing appreciation for their work.

The UNMISS leadership have always given guidance and encouragement to the Japanese Contingent. The presence, kind words and deeds of Ellen, Major-General Yang and others on a number of occasions have raised the morale of the Japanese team and have enhanced the commitment of the Government and the people of Japan to do even more for UNMISS.

Japan became a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from the beginning of this year for the term of two years. I would like to reiterate, on this occasion, our commitment to fully support UNMISS in the Security Council and also to play an even greater role to promote sustainable peace and development through a wider range of Japanese actors including JICA and NGOs and in collaboration with the UN and other international partners.

Lastly, allow me to follow Ellen's impressive performance at J-Con Day in March by concluding my remarks with a Haiku, a Japanese short poem.

「仁」掲げ 国と心に 道残す

Upholding "Benevolence", leaving behind roads and pathways to the Nation and People's minds.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.