

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie,
Ambassador of Japan in the Republic of the Sudan,
on the Occasion of the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for

*“The Project for the Improvement of the Equipments for Japanese Language
Education in the Institute of African and Asian Studies”*

At 13:00 on 11st of March 2013, Khartoum, Sudan

Dr. Omer Ahmed Osman Elmagly, Undersecretary, Ministry of Higher Education &
Scientific Research,

Prof. El Saddig Ahmed El Mustafa El Sheikh, Vice Chancellor, University of
Khartoum,

Prof. Imadeldin E. Aradaib, Director of International Relations, University of
Khartoum,

Prof. Mohamed Mohamed Elnour, Dean of Graduate College, University of
Khartoum,

Dr. Abdelrahim Hamid Mugaddam, Director of the Institute of African and Asian
Studies,

Prof. Almin Abu Manga, Professor of Linguistics, the Institute of African and Asian
Studies,

Dr. Ismail Hussein Fadl, Lecturer of Institute of African and Asian Studies, and
Member of Parliament,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

I would like to welcome you all to my residence today and I am grateful to you for
attending the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for launching a new project aiming at
developing Japanese Language education in Sudan. First of all, I would like to

introduce to you the scheme of Grant assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP), which the Government of Japan has been promoting worldwide.

This project directly supports the promotion of culture and higher education at the grass-roots level and encourages understanding of and cultural exchanges with Japan. Last year, I introduced this scheme in Sudan as I saw it very important to enhance the cultural and educational cooperation between Japan and Sudan. Today I am so pleased to announce that we will implement “the project for the Improvement of the Equipments for Japanese Language Education in the Institute of African and Asian Studies”, which amounts to approximately 62,000US Dollars, for the first time by this our new program.

This project aims at upgrading and enhancing the capacity of Japanese Language Laboratory of the Institute of African and Asian Studies by providing personal computers, Language Laboratory software, Japanese Multimedia Teaching materials.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Dr. Abdelrahim Hamid Mugaddam and his colleagues for their tireless efforts to promote Japanese language and culture in Sudan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I strongly believe that this cultural cooperation between my Embassy and the University of Khartoum will open up a new chapter between our two nations.

Since I assumed my post as the Japanese Ambassador to Sudan last May, I met lots of prominent political, religious and academic figures, at the top of them, President, Omar Hasan Albashir. Through the fruitful and enlightening discussions with them, now I have a strong conviction that higher education played a significant role in the stability and development of this country. It is not too much to say that the University of Khartoum, which has 41,030 students and 1,754 teaching staff overall with a long and distinguished history, is leading the future of Sudan.

Japan has placed great importance in deepening the human interaction between our nations. Since 1970s, 120 Sudanese students and researchers visited Japan and completed their studies in different universities and institutes in Japan. On February 27, I hosted a friendship gathering here at my residence for former and future Sudanese scholarship students. It was a really excellent night and I appreciate them so highly as important human assets and great contributors for strengthening further our bilateral relationship.

I am very happy to know that the Japanese language course in the Institution was resumed in a full-fledge scale with Ms. Kiyomi Tsuruoka, Japan Overseas Cooperation volunteer of the Japanese language in June 2012 and I heard three new Sudanese scholarship students who are leaving to Japan this April have been learning the Japanese language in the Institute.

Learning language is to know the culture and deepens the mutual understanding. So I do hope that the Japanese class in the University of Khartoum and our support for this project will have synergistic effects and stimulate Sudanese citizens' interest in Japan and Japanese language for our further friendship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I reiterate that Japan regards Sudan as one of the most important countries for achieving the peace and stability in Africa and the world, and Japan commits itself to devote its utmost efforts to cooperate with Sudan in tackling its various social and economic issues. Implementing various development program bilaterally and multilaterally, notably through Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA), I would like to emphasize great importance on the cultural and educational aspect to the development.

I am hopeful that this Cultural Grant Assistance Program signed today will be completed with great success and become milestone of our cultural and educational cooperation between the people and the government of Japan and Sudan.

Thank you. Shukuran Jaziran