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(FINAL)

Remarks by H.E. Ryoichi Horie
On the Occasion of the Signing Ceremony for
The Project for Expansion and Strengthening of the Services of the Usratuna Vocational Training
Centers in Omdurman, Khartoum State”
At 13:00 on 6th of February 2013, Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan

Ms. Amal Dafaallah, the Deputy General Secretary of the National Committee for
People with Disabilities,

Ms. Raffaella Catani, the Country Representative of Volunteer Organization for
International Cooperation (OVCI)

Dr. Baheldin Abdel Hamid, Chairman of Usratuna Sudanese Association for Disabled
Children,

Professor Gasim Badri, the President of Ahfad University for Women ,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon and Assalam Alaikum

I would like to welcome you all to my residence this afternoon and express my appreciation to you, for attending this Grant Contract Signing Ceremony that formalizes Japan’s assistance of approximately 68,000 USD for the expansion and strengthening of Usratuna vocational training centers together with the Volunteer Organization for Development Cooperation. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the extraordinary work of Ms. Catani and her colleagues who strive to promote the full participation of people with disabilities in Omdurman community.

As a friend of Sudan, Japan made a firm commitment to support development of Sudan, and will continue its efforts to assist the Sudanese people who devote themselves for tackling the various challenges Sudan faces. This is because we believe that the peace and development of Sudan will contribute to the achievement of peace and stability in Africa and the world. Our commitment to Sudan's development is highlighted by a number of development projects through both bilateral and multilateral channels. This project is funded through the scheme of "Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Development", especially designed to provide our assistance to the people who deserve the special attention in the communities.

We believe that all Sudanese people, regardless of their backgrounds and abilities, can contribute to the social and economic development of Sudan. We hope that this project will play its tangible role in widening the opportunities for people in Sudan to fully utilize and develop their abilities, and contribute to Sudan's peace and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I close my remarks, I'd like to extend my appreciation also to Ms. Brazzuol who could not attend this ceremony unfortunately. Without her tireless work for the formulation of this project, we would have never reached this day to sign the Grant Contract.

I wish the successful implementation of the project, and sincerely hope that the two vocational training centers assisted through this grant will become a symbol of Japanese and Sudanese people's care for our friends, and be remembered by the students and many people for the decades to come.

Thank you, Shuklan Jazeeran.

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