

Speech by Mr Fumio Iwai,
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Cabinet Office of Japan

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Juba, South Sudan

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،
أسعد الله مساءكم وأضاء لكم قلوبكم وألبسكم من حلل السعادة والعافية
يطيب لي أن أكون بينكم اليوم لحضور احتفال تقديم المنحة المادية من اليابان لجنوب السودان

(Greetings. It is my pleasure to be here with you today on the occasion of the hand-over ceremony concerning Japan's in-kind assistance for South Sudan.)

This is the second time for me to come to South Sudan. My first visit was just before the signing of the Revitalised Agreement in September 2018. More than a year has passed since then and the situation in this country has been relatively calm throughout the period. I would first like to welcome and acknowledge this important development. In the meantime, we also recognise the need for supporting the work in the implementation of the Agreement, and that is why Japan has decided to offer this in-kind assistance.

As you can see behind me, we have brought tents, blankets, water containers, plastic sheets and sleeping mats, in order to assist the cantonment activities. The total value of the materials we provide is approximately four million US dollars. For further details, please refer to the information sheet with you. It is our strong hope that these materials would be utilised effectively to the maximum extent possible.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are implementing this project based on some of the principles and ideas that we regard as important. First, "Proactive Contribution to Peace" is Japan's major policy in the area of peace and stability, and this assistance is a concrete manifestation of Japan's efforts in this regard.

Next, at the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in August last year, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's continuing support for peace and stability in South Sudan, in line with Japan's new initiative called "New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa" or NAPSA. This initiative is aimed at assisting African-led efforts for the resolution of conflict, including those by the African Union and IGAD.

Furthermore, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Japan, based on the concept of "human security", has expressed its willingness to make contributions to the development of human resources as well as nation-building activities. Our latest assistance is in accordance with these convictions, since security sector reform is essential to build a stable national system in South Sudan.

This project of Japan is implemented in addition to the deployment of our personnel to UNMISS, and also in order to go beyond the barriers among the thematic areas of humanitarian, development and peace. Our assistance for peace, based on a Japanese law called the "PKO Act", which I am responsible for, has been focusing on building foundations for the empowerment of South Sudanese people and communities, so that they can work for development on their own. Examples of such assistance are the construction of a community road by the engineering unit personnel of the Japan Self-Defence Forces as well as a groundwork by them before the construction of the Nile River bridge.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan wishes peace and stability in South Sudan more than anything. While the challenges this country faces are daunting, I assure you that Japan continues to be a partner of South Sudan, hand-in-hand, in cooperation with IGAD, AU, UNMISS, the diplomatic corps and the civil society, as long as South Sudanese leaders spare no effort in addressing these challenges. I look forward to seeing, with my own eyes, tangible changes happening towards peace and prosperity in South Sudan when I come back here next time.

شكرًا على حسن إصغانكم

(Thank you for your attention.)