

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ito
on the Occasion of the Signing Ceremony for
“The Project for Construction of Al Zahra Girls Primary School in Gala'a Al Nahal Locality,
Gala' a Al Nahal Village in Gedaref State”
and
" The Project for Construction of Classrooms of Kanz Girls Primary School in West Gallabaat
Locality, Al Kanz Village in Gedaref State "
at Ambassador's Residence on the 22nd of February, 2018

H.E. Mr. Abdel Hafeez Al Sadig Abdel Raheem, State Minister of Education
Dr. Salah Eldin Omer, representing General Director of NGOs and Projects, HAC
Mr. Montaser Edam, Program Coordinator of United Peace Organization (UPO)
Ms. Fatima Ahmed, President of Zenab for Women Development (ZWD)

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

I would like to welcome you all to my residence today and express my appreciation to you, for attending this Grant Contract Signing Ceremony that formalizes Japan's grant assistance. One is 160,219 USD for construction of classroom of Al Zahra Girls Primary School in Gala'a Al Nahal Locality, Gala' a Al Nahal Village with UPO, and the other is 192,610 USD for construction of classrooms of Kanz Girls Primary School in West Gallabaat Locality, Al Kanz Village with ZWD, both in Gedaref State.

The aim of these projects is to ensure access to primary education in a safe, hygienic and structurally sound location for the girl students of Primary Schools in Gedaref State. In Al Zahra Girls Primary School in Gala' a Al Nahal Locality, six classrooms, three staff offices, latrine and fence will be constructed by the implementing organization, United Peace Organization (UPO). In Kanz Girls Primary School in West Gallabaat Locality, six classrooms, three staff offices and latrine will be constructed by the implementing organization, Zenab for Women Development (ZWD). With the new constructions of these two schools, proximally 1,000 students in total are expected to start their schooling fully complied with the safe and healthy learning environment. It is our hope that the number of girl students to the schools will further increase.

Primary education supports children's personal development at their critical time in their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth, through transmitting qualities and values such as critical thinking, healthy living, resilience, and self-confidence. I believe that the education sector for any nation is critical in generating human resources required for development. Particularly, Japan, lacking natural resources, has been attaching a great importance to education to develop its only resources, namely, human resources. Moreover, achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment is one of key areas of priority policy for development cooperation of the government of Japan. Education and gender equality are both included in the Sustainable Development Goals as well. Therefore, Japan is very happy to make a modest contribution in this important field.

Speaking personally, this is my last Grant Contract Signing Ceremony to organize here in Sudan. I am leaving Sudan in several days after concluding my period of work here. During the three and a half years, I was able to hand over nine primary schools; Mutmar in River Nile State, Wad El-Mahi in Al Jazeerah State, Foro Baranga in West Darfur State, Nizaiha in White Nile State, Khatmiya in Kassala State, Mansura in North Kordofan, Abu Hujar in Sennar State, Tangasi-Arruways in Northern State and Tabaldiya in North Kordfan. The tenth school is to be completed very soon at New Halfa. In addition to those schools, I am very pleased to sign the contracts of new projects today. Although it is regrettable that I would not be able to see the completion of these two projects, I am confident that the projects, with your support, will provide better environment of education for students in Sudan.

I wish to renew my appreciation to each of you who gathered today for your concerns and enthusiasm. I am looking forward to a successful implementation of these projects as a symbol of firm friendship between people of Sudan and Japan. And I hope that these schools will be remembered by the Sudanese people as a gift from the people of Japan for a long time into the future.

Thank you very much.