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**Remarks by Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan,
on the occasion of the Handover Ceremony
of the Japanese Engineering Contingent's Equipment and Materials**

Mr. David Shearer, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General,
Brigadier General Jean Mupenzi, Acting Force Commander of UNMISS,
Col. Tanaka Yoshiro, Commander of UNMISS' Japan Engineering Unit,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to attend this important occasion
this handover ceremony to make a few remarks as Ambassador of Japan
to South Sudan.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all at
UNMISS, under the leadership of SRSG who have been working hand in
hand with members of Japan Engineering Unit to promote peace in South
Sudan. It is thanks to your kind cooperation and support that Japan's
contingent exercised its full potential and has now successfully completed
its assignment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the members
of Japan Engineering Unit, both those present in Juba and others already
back in Japan, on their tremendous achievements during a difficult period.
The Unit worked hard to prepare for additional responsibilities under the
new security legislation after April 2016. The troops undertook road
rehabilitation facility improvement activities in and around Juba very
professionally. While they may be swamped with the assignment of

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sending equipment back to Japan, I vividly recall the demonstration of the peacekeepers' friendship with South Sudanese people through various exchange activities, including at the University of Juba, the National Karate Competition and the visit to an orphanage.

Let me repeat this part in Japanese to address the peacekeepers.

施設隊の皆様へのメッセージの部分は、日本語でも申し上げます。

ご列席の、そして既に帰国された施設隊の全ての皆様に、この難しい時期に多大なる成果を上げられたことに、心よりお祝い申し上げます。新たな平和安全法制の下での新任務に万全の準備を整え、当地ではジュバ市内外で質の高い道路・施設整備を行い、任務終了に伴い装備品を本国に後送する業務も担いました。更に、ジュバ大学、全国空手大会、孤児院訪問などで、南スーダンの人達と心温まる交流を行い、貢献いただいたことに、強い感銘を受けました。本当にありがとうございました。

As the contingent's work comes to an end, it is our pleasure to hand over the equipment of the Contingent to UNMISS for future works to be conducted in the benefit of South Sudanese people. The value at the time of acquisition amounts to approximately US \$24 million.

On this occasion, would like to reiterate the point that Japan remains committed to supporting UNMISS. Japan continues placing staff officers at UNMISS Headquarters. On another front, Japan currently serves as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council till the end of 2017. Furthermore, Japan works closely with the Government of South Sudan to enhance its cooperation with UNMISS and the wider international community on numerous aspects. Japan, together with UNMISS, is determined to make the utmost effort to endeavour to bring about peace in South Sudan.

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Lastly, allow me to conclude my remarks with a Haiku, a traditional short poem of Japan, to share with you a flavor of Japanese culture.

家残し 平和の思い たすき継ぐ

To come of age and leave homestead;

To pass down the wishes for peace instead.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.