

**Speech of Ambassador-designate Naohiro Tsutsumi
at the event for handing over and signing the Memorandum of
Agreement for Communal Food Processing Workshop to
Mazzarello Women Promotion Centre
on Tuesday, 15 August 2020 at Mazzarello Women
Promotional Centre-Don Bosco, Juba**

Honorable Agaku Achuil Lual, Undersecretary of Ministry of
Trade and Industry,
Colleagues from South Sudan's government organisations,
Representative of Salesian Sister of Don Bosco,
UNIDO Project team,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Ohayo Gozaimasu! Good Morning!

It is my pleasure to be here today at Mazzarello Women Promotional Centre. It is my first trip outside of Juba and I am pleased that first event I participate in South Sudan is to meet all of you today and witness what this Project has left to you.

The Government of Japan through UNIDO has started this Project for the purpose of supporting agricultural value chain development by creating employment and income opportunities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. This Project also had an aim to support and develop the undermined potential of women in

South Sudan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate 244 participants in this Project. You have learned quality food production, food safety control as well as know-how to do business.

Today's event reminds me of my mother. She was a typical Japanese house wife, until her late thirties, who did every housework but never went out for work. When I started to go to junior high school, due to her three children's education, she started a small workshop for alterations and clothing repair services. Although her income was not much compared to my father's salary, her skill was highly appreciated by big and famous clothing stores in our home town. She liked this job and our family members are all proud of her. Thanks to my mother's contributions, three children pursued higher education. As for me, I could go to a university.

By the way, I am very surprised to know that you have saved more than 4 million SSP in only 6 months since the project started. You must be proud of yourself!

Now you can produce quality peanuts and sell them to get money. You got knowledge of food safety to share with your family, friends and neighbours. You can contribute to your family's economy. You can give your children a better chance for education. You can do everything. And therefore, you must be proud of yourself, and your family

members too. Learning gives us not only skills but also a self-confidence, pride and dignity. I think it truly happened to my mother. And I believe that this is the biggest award for your participations in this project.

I respect your endeavour throughout the Project and wish you every success in your business. I cannot wait to see your products to be sold in Japan!!!

Secondly, I would like to thank the UNIDO team and the Salesian Sister of Don Bosco for your tireless work to empower women and youth. Since the beginning of the Project, and regardless of various challenges, including COVID-19, you have successfully organized various trainings and workshops for 244 women and youth and procured necessary equipment for their use. I thank you for your countless efforts.

Lastly but not least, I am very pleased to enjoy this moment, together with Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry and representatives from other agencies. I sincerely hope you will share this projects' achievements with South Sudanese people throughout the country, to empower women and to make the best use of the rich agricultural and human resources you have in this beautiful country.

Shukuran! Thank you very much.

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