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For a Better Future in Sudan ~Japan's ODA Projects in Kassala and Gedaref~

On the first and the second day of “The Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance) Press Tour in 2013”, which took place from 15th-17th April 2013, Sudanese newspapers and TV journalists visited Kassala State in which the Government of Japan, the State Government of Kassala and the local people have been working closely for improvement of the basic human needs of the people of Kassala under “Kassala Take Off Project (K-TOP)”, which covers a wide range of areas including development planning, agriculture & livelihood, maternal & child health, and vocational training, and other two water supply related projects as follows.

Meeting with Acting Governor and Minister for Social Affairs, Youth and Sports

Ambassador Horie, 12 journalists from Khartoum and several correspondents working in Kassala State made a courtesy call to H.E. Mr. Magujoub Abu Musa, Acting Governor in Kassala State and H.E. Mr. Muhammed Ahmed Ali, Minister for Social Affairs, Youth and Sports (then Acting Finance Minister). During the meeting, Ambassador Horie said that he was pleased to visit Kassala for the second time since last November and he expressed his strong wish that all the participants would deepen their knowledge about the Japanese ODA projects during the tour.

In response, the Acting Governor expressed his deepest gratitude for the Japanese ODA projects implemented across Kassala State. Meanwhile, the Minister for Social Affairs, Youth and Sports explained his detailed plans to encourage people in Kassala to participate in a wide range of projects initiated by JICA in collaboration with the related authorities in Kassala State.

Water Project

Japan aims to achieve sustainable water supply at Kassala city through both technical assistance and improvement of water supply facilities. In the urban area, Japan is upgrading the water treatment plant and improving the capacity of the State Water Cooperation in order to increase water supply and provide safe and reliable water for 240,000 residents in Kassala city. At the same time, Japan supports to establish the sustainable system of financial managements, operation and maintenance water supply facilities in the rural areas. After having interviews with local staff working at the water treatment project sites, the participants were impressed by the sincere efforts and strong commitments by the field workers and their Japanese counterparts.

Vocational Training

Ambassador and the accompanying journalists visited Kassala Vocational Training Centre which has the mission, “Skilled hands for production and prosperity, Not to grab arms”. The centre aims to

train diverse and effective workforce for the economic growth and stability of Kassala state. Together with the stakeholders of the government, such as the Supreme Council for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship, Japan looks forward to continuing to share its experiences and lessons learnt with other vocational training centers and extending as “Kassala Model” for improving of the standard of vocational training in Sudan as a whole. The participants witnessed the heart-felt scenes in which Japanese and Sudanese counterparts were working, sweating and smiling together at the vocational training centre. This centre is providing several courses to youth in order to enable them to engage with different types of work across Sudan.

Agriculture and Livelihood Projects

The capacity development of the extension services in the agriculture and livelihood sector has huge potentials which contribute to achieve a sustainable growth in Kassala State. The trained workers in Kassala have been steadily gaining practical knowledge and skills through training and pilot activities provided by Japanese experts. Local farmers also feel the benefit of the services. The participants were given opportunities to interview some of the staff who have been engaging with the project. They said “thanks to JICA’s clear guidance, we are now eligible enough to produce our daily needs as well as to sell the rest of the portions at the market in Kassala city, which makes our life much easier.”

Maternal and Child Health Projects

In maternal and child health sector, Japan supports the Kassala State Government to enhance the capacity of village midwife and to provide health care services for Maternal and Neonatal in two pilot localities, namely Girba and Wad El Helew. To secure the maternal and children’s lives, Japan focuses to improve the knowledge of village midwives for conducting safe delivery. On the occasion of Ambassador Horie and the accompanying journalists’ visit to Girba locality, a “Drama” to introduce the importance of antenatal care and danger signs of pregnant women was shown, which received huge applause by the audience. One of the participating journalists said “This drama enlightens the people who do not have enough knowledge about childbirth and would serve building a better environment for the delivery of children across Sudan.”

On the last day (17th) of the tour, the participants visited Gedaref State in which the Government of Japan, the State Government of Gedaref and the local people have been working closely for the improvement of people’s lives mainly in the fields of maternal health care and education in Sherif Hasaballa area, whose fund was provided through the Grassroots Technical Assistance and Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Project (). Japanese projects implemented in Sherif Hasaballa area is an example of successful synergy of various schemes provided by the Government of Japan and JICA.*

In particular, Japan prioritizes its cooperation at health sector in Sherif Hasaballa area focusing on two aspects; firstly, maternal and child health program to reduce the high maternal mortality rate and child mortality rate; secondly, education to foster medical personnel in order to build a sustainable health care system in the region.

