

## Bridge towards Peacebuilding by Local Government

-JICA's Peacebuilding Programme-



Hadiru Kaloko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Sierra Leone, Right, Victor Kalie Kamara, Chief Administrator, Kambia District Council, Sierra Leone, Left

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a symposium at the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel at 16:45 on June 1 with the theme of “the role of local government in peacebuilding”. (Supported by: The Japan Society for International Development). Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government of Uganda, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development of Sierra Leone, State Minister of Physical Planning and Deputy Governor for South Darfur State of Sudan and others took the stage to

present and discuss case studies regarding local government support in conflict-affected countries in Africa.

This symposium was held in order to convey message from the experiences on the ground. Regarding what particular role the local government should play for stabilizing the region and preventing the reoccurrence of conflicts based on JICA’s experiences on local administrative support for conflict-affected countries in Africa, especially in Sierra Leone, the northern Uganda. Furthermore lessons learned through project implementation in the Darfur region of Sudan were introduced as well as points to be considered when the assistance are provided were also shared.

MUTABWIRE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government delivered a presentation regarding capacity building of the local government institutions in order to provide a living environment for supporting sustainable resettlement of returnees in areas of northern Uganda where several million people have been internally displaced due to long-term conflict. KALOKO, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Sierra Leone, which has passed through more than 10 years of peace after the last conflict, reported about community development projects aimed at capacity building of District Council staff responsible for regional administration in the area, formulation of relevant policies, and support revisions. He emphasized that government-led concrete plans have been discussed for continuing the activities and adhering to JICA’s concept after completion of JICA projects. In addition, Abdelkarim, State Minister of Physical Planning and Deputy Governor for South Darfur State, Sudan introduced the program for capacity building of government institution for

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providing services, which are implemented in order to improve access to services in areas in the Darfur region where government services are still unavailable due to continued sporadic conflicts. He also mentioned that JICA is an only organization which directly tackles issue of access to water and unemployment of youth that are the root causes of conflicts through provision of equipment and training.

During the panel discussion, KOIKE, Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Graduate School of International Social Sciences, Yokohama National University, TAMBO, Chief Secretary, Office of President, JICA, and DOHI, Peacebuilding Consultant under KOMUKAI, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, panellists discussed the role of local government in conflict-affected areas, as well as the efforts required by the central government, local government and communities. It was also mentioned that community development through community participation and the approach to encourage social integration and reconciliation through the local administration are important. In addition, the panel emphasized that building trust between local government and communities, as well as the one among communities are crucial.

During the symposium it was reconfirmed that community participation and improvement of administrative services by local government is important for social stability and peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries. And the key for their realization is “trust” between community and the local governments. It was also reaffirmed that it is important to conduct conflict analysis for identification of destabilizing factors, to recognize profile of communities by local governments and to find measures for reconciliation. Meanwhile, local governments cannot play role alone and it shall maintain organic coordination with central governments as well as communities. It is important to enhance human resources that make coordination functional from both governmental and community sides. It was also proposed to utilize the concrete measures that were presented by the three countries.

### ■ Speakers at this Event:

#### Presenters:

- Patrick K. Mutabwire, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Uganda.
- Moses Bukenya Seguya, Chief Administrative Officer, Nwoya District, Uganda
- Hadiru Kaloko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Sierra Leone
- Victor Kalie Kamara, Chief Administrator, Kambia District Council, Sierra Leone

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- Abdelkarim Musa Abdelkarim, State Minister of Physical Planning and Deputy Governor for South Darfur State, Sudan
- Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Elmahi, General Rapporteur for the Higher Council for Decentralized Governance, Sudan
- Yusuke Kubo, JICA Expert
- Atsutoshi Hirabayashi, Former JICA Expert
- Osamu Koike, Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Graduate School of International Social Sciences, Yokohama National University
- Ichiro Tamvo, Chief Secretary, Office of President, JICA
- Yuko Dohi, Former In-House Consultant on Peacebuilding, JICA

### Moderator:

- Eri Komukai, International Cooperation Specialist, JICA

### Organizer's Greeting:

- Kazunori Miura, Director General, Economic Infrastructure Department, JICA