

**Remarks by Kiya Masahiko,  
Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan,  
at the Commencement Ceremony at the University of Juba  
upon the awarding of  
Honorary Doctorate in International Relations**

His Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan and the representative of the Chancellor of the University of Juba, James Wani Igga, Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Peter Adwok Nyaba, Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Moses Machar, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. John Akec, Senate, Faculty and staff members of the University, Distinguished graduands, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an immense honour and privilege for me to be invited to this grand occasion of the Commencement Ceremony and to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate in International Relations on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan.

I myself have been here for just more than a year, while Japan, since 2005 before independence of South Sudan, has always been supporting the people in this country throughout the turbulent period.

It is my understanding, therefore, that this prestigious degree conferred upon me is for all my fellow Japanese supporting South Sudan and all their predecessors, at the Embassy, JICA, Japan Self-Defence Forces, Japanese NGOs and Japanese companies, and also for those working from our home country, on various projects.

In addition, Japan's assistance has only been made possible with the cooperation of UNMISS and a wide range of UN agencies, and other international and local partners. I must mention that many Japanese are also working in these organizations.

Humanitarian and development assistance cannot stand alone. Efforts to bring about and consolidate peace in South Sudan under such frameworks as IGAD and JMEC have also been indispensable for making Japan's continued assistance possible.

Thursday, 26 May, 2016

I would like to convey our heartfelt appreciation, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, to all the partners on this occasion.

Nevertheless, the champions and heroes of this historic achievement of earning independence and building a new country are none other than South Sudanese themselves.

Japan's assistance has always been centered on self-help. Whether it is for infrastructure, for training centres or in any other fields, Japan has always asked the Government and the people of South Sudan to take the lead, take the responsibility and earn the achievements. Japan has always been on the supporting side. Therefore, it is the South Sudanese themselves to be given the credit. To be awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

This occasion is a Commencement Ceremony. So many graduands, future leaders of South Sudan, have gathered here today. It is my sincere hope that each and every one of you, graduands, will make full use of what you have earned from the university, the country and the world, give it back to the society at large, and take the lead in building a united, peaceful and prosperous nation of South Sudan. Japan will support you, the youth.

I am hopeful that Japan will continue to be a source of inspiration and knowledge from its experience of post-war reconstruction and development. I would like to express our renewed commitment, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, to be always with you and continue to support your success.

God bless South Sudan!

Thank you very much for your attention.