

Sudan independence day

Adhering to peace, believing in peaceful coexistence

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AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE SUDAN

I would like, from the outset, to express my sincere heartfelt and



respectful greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family and all

the friendly people of Japan on this New Year occasion.

Moreover, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the assumption of his responsibilities and the new ministers on their appointments, wishing them every success in their endeavors.

I would like also, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues, to felicitate our compatriots of the Sudanese community of Japan on this auspicious occasion, and on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Sudan.

During 2012 the world has continued to learn from the legendary industriousness and perseverance of the people of Japan in the face of the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and disaster at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant. Magnificently successful in shouldering the tribulations, Japan was keen to acquaint the world with the various aspects of the incident by hosting several international



Past and present: Meroe (left) on the east bank of the Nile was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Kush. The modern skyline of today's capital Khartoum is evidence of its rapid growth. EMBASSY OF SUDAN



conferences — including the High-Level International Conference on Large-Scale Natural Disasters in March 2012 and The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in Fukushima Prefecture, between Dec. 15 and 17, 2012, despite holding a general election for the House of Representatives on Dec. 16. It is a matter that deserves commendation.

Keen to demonstrate, once again, its appreciation and solidarity with the Japanese people, the government of Sudan participated in both conferences. We also look forward to a high-level participation in the Fifth Summit of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development to be held in June 2013.

Although Sudan has continued to witness some difficulties following the secession of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, there have been several positive developments. On Sept. 27, 2012,

Sudan and South Sudan signed a cooperation agreement and eight other agreements that address the issues of oil and related economic matters, the status of nationals, borders demarcation, cooperation on central banking, trade and trade-related issues, division of assets and liabilities, payment of post-service benefits and security arrangements. The two countries continue to this date to negotiate on the details of the implementation of these agreements, which broke new ground in support of the international vision of two viable states.

On the other hand, government efforts to avert economic collapse due to the loss of most of the oil revenues have succeeded in inaugurating new oil fields in different new areas and in boosting the production of gold to over 50 tons. A gold refinery was opened last September. Diversification of our exports continues to prosper

through more domestic and foreign investments in agriculture, the agro-industry and mining, including gold, copper and chromium. More efforts are exerted to augment our traditional exports of cotton, sesame, groundnuts, Gum Arabic (acacia gum), sugar, hibiscus, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables, grains, pulses, livestock, leather and medical gas to different destinations, including China, India, Egypt and rich countries in the Arab Peninsula as major trade partners.

Sudan has, so far, used only a small portion of its arable land that exceeds 80 million hectares. Millions of hectares are irrigated and rain-fed. More water is abundant in the River Nile and its tributaries, Sudan's most precious natural endowment. Rainwater, estimated at 1 trillion cubic meters per year, has not yet been adequately used while huge reserves of subterranean

water remain to be explored. A new Agricultural Revival Strategy has been adopted to develop appropriate new methods in irrigation, agriculture, the agro-industry, agribusiness and animal husbandry. The goals of the strategy are not only economic. They include preserving the environment, enhancing food security, alleviating poverty and combating desertification in some semidesert areas.

In recent years, encouraged by the success of oil exploration activities, economic liberalization policies, the strategic location of the country, the reasonably developed infrastructure, development in the communications network and the adoption of new investment-encouraging laws, there has been a noticeable increase in direct foreign investment in Sudan. It is worth noting that Japan Tobacco completed, in November 2011, the legal procedures for the purchase of the

Sudanese Haggar Tobacco Co. operating in Sudan and South Sudan. We are hopeful that more Japanese companies will follow the example of Japan Tobacco to invest in the rich multisector markets Sudan offers.

Sudan, the land of old Nubia, the Kingdom of the Black Pharaohs, is endowed with many touristic sites and resources. The National Archaeological Museum in the capital Khartoum contains many beautiful ancient Nubian objects, including two temples rescued by UNESCO and moved from the Lake Nubia area and different size statues of Black Pharaohs.

In the north of Sudan tourists can enjoy, along the charming Nile banks, visiting the sacred Jebel al-Barkal Mountain, and its temple dedicated to the Pharaohs of the New Reign and to their patron, Amon. Tourists can also enjoy the marvelous pyramids of the royal necropolis of Meroe located about 3 km from the Nile on some hills covered with yellow sand dunes. More than 40 pyramids stand out with their sharp shapes against the clear sky together with some small funerary temples, whose walls are fully decorated with bas-reliefs that show the king's life and the gods.

The archaeological site of Musawwarat, the recently restored temple of Apademak and the Roman Kiosk Temple are yet more testimony of the richness of Sudan's ancient history. On the other hand, the Red Sea coast, gulfs and coral reefs, which extend for more than 700 km, provide tourists with opportunities for diving, underwater photog-

raphy, boating and water skiing.

I cannot conclude these remarks without expressing on behalf of my country our sincere thanks and appreciation for the valuable assistance Japan has been offering to Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, and Japan's continued support since the separation of South Sudan

on July 9, 2011. The people of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency and my counterpart, H.E. Roich Horie, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Sudan, and his colleagues deserve special acknowledgment. I wish them all a happy and prosperous new year.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Republic of the Sudan
on the Occasion
of
Their National Day



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