

**Remarks by Kiya Masahiko,
Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan,
on the occasion of the Graduation Ceremony
for the Fourth Batch of Students from
Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery (JCONAM)
at Nyakuron Cultural Centre, Juba
on 26 July 2017**

It is an immense pleasure for me to be invited to the Graduation Ceremony for the Fourth Batch of Students from Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery (JCONAM) and to be given an opportunity to make a few remarks today.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the successful graduands. Congratulations! Your efforts now bear fruit, with good qualifications in your hands. As challenges of health in this country are still enormous, the roles you are going to play will be truly significant. I really wonder how many people, women and babies included, will be happy thanks to your professional work in the future. I remember that I met one of the JCONAM alumni when I made a visit to a clinic in a remote town in the country. You will be blessed not only by residents in such places but also by heaven observing your contribution.

I would also like to congratulate all the people who supported the graduands to make their achievements today. The teaching and supporting staff of JCONAM, family members and friends of the

graduands as well as a number of donors made their respective contributions so that the new nurses and midwives will care for the sick and the wounded, pregnant women and new-born babies in the future. Let us celebrate and rejoice on this occasion.

Some of you may remember that JICA supported the renovation of the building of JCONAM and that the handover ceremony took place in December 2010, about half a year before independence of South Sudan. To our great pleasure, less than seven years afterwards, already the fourth batch of students are graduating, and many more batches will follow in the future. Japan has also been supporting reproductive health with UNFPA and blood transfusion service with WHO, among others, which would complement the efforts at JCONAM.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by reiterating Japan's commitment to working together with the Government and the people of South Sudan to address challenges of health in this country. Health is a matter of concern for every South Sudanese, and Japan is always with you all.

Thank you for your attention. Shukran Jazeelan.

(End)