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From the People of Japan

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**Japanese Ambassador visits River Nile State to attend the commencement ceremony of
“The Project for Upgrading Food Production Infrastructure”**

H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, the Ambassador of Japan to Sudan, H.E. Mr. El-Hady Abdullah, Governor of River Nile State, and other senior officials for the State Government attended the commencement ceremony of “The Project for Upgrading Food Production Infrastructure” funded by the Government of Japan on the 25th of November 2013 in River Nile State. The project was signed on the 7th October 2012, between Japanese Ambassador and H.E. Mr. Ali Mahmoud, Minister of Finance and National Economy. The total cost of the project is approximately 39 million US dollars.

The agricultural sector is one of the most promising economic sectors that can play a key role in economic and social development in Sudan. The Government of Sudan has been implementing a large number of projects for the improvement of this sector with clear objectives including adopting the Executive Programme for Agricultural Revival as its national strategy in 2008. Sudan enjoys all aspects for an outstanding agricultural sector such as vast fertile lands, rich water resources, and highly educated and trained human resources. Sudan has a great potential to be the food basket of Africa and the world.

The Project for Upgrading Food Production Infrastructure will provide support for the construction of pump stations, discharge basing and connecting canal and provision of electrified irrigation pumps, pipes, control panels and cables in River Nile state. This improved irrigation facility will cover around 11,000 acres of farm land and contribute to food production in Sudan. The main goal of the project is to improve the agricultural productivity, increase agricultural production and lower agricultural production cost by introducing latest irrigation system.

During the celebration, Ambassador Horie has encouraged all the stockholders to make their utmost efforts to realize food security in Sudan. He commended the cooperation of the Government and people of Sudan and stressed the importance of close coordination among the stakeholders to accelerate the logistical preparations of this project. He said that “agriculture can be a significant component for national revenues beside mining and petroleum and the diversification of revenues is critical in achieving stability and prosperity in Sudan. Therefore, Japan has implemented this project hand in hand with the Sudanese counterparts”.

The Government of Sudan is expected to utilize this grant in effective and efficient manner so that people in Sudan enjoy the benefit of the improved infrastructures. The government of Japan strongly believes that the expansion of irrigation system for food production will directly contribute to social and economic development in Sudan. Japan has been committed to accelerating consolidation of the peace and assisting improvement of basic human needs in Sudan and its assistances to Sudan since 2005 amounts to over 1.1 billion US dollars.

(End)



Ambassador of Japan with Governor of River Nile



Ambassador and Governor at the ceremony

Japanese Government Project in Aliab