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من الشعب الياباني  
From the People of Japan

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### Japan Hands Over the Newly Constructed Dormitory and Lecture Hall to Kassala Vocational Training Centre in Kassala

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2014, H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan to Sudan, alongside Mr. Shigeru Otake, the Senior Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), H.E.Mr. AbdelAzziz Hassan AbdelQadir, Kassala State Minister of Infrastructure and Planning, as well as H.E. Mr. Abdalla Mohamed Derif, Kassala State Minister of Health attended the handover ceremony for the newly constructed lecture hall and dormitory at Kassala Vocational Training Center (KVTC) in Kassala city, both of which were funded by the Government of Japan.

The construction of the lecture hall and the dormitory is a part of ongoing efforts to improve the technical and management capacity of KVTC in the provision of vocational training which aims to train diverse and effective workforce who are then expected to take the important role in promoting economic growth and social stability of Kassala State.

The construction of the lecture hall is one of JICA's accomplishments in a technical cooperation project, "the Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs in Kassala (K-TOP),"\* and the construction was funded at a cost of US\$ 153,485 and implemented by JICA and KVTC. The dormitory has been funded through the Embassy of Japan's "Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP)"\*\* and is implemented by KVTC at a cost of US\$213,500. As a result of these two complementary developments implemented simultaneously and under close coordination among key stakeholders, the synergy effects of the two projects are fully maximized; the KVTC is now able to provide enhanced training environment to its trainees by resolving the shortage of lecture halls and is also able to expand its outreach by receiving trainees from outside of Kassala city. This assistance for the improvement of facilities also coincides with the ongoing activities implemented by KVTC and JICA under K-TOP, which aims to expand and improve the training programs in ways that reflect the local needs as well as to train the instructors and administrative staff in the delivery of their teaching and services.

At the handover ceremony, Ambassador Horie emphasized the importance and value Japan places over the improvement of people's lives in the whole State of Kassala. The aforementioned projects are the tangible reflection of the rationale of Japan's assistance to Sudan, that achieving the peace, stability, and development of Sudan will contribute to the peace, stability, and development of Africa as a whole. Japan's commitment towards development of Kassala can also be seen in other fields, including water supply, which has led to the construction of two water treatment plants in Gard and Mahta, and the construction of another plant, currently underway, at the foot of the Mount Taka, through which the entire city of Kassala will enjoy access to clean drinking water upon completion.

\*Japan's **Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs (Kassala Take Off Project, "K-TOP" in short)** is a form of technical assistance aiming to develop capacity of the State Government of Kassala to provide public services of development planning/management, water, agriculture and livelihood, health, and vocational training. This project is expected to contribute the capacity development of weakened state government after the conflict as well as to respond to the urgent needs of the residents and communities through improvement of the local economy and social condition.

\*\*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.

Photos at Handing Over the Newly Constructed Dormitory and Lecture Hall to Kassala  
Vocational Training Centre  
(Kassala - March 23, 2014)

