

Sudan National Day Special

Deepening relations via assistance in health sector

Sudan, Africa's third-largest country that borders seven nations and faces the Red Sea, celebrates the 63rd Anniversary of its Independence today.

While Sudan has struggled with civil wars and other challenges, the country has seen improvements in fields such as security and international relations.

Since Sudan and Japan established diplomatic ties in 1956, the two countries have maintained friendly relations. Japan has provided developmental assistance to Sudan and placed an emphasis on projects that address the consolidation of peace, basic human needs and agricultural development since 2011 when South Sudan

became independent from Sudan, according to the Foreign Ministry of Japan.

As one of these projects, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a project in 2015 for constructing a maternal ward for a hospital in the locality of Umbaddah in the state of Khartoum, with the aim of securing a safe childbirth space with a target of 5,000 annual deliveries.

According to JICA, the state's population is increasing due to an influx of people, including those from conflict-affected areas. The locality of Umbaddah has only one hospital, leaving residents to go to another hospital in a neighboring area for medical

needs, including childbirth care, resulting in an increase in deliveries at the hospital and low-quality medical service there.

To cope with this situation, JICA had overseen the project for the past three years. In November, the construction of the maternal ward of the hospital in Umbaddah was finally completed and President Omar al-Bashir and Minister of Health Mamoun Homeida attended its inauguration ceremony, according to a report in Sudan Vision, the country's English daily newspaper. Homeida said he appreciates the effort and support from the Japanese government to the people of Sudan.

Concerning Japan's cooperation with

Sudan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahisa Sato met his counterpart Osama Faisal Elsayed Ali in Tokyo on Oct. 7, according to the Foreign Ministry of Japan. Sato said that Japan continues to assist the development of the country by offering support in consolidating peace, meeting basic human needs, diversifying industries and promoting agriculture, as the Japanese government places emphasis on the constructive role that Sudan plays in Africa.

This is an edited excerpt of information from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and other sources.



In November, the maternal ward building of Umbaddah Hospital in the state of Khartoum was completed as a form of official development assistance from Japan. JICA

Further collaboration for national stability

TETSURO YANO
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

On the occasion of the 63rd National Day, it is my privilege to congratulate the people of the Republic of Sudan.

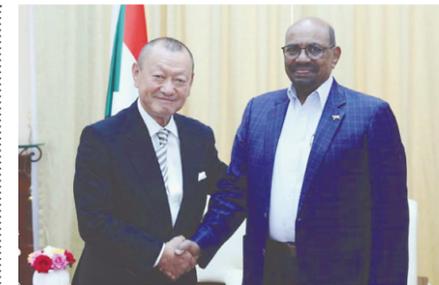
Between 2003 and 2008, I had the opportunity to visit Sudan four times as senior vice minister for foreign affairs. In those days, Sudan had some security issues, and I remember a tense atmosphere throughout Khartoum. I, however, found the country to be very stable and different during my



of the city. In addition, Sudan contributes to the stability of the Horn of Africa, which the world has awaited for, and the region now moves on to a different political stage.

last visit in August, thanks to the people in Sudan who made much effort for peace building. Its appearance has not changed much, but I was sure that peace and stability has been recovering in different parts

I also had the honor to have the fourth meeting with H.E. President Omar al-Bashir last year. The president kindly waited for me, opening his arms as if greeting a good friend and said with a warm voice, "Welcome from such a far country." Although Sudan is physically far from Japan, and the two countries do not always have strong economic ties, Japan has supported Sudan for consolidation of peace and human-centered development. A Japanese doctor, for example, has reached out to those who have no access to a hospital in Sudan. I believe Sudan and Japan are able to build deeper relations by starting with collab-



President of the Association of African Economy and Development Tetsuro Yano and President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum in August. AFRECO

orations in the health care sector to achieve universal health coverage. Implementing specific projects is needed, for which I would like to be of help.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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



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