

JAPAN & SUDAN's

Friendship and Partnership

The Celebration of the 80th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

Japan and Sudan – Enhancing Our Friendship and Future-Oriented Partnership



H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie
Ambassador of Japan to Sudan



On the occasion of the 80th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, on the 23rd of December 2013, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Sudan for supporting our activities in this country. I strongly believe that the relationship between Japan and Sudan has been dramatically expanded and diversified at both the grass-roots and bilateral levels.

Japan regards Sudan as a friend and an equal partner, and our relations are built upon mutual trust and understanding. Since presenting myself as the new Ambassador of Japan to Sudan to H.E. President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir on the 5th of September 2012, I have enjoyed visiting 12 states, both central urban and rural, that Japan has dedicated faithful efforts towards sustainable economic and social development. Japanese experts and Sudanese counterparts are working hand-in-hand in executing many projects all over Sudan, which cover the fields of health, water, agriculture, vocational training and more.

Furthermore, our partnership has extended into the field of governance. Japan, having resumed its bilateral dialogue with Sudan's Advisory Council of Human Rights (ACHR), has addressed the subject of human rights. We strongly believe that interactive dialogues and sharing knowledge based on mutual respect will lead to a better promotion of human rights.

A tangible example of the acceleration of a grass-roots cultural exchange is the engagement of a Japanese Diplomat, Mr. Yasuhiro Murotatsu. He is known as "Muro" and has challenged Sudanese Nuba wrestlers six times at the Haj Yousif Wrestling Stadium in Khartoum. As we believe the power of sports in nurturing good will between countries, we are delighted to have obtained the honor of hosting the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. We look forward to welcoming Sudan's best athletes to Tokyo.

Since my arrival in Sudan, I have enjoyed the most delightful aspects of Sudanese culture rooted in historical values. Aside from sports, the extensive variety of local Sudanese cuisine, music and dance has instilled within me a hope that I may play a role in introducing this attractive culture to the people of Japan and to the world.

I hope that our friendship and future-oriented partnership will be enhanced based upon the mutual trust and understanding. I wish everyone good health and a happy new year. Thank you very much.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan
Photo: Imperial Household Agency of Japan

His Majesty the Emperor Akihito was born in Tokyo on 23rd December 1933, as the first son of Their Majesties Emperor Showa and Empress Kojun. On 7 January 1989, upon the demise of the Emperor Showa, His Majesty Emperor Akihito acceded to the throne as the 125th Emperor of Japan. Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress have two sons and a daughter.

At the Ambassador's residence on the occasion of Japanese National Day (December 4th, 2013)

Ambassador Horie and H.E. Dr. Issa Bashari Mohamed, the then Minister of Science and Communication



States Ambassador of Japan Already Visited

Khartoum, North Kordofan, Kassala, Sennar, Gedaref, North Darfur, Gezira, South Darfur, River Nile, Red Sea, White Nile, and Northern State

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Our Four Priorities

Japan's strong commitment to Sudan is demonstrated by its continuous provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through bilateral and multilateral channels. The total ODA from Japan to Sudan has reached over 1.1 billion USD since 2005. ODA represents the real interaction and process of building Japan-Sudan's partnership, and plays a vital role in enriching the bilateral relationship.



Water

Japan's assistance focuses on the maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, the improvement of managerial capacity in rural and urban areas, and administration capacity. Japan operates hand-in-hand with Sudanese counterparts in different states.



Agriculture

Sudan has a great potential in agricultural development. Japan supports upgrading the food production infrastructure to help to realize food security. Japan is also providing technical assistance in the field of upland rice production to achieve agricultural revival and stabilization of economic activities.



Vocational Training

Japan helps to train a diverse and effective workforce to achieve economic growth and stability. Japanese assistance covers a wide range of areas such as quality control, improvement of facilities and establishment of effective financial and administrative management system, taking the local needs into consideration.



Health

Japan focuses on maternal and child health for the purpose of achieving one of the Millennium Development Goals. Japan's support includes village midwife in-service training and improvement of medical institutional capacity. Japan has also dispatched environmental experts to assist public sectors to improve the capacity for waste disposal management.

Emergency Assistance for Flood Victims

Japan responds to emergency situations as sufficiently and effectively as possible. On August 8th, 2013, just a week after the disastrous floods that displaced people and destroyed homes in Sudan, Japan provided emergency relief assistance for those affected by the floods. At the handover ceremony on August 12th, Ambassador Horie extended his heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to flood victims. Tents, water purifiers, electric generators, sleeping pads and other relief items were handed over to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).



