Remarks by Ambassador Ito

On the occasion of visit to Abyei - Muglad locality in West Kordofan in relation to UNDP project

Mr. Abulgesim Younis, Commissioner of Abyei Locality – West Kordofan State

Representative of the Project’s Community Management Committee (CMC)

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here in Abyei - Muglad locality to visit the site of “Community Security and Stabilization Program (C2SP)”, funded by the Japanese Government. This is my first time to come to West Kordofan and with this visit I have visited all eighteen Sudanese states. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the warm welcome, and especially to UNDP for the arrangement of this occasion.

Southern states in Sudan have been facing many challenges. Many communities in the Southern states have been suffering from poverty and conflict. Also, the recent influx of the refugees from South Sudan makes the matters even more complex. Poverty brings conflict and conflict will lead to another poverty.

C2SP aims to break this vicious cycle, through creating economic and livelihood opportunities, with focus on strengthening the ability of the Sudanese people to self-manage their own communities. The Japanese government has funded C2SP since the first phase of the program which began in 2015. The project in Abyei - Mugad locality has already finished, but even after that, we have been continuously funding this project in other areas in Sudan as well.

I think that this project has been very successful especially due to its focus on the communities to strengthen the ability to produce. Through joining the forces and working together, the peaceful cooperation will be naturally promoted among the people. Actually, Japan has walked the same way of peace and prosperity. After the ruin of the World War 2, every one of us had our own dream of a better future and made as much effort as we can to achieve it. I do not think that the Sudanese people cannot overcome their challenges as we did. As a proof of that, now I am witnessing that the members of this community are working hand in hand towards one purpose even after finishing the project.

Two years ago, I attended the handover ceremony of this project in Khartoum, with the presence of H.E. Hassabo mohammed Abdulrahman, Vice President. On that occasion, I saw the tractors and harvest machines handed over from the Japanese people to the Sudanese people. At that time, I could not help hoping that that equipment will benefit the Sudanese people for a long time. And today, I am very happy to be able to see with my own eyes the same tractors and harvest machines actually used by the local people of Abyei – Muglad locality. Here I renew my hope that this equipment will make more production and will be remembered by the Sudanese people as the gift from the Japanese people for a long time.

Finally, I would like to close this remark by expressing my sincere hope that this project will play an important role in achieving peace and stability in this region and will enhance the ties between Japan and Sudan.

Thank you.