

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Sudan,
on the Occasion of the ODA Press Tour Orientation
At 10:30 on 10th of April 2013, Khartoum, Sudan

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and Assalaam Alaikum,

I would like to welcome you all to my residence this morning for attending the orientation meeting for “Japan’s Official Development Assistance(ODA) Press Tour in 2013” scheduled from 15th to 17th April, 2013.

Japan and Sudan have enjoyed close diplomatic, economic and cultural relationship since the establishment of the diplomatic relation between the two countries in 1956. The ties between the two countries have been further reinforced especially through Japan’s ODA program, in response to the Sudan’s request for the country’s development.

The Embassy of Japan in Sudan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Sudan Office will jointly organize “Japan’s ODA Press Tour in 2013” from 15th to 17th April, 2013. The aim of this press tour is to provide the firsthand knowledge of Japan’s ODA to Sudanese Newspapers and TV journalists, and informing the people of Sudan about our various ODA projects implemented in Kassala and Gedaref States. These two states are known as a role model of the two countries’ development cooperation in Sudan. The accumulated amount of Japan’s ODA to Sudan is approximately 1.2 billion US\$.

In the age of globalization, there is no country that can survive and prosper without peace and stability. A country’s economic development and its people’s wellbeing largely depend on the robust and healthy global market. We all must develop ourselves while knowing the world,

associating with the world.

Japan used to be more of a recipient country than a donor after the World War II. Japan successfully reconstructed its nation with the fund borrowed through 31 loans from the World Bank, and completed its final repayment in 1990. Having had such experiences of nation re-building and the successes in both economic growth and social development, Japan came to recognize that economic cooperation including ODA is an important international responsibility for the countries with strong economy and technology to support the countries in need of assistance. Japan understands it is an invaluable means to contribute to the better world with peace and stability.

Japan has been undergoing two decades of long stagnation and is still in the process of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake as well as the tsunami that hit the country on 11th March, 2011. Yet, we still remain as the third-largest economy in the world, and this is attributed to the long-standing strong economic relationships as well as the cordial diplomatic relations with the countries around the world. *“A friend in need is a friend indeed”* – Japan, as the country once in need, has been supported by the others. Now we will continue to assist our friends in return for achieving our common goals. Japan strongly believes that Sudan will achieve its development based on its own development plan and become a donor country within a few decades like Japan did.

In the both political and economic spheres, Japan and Sudan are closely linked in terms of the international politics, trade and investment. Japan regards Sudan as a friend, an equal partner and one of the most important countries for achieving peace and stability in Africa and the world. This is the backbone of our devotion for the support to Sudan. ODA, as an instrument of such cooperation, aims to assist Sudan to improve the livelihood of its people. Japan’s ODA is delivered not merely through multilateral channel but through bilateral channel actively.

Japan’s ODA overarches various assistance programs, such as General Grant Aid, Technical Cooperation, and Grant Assistance for

Human Security and Grass-roots Project, and covers a wide range of sectors including health, water, vocational training , agricultural , and capacity-building of central and state governments.

JICA, as the world's largest bilateral development agency, plays an essential role for the implementation of our bilateral ODA projects in Sudan, and provides technical assistance, grant aid and Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) covering a number of areas from infrastructure to grassroots projects in all over Sudan. In Sudan, JICA is covering the whole Sudan through 4 pillars of program that consists of technical education and vocational training, water and sanitation, basic food production development, represented by upland rice, and improvement of medical care and health services.

There are key principles in our ODA. These are 'ownership', 'self-help', and 'partnership'. We respect the initiatives and self-help efforts of the people and the government of Sudan. Only after confirming the ownership and commitment by the people and the Government of Sudan, we can ensure the success of the projects. Further, Japan's ODA is not one way approach from a donor to a recipient, but it is joint efforts by Sudan and Japan, which require close partnership, we moving forward hand-in-hand partnering with the people and the government of Sudan. This requires time, long preparation and careful research, yet this is the essence of our approach. Japan's ODA is not a charity.

When you visit various project sites in Kassala and Gedaref States, you will soon understand that the Japan's ODA does not simply provide the money or equipments, but rather focuses on building confidence of Sudanese people through developing Sudaness people's own abilities based on their initiatives while working together with Japanese experts and staff for the project to achieve sustainable development in their own hands .

The sites in Kassala and Gedaref States to be visited are, Mahta Water Treatment Plant, Kassala Vocational Training Centre (KVTC), Technology and Extension Administration (TTEA) and Ramla Extension Centre, Rural Water Yard in Banad Village in Girba Locality, Village

Midwife (VMW) Services Centre in Gibra Locarity in Kassala State, and Ayadab Girls' Primary School, Sherif Hasaballa Health Centre and Mansura Health Centre in Gedaref State.

Overall, ODA is the real interaction and the process of building partnership between the people and government of Japan and Sudan, and it is playing a vital role in enriching our bilateral relationship. We sincerely hope that this ODA press tour will become an opportunity for Sudanese journalists and the people of Sudan to deepen the understanding of the foundation of our friendship.

Finally, with these few words, I hope to have a good trip with you all and see you on 15th April at the Embassy of Japan.

Thank you very much.

Fin.