Water purifiers, electric generators and other relief items provided to HAC

President of JICA Visits Sudan

Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, the President of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) visited Sudan on April 24th-25th, 2013. Dr. Tanaka met high-level government officials, including the First Vice President H.E. Mr. Ali Osman Taha, to express his deep appreciation to the Government of Sudan for its continuous cooperation with JICA and showed its strong commitment to keep implementing development projects throughout Sudan.

Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA and H.E. Mr. Ali Osman Taha, First Vice President

SHUTTLE DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY

Ambassador's 12 States Visits



In Northern State



In North Kordofan State



In Kassala State



In Gedaref State



Resuming Human Rights Dialogue

After the kick-off meeting, H.E. Mrs. Rahma, the then Director of Human Rights Department, MOFA, Dr. Tahani, ACHR, Ambassador Horie, and Dr. Muaz, Rapporteur of ACHR (From left side).

In June 2013, the Embassy of Japan and the Advisory Council of Human Rights (ACHR) kicked-off a meeting for "Human Rights Dialogue between Japan and Sudan". Ambassador Horie said, "Japan is paying its close attention to the human rights situation in Sudan and looking into the Sudanese Government's efforts both bilaterally and multilaterally. Japan will make its utmost efforts to cooperate with the Government of Sudan for further improving human rights conditions in Sudan."

MULTI-LAYERED CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Embassy of Japan has conducted a variety of cultural events in 2013 focusing on deepening the interactions in the belief that cultural exchanges help to strengthen the firm friendship between the two countries. Besides the elements introduced here, Japan conducts Japanese cultural events continuously with the support of Sudanese friends. There are many events and programs available throughout the year.

Sudanese Wrestling Friendship Match

"I've never met stronger wrestlers than Sudanese."

Mr. Yasuhiro Murotatsu, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Sudan

Japanese diplomat, Mr. Yasuhiro Murotatsu known as "MURO" challenged Sudanese Wrestlers (Nuba Wrestling) at the Haj Yousif Wrestling Stadium in Khartoum as the first foreigner in the history of Sudanese wrestling. Muro says, "I believe sports could boost good relationship between Sudan and Japan. I want to attract people's attention to the most beautiful and oldest wrestling tradition in the world, which has been preserved for thousands of years." Indeed, the Japanese diplomat "MURO" had lost every single match, nonetheless, his fighting spirit impressed all the audience.



Fifth friendship match between Japanese "Muro" and "Al-Mudiriya" at Haj Yousif in Khartoum on October 25th, 2013

Spirit of Japanese Martial Arts: Judo

In Sudan, there is a large number of Judo (Japanese traditional martial arts) practitioners. Saggana Youth Center is one of the most popular places where many children go to learn the spirit of Judo. Mr. Tigani Idris, Judo instructor at the center, spoke with deep feeling: "When I was a child, I learned Japanese Judo here and now that I am teaching Judo to Sudanese children at the same place. I hope that our little Judo practitioners could learn noble Japanese morals such as politeness and gentleness through practicing Judo. A lot of Sudanese trainers have developed their affinity to Japanese culture here. Let us hope that some of them will take part in 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo!"



Sudanese children wearing Judo training suits at Saggana Youth Center, Khartoum

The First "Japan Day" at University of Khartoum

The first "Japan Day" was held at the University of Khartoum on March 27th, 2013. A large number of Sudanese people enjoyed Japanese movies, Japanese calligraphy, traditional green tea and a lecture on Japan's modern history. The Embassy of Japan and the University of Khartoum are planning to organize this event annually.



Some students of Japanese language course and a Japanese teacher at "Japan Day"

Learning Japanese language; A Success Story

"Learning Japanese language broadens my horizons."

Mr. Yousif Elsamani Abdelgabar, Ex-Student of Japanese Language Course Institute of African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum

Last year, a long-awaited Japanese language course at the Institute of African and Asian Studies in the University of Khartoum restarted after a 20-year interval. More than 150 people have applied for the course and started learning Japanese language. In 2013, one Sudanese student who gained an opportunity to enroll in one of the Japanese universities as a Japanese government scholarship student learning Japanese language at the Institute. He said "Learning Japanese has definitely broadened my horizons. My background is engineering, so it was my dream to study in Japan which is internationally known for its advanced technologies. I really appreciate my Japanese teacher who taught me Japanese language in Sudan." Now he speaks Japanese fluently and started his great journey in Japan.