

من الشعب الياباني From the People of Japan

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Japan Celebrates the Final Completion Stage of Wad El Helew Hospital in Wad El Helew Locality, Kassala State

On the 24th of March 2014, H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, the Ambassador of Japan to Sudan, alongside Mr. Shigeru Otake, the Senior Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Acting Governor of Kassala State/Kassala State Minister of Urban Planning and Public Utilities, H.E. Mr. Abdel Moez Hassan Abdul Gader, Kassala State Minister of Health, Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Daraf, as well as the Commissioner of Wad El Helew Locality, Mr. Ogeil Ali Awad, attended the ceremony for the newly constructed female ward and the complex for the operation theater and the delivery rooms in Wad El Helew Hospital, all of which were funded by the Government of Japan.

The construction of the noted facilities of Wad El Helew Hospital is a part of Japan's project, "the Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs in Kassala (K-TOP),"* and the construction has been implemented by JICA at a cost of US\$ US\$478,470. Attached to the facilities of the hospital, the relevant medical equipment will be provided soon to activate the hospital, in addition to the provision of the ongoing training. In Wad El Helew Locality, pregnant women have had difficulties in accessing medical services in case of emergency due to road conditions and unavailability of transportation. In addition, the village midwives, who assist women's deliveries in the localities, have been in a situation where they have to make a decision on emergency referral of pregnant women on an appropriate timing by their own knowledge. Girba Hospital, Saudi Hospital and Kuwait Hospital in Kassala City have also benefited from the project as their staff have received training. The equipment has been handed over to Wad El Helew Hospital, Girba Hospital, Saudi Hospital as well.

These provisions of the facilities, medical equipment and training aim at provision of safe deliveries in the localities so that the hospitals and village midwives can play important roles in building social stability and security and economic growth of each locality of Kassala State. Japan's assistance in the healthcare sector in Sudan is in line with the idea that all people should obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship, aligned with a key concept of Sudan National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2012-2016, which attempts to improve maternal and child health.

At the ceremony, the Ambassador Horie conveyed a message to the residents in the localities that Japan values the people's own efforts for improvement of people's lives in the whole State of Kassala. He stressed that Japan would continue its assistance to Sudan with a strong belief that the peace, stability, and development of Sudan, which Japan drives for through its projects, will contribute to those of Africa as a whole. As parts of this, Japan's projects for the development of Kassala are currently underway in the sector of water supply and vocational training simultaneously.

*Japan's **Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs (Kassala Take Off Project, "K-TOP" in short)** is a form of technical assistance aiming to develop capacity of the State Government of Kassala to provide public services of development planning/management, water, agriculture and livelihood, health, and vocational training. This project is expected to contribute the capacity development of weakened state government after the conflict as well as to respond to the urgent needs of the residents and communities through improvement of the local economy and social condition.

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