Meeting with H.E. Mr. Musa Bashir Musa, Acting Governor in Gedaref State and H.E. Mr. Ali El-Sheikh El-Do, Commissioner of El-Fashaga Locality

Ambassador Horie and the accompanying journalists made a courtesy call to H.E. Mr. Musa Bashir Musa, Acting Governor in Gedaref State and H.E. Mr. Ali El-Sheikh El-Do, Commissioner of El-Fashaga Locality on the occasion of their visit to Gedaref State. Ambassador touched upon the important role of the Japanese NGO to implement the Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects called "Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate in Sherif Hasaballa" and expressed his appreciation to the support from the State Government. In response, Acting Governor gave his sincere gratitude to the Japan's strong assistance to fulfill the community's basic human needs especially in the fields of education and health in Sherif Hasaballa and stressed his strong determination to keep working closer with Japanese experts in the related fields.

Health Project

The Japan's project target is 10,000 village people in Sherif Hasaballa area to receive more appropriate and safer Maternal Child Health services. The project takes place mainly in two health centers, namely, Sherif Hasaballa and Mansura Health centers. Prior to the beginning of the project, Mansura Health Centre used to have a small clinic with 4 rooms benefitting 4000 people, and it was operated by one health assistant and village midwives. But due to the expected increase of its population, Mansura Village Committee and Gadaref State Ministry of Health decided to construct a newly expanded health facility with 8 rooms, which was funded through the scheme of Grassroots Technical Assistance by the Government of Japan,

On 17th April, the handover ceremony of the new facilities at Mansura Health Centre was held in Mansura village. At the ceremony, Ambassador Horie gave a speech alongside the Acting Governor of Gedaref State as well as the Commissioner of El-Fashaga Locality praising that the Japanese projects being implemented in Gedaref State represent "a role model" of Japan's assistance to Sudan. Ambassador also stressed that Japan has been working hand-in hand with Sudanese counterparts with the respect of "Ownership, Self-help and Partnership", which have been underlying the philosophy of Japan's overall assistance to Sudan.

Education

The Japan's project target is to promote the educational opportunity for female students in Sherif Hasaballa area. Considering the lack of appropriate facilities for primary education for girls in remote areas, Sherif hassaballa Village Committee and Gadaref State Ministry of Education have worked together to construct Ayadab Girls' Primary School in 2009 with the fund provided by the Government of Japan through the "Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (*)".

Ambassador and the journalists visited Ayadab Girls' Primary School accompanied by the Acting Governor of Gedaref State and the Commissioner of El-Fashaga Locality, in which they were enthusiastically welcomed by the students of Ayadab Girls School. At the welcome ceremony, Ambassador extended his greetings in front of the students and school officials by stressing the importance of education in Sherif Hasaballa area in order to achieve a sustainable development of the community as a whole. Thereafter, Ambassador Horie handed over Japanese traditional toys to the Principal of the school as a token of friendship between Japan and Sudan.

Japan's **Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP) is designed particularly to support the community-level socio-economic projects that address Basic Human Needs (BHN) such as access to health, water and sanitation, education, skills development, and other means to maximize opportunities for individuals. GGP's approach reflects the Government of Japan's strong commitment to uphold the notion of 'Human Security' as basic human rights for all. All individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. By directly supporting the projects implemented by grassroots organizations, GGP encourages bottom-up efforts by the local communities, and realizes their empowerment.*

Japan's ODA Projects in Kassala



Mahta Water Treatment Plant in Kassala city



Rural Water Yard in Banad Village



Ambassador with Acting Governor



Briefing at the Office of Minister of Social Affairs



Kassala Vocational Training Centre



Kassala Vocational Training Centre



Children with Japanese Expert at Girba Locality



Drama at Girba Locality

Japan's ODA Projects in Gedaref



Mansura Health Centre (MHC)



Signing Ceremony between JICA Chief Representative & DG of Ministry of Health



Inside MCH



Inside MCH



Handover Ceremony of MCH



Handover Ceremony of MCH



Ayadab Girls school students welcoming Ambassador



Ambassador at Ayadab Girls School

