

**Remarks by Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan,
upon the Inauguration of Maper National Teachers Training Institute
in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal**

Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai, Minister of General Education and Instruction,
Hon. Ronald Ruay Deng, Governor of Aweil State,
Hon. Michael Lopuke, Undersecretary of General Education and Instruction,
Mr. Pasquale Apin Apin, Principal of Maper NTTI,
Ms. May Kamoga, Stromme Foundation Representative,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It was a great honor for me to receive an invitation from the Honourable Minister for the inauguration of Maper Teachers Training Institute in Aweil. It was very unfortunate that I could not attend this important event due to other official engagements in Juba. Hence, I am sending my staff to Aweil to convey my message.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of General Education and Instruction of South Sudan on the successful completion of this important project. I would also like to express our appreciation to UNHCR for the efforts they have made for the initial construction of this institute with Japan's funding. I thank USAID for the renovation of this facility. I am grateful to all those who contributed to the institute. It has been a long journey for all of us to get to this point of inauguration.

Japan believes that teacher training is key to the improvement of

education. It is for this reason that Japan has long offered support to this sector, in particular in the field of science and mathematics. As of now, JICA is conducting a workshop in Kampala, inviting eleven experts from the Ministry of General Education and Instruction as well as the University of Juba to improve teaching materials for science and mathematics. In addition, Japan has been sponsoring many teachers to study further in Japan so that they could bring back valuable knowledge and experiences to South Sudan.

It is my belief that, for South Sudan to succeed, it needs to stand on its own. Japan supports efforts of your country to be self-reliant. This applies particularly to education sector. It is high-quality teachers that create the future generation of South Sudan. It is my sincere hope that this Maper Teachers Trainings Institute would help train many such teachers for years to come. Japan will always be with you to stand behind your self-help efforts for resilient development of South Sudan.

Thank you very much for your attention. Shukran jazeelan.