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Ambassador of Japan Visits Darasta Village in Kassala State to join the Mine Risk Education Activities

H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Sudan, visited Darasta Village, Talkok Locality in Kassala State to join the Mine Risk Education Activities funded by Japan through United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) and conducted by Japanese NGO called Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan). Mr. Mohammed Abdu Mohammed, The Chief of Darasta Village, Mr. Mohammed Taher Suliman Bitay, Commissioner of Telkok Locality, Mr. Ali Saleh Eltayeb, Commissioner of National Mine Action Center, Mr. Habibulhaq Javed, UN Office for Project Services, and Ms. Harumi Kawagoe, Country Director of AAR Japan accompanied Ambassador Horie in his visit.

Some villages in Kassala State have problems with unremoved landmines due to the prolonged civil war that ended by signing Eastern Peace Agreement in 2006, and hence, reconstruction of infrastructure has been deterred. Many people and children have lost their lives due to the Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) and landmines, which have turned to be a problem in many villages. Due to fear for landmines, accessible areas are limited, which hinders development and enhancement of livelihood through agriculture despite the huge natural and human resources in the Kassala State.

The mine action is the cornerstone of the safe and prosperous future in Sudan. Therefore, AAR Japan has been conducting mine risk education in order to help local people avoid the risks of landmines and UXO. Their activities are of a great importance as they helped raise the awareness of people by the dangers of landmines and how to deal with them.

Ambassador Horie mentioned the importance of peace, stability, and development of Sudan, which play a role as a pivot in the whole Africa, and that is why Japan supports all the efforts for peace, stability and development by the people in the locality in Kassala State.

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(March 24, 2014)

