Sudan National Day Special

Resource-rich nation offers great potential

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AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN



In commencement. it is my great honor to extend my heartfelt and respectful greetings combined with my best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako,

the imperial family, and the friendly people of Japan on the occasion of New Year's,

Moreover, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister, His Excellency Yoshihide Suga, and his cabinet wishing them every success in their endeavors.

I would also like, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the embassy to congratulate our compatriots, the Sudanese community in Japan, on the new year and on this auspicious occasion marking the 65th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Sudan after a long and courageous multigenerational struggle.

The Sudanese national spirit was evident in the revolution that began in December 2018. Ending on April 11, 2019, the revolution culminated in the downfall of the

autocratic regime that ruled the country for three decades and consequently, the signing of a constitutional document that led to the establishment of Sudan's transitional civilian-led government in August 2019.

The year 2020 witnessed two tremendous achievements by this transitional government, both long-awaited goals for the Sudanese. The first was the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement between the transitional government and Sudan Revolutionary Front on Oct. 3 The second was the Nov. 14 removal of Sudan from the United States' list of states sponsoring terrorism, concluding a lengthy period of bilateral negotiations. Both achievements are crucial for the revival of the economy, developmental sustainability and stability within Sudan and neighboring regions.

Sudan is considered to be one of the richest African countries in terms of its untapped natural resources that are attractive in view of foreign investment. Such resources include flat arable land of about 80 million hectares, with adequate water for irrigation, livestock, wildlife and forestry, and minerals including gold, copper, chromium and other precious metals.

Sudan, uniquely located at the crossroads between west and east Africa, overlooking the Red Sea and embracing a lengthy section of the Nile River, has been a cradle of different civilizations throughout history since the seventh century B.C., including Kerma culture, the Nubian black pharaoh kingdoms of Kush and Meroe, Christian kingdoms, the sultanates of Darfur and Sinnar, and the Mahdist state. Tourists can not only discover Sudan's marvelous historical monuments such as the country's pyramids, temples, and statues, but they can also find enjoyment in natural wonders such as the site of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, at the confluence of the White and the Blue Nile rivers.

The charming green banks of the Nile bisect the desert up to the Egyptian borders and the river's cataracts. The Red Sea Coast, gulfs and coral reef, which extends for more than 700 kilometers, provide tourists with opportunities for diving and underwater photography, boating, and water skiing.

Sudan and Japan have maintained friendly and cordial relations since the late 1950s. Excellent levels of coordination are apparent at different international forums and both countries are exerting considerable efforts to promote economic, social and cultural exchanges, widening the scope of cooperation both economically and politically.

In concluding my remarks on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of our Independence Day, I would like to express on behalf of the people and the government of Sudan, our deep gratitude and appreciation for Japan's active participation as a member of the Friends of Sudan group in

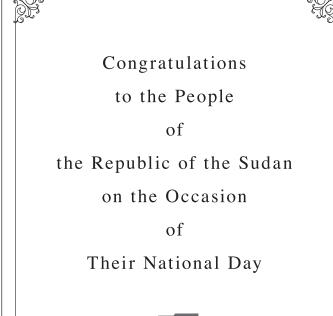
discussions and activities focused on Sudan assistance. I also thank Japan for its prompt response to the natural crisis faced by Sudan this year and give my sincere thanks and recognition for the valuable assistance Japan has been offering my country.

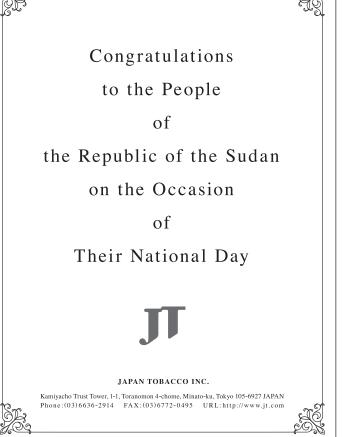
The people of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan External Trade Organization and my counterpart, H.E. Takashi Hattori, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Sudan, and his colleagues, all deserve special acknowledgment. I wish them all a happy and prosperous 2021.



The River Nile EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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