

AN ANCIENT LAND:

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE



Two new nations in a landscape as old as civilization itself look ahead

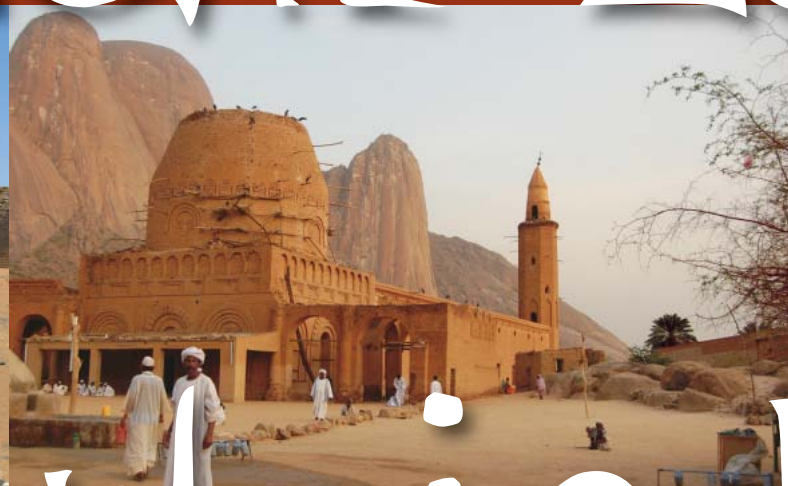
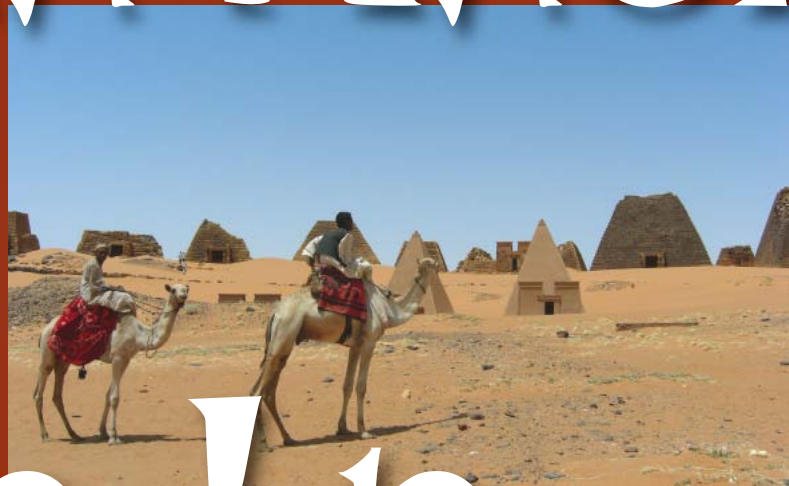
It is a land of ancient civilizations, sweeping deserts in the north, mighty swamp, grasslands, mountain and savannah to the south. Camel caravans still plough the dunes and vast herds of wildlife roam the plains.

One of the world's greatest rivers, the Nile, rises both from the southern heart of Africa and the Ethiopian highlands in the east before joining at the city of Khartoum to become the sustaining life force of both the ancient region known as the Sudan—and immediately downstream—Egypt.

Sudan, literally meaning 'land of the blacks' stretches back into the mists of time. Pyramids as impressive as those of Egypt, but far less well known, dot the landscape.

Foreign influences—military, political and religious, Christian, Muslim, animist—have fought constantly for the soul of this land. And since its modern independence in 1956, the history of Sudan has been particularly turbulent, scarred by military coups and civil conflict in which millions of persons were killed or displaced.

A new chapter for the region began on July 9, 2011 when the southern



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Waterworks in Kassala

part of the country formally declared its independence from what was until that moment Africa's largest country, geographically speaking, officially becoming the Republic of South Sudan.

The separation followed decades of uneasy peace and conflict between the north and south in which an estimated two million persons were killed and more than four million uprooted from their homes.

Both nations, the world's newest in the south and the truncated Republic of the Sudan in the north, face daunting futures. Though the region boasts some of Africa's largest oil reserves and the potential for agriculture is virtually unlimited, they remain among the world's poorest countries.

Though war officially ended between north and south, a civil conflict in Darfur, on the western reaches of the Republic of Sudan, continues to simmer. There, and in the east of that country, near the borders with Eritrea and Ethiopia, the scars of war disfigure

the landscape.

In the south, the new Republic of South Sudan is struggling to recover from the ravages of the earlier fighting, welcoming back huge groups of people who had fled, integrating hundreds of thousands who have already returned, and building almost from scratch an infrastructure capable of supporting a modern state.

JICA in Sudan

THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Agency (JICA) reopened an office in Khartoum in 2003 following several years absence caused by political and military upheavals, and later opened a field office in the southern capital of Juba. JICA had fully staffed and functioning offices in both Sudanese countries in July when the south became independent.

Shunning splashy 'show projects' JICA's activities in both nations concentrate broadly on peace building and post conflict rehabilitation, strengthening the basic sinews of communities by helping to train a new generation of plumbers, electricians, farmers, administrators, teachers, government officials, nurses and midwives. Some of the trainees will themselves become trainers to teach future generations.

JICA also provides vital equipment and funds and expertise to build or rehabilitate ports, roads and hospitals, and revive agriculture

The South

JUBA DISPLAYS ALL THE ENERGY AND URGENCY of the world's newest capital—blossoming in just a few short years from a virtually abandoned town into a bustling frontier city. JICA has already helped to rehabilitate the local maternity hospital, revive the road network which at peak hours is crowded with vehicles and rebuild the River Nile port—its key gateway to the outside world (see page 6).

With Japanese financial aid and technical assis-



Vocational training in Khartoum

tance, trainees, some of them former soldiers and others displaced persons and refugees, are becoming electricians, auto mechanics, builders, secretaries and carpenters at the city vocational training center. JICA supports two other southern vocational schools.

It has helped train hundreds of government officials and primary school teachers to bolster science and mathematics classes, government and customs officials and media personnel.

In the surrounding countryside and villages Japanese experts and consultants established demonstration farms, sunk village boreholes and trained dozens of community development and agricultural extension officers.

The North

IN THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN, KASSALA (the troubled region of Darfur on the Republic of Sudan's western border with Chad) and the so-called 3 Protocol Areas (effectively buffer zones between the earlier warring northern and southern regions) were designated by JICA as 'priority areas,' needing special and urgent assistance.

In the Kassala region, JICA earlier this year initiated one of its most ambitious technical cooperation projects anywhere in the world, a \$17 million, three-year integrated program covering five major areas of development assistance—planning, water supply, agriculture, health and vocational training (see page 9).

In the other regions key administration officials, several hundred leaders and midwives, health officials, vocational teachers and several hundred students, including former combatants and displaced persons, have all undergone training.

Several dozen water



Land reclamation in south Sudan

technicians also received instruction, village boreholes were rehabilitated and basic but vital equipment provided.

As the two nations both grapple with uncertain futures JICA will continue its current overall approach. There are ambitious plans for major water projects in Juba and Kassala and further expansion of the Juba port.

Particular attention will be paid to improving agriculture and irrigation both in the north and south to enhance the overall 'food security' of an estimated 45 million people.



Vocational training in Darfur



Port building in Juba



Midwife training



Training the trainers Khartoum



Ghost Town Becomes World's Newest Capital City

Excitement and Problems for Africa's 54th Nation

It is one of the most challenging transportation links anywhere in the world—

a 12-21 day odyssey on the River Nile from north to south Sudan, across burning deserts landscapes, grass savannah and at times almost impenetrable swamps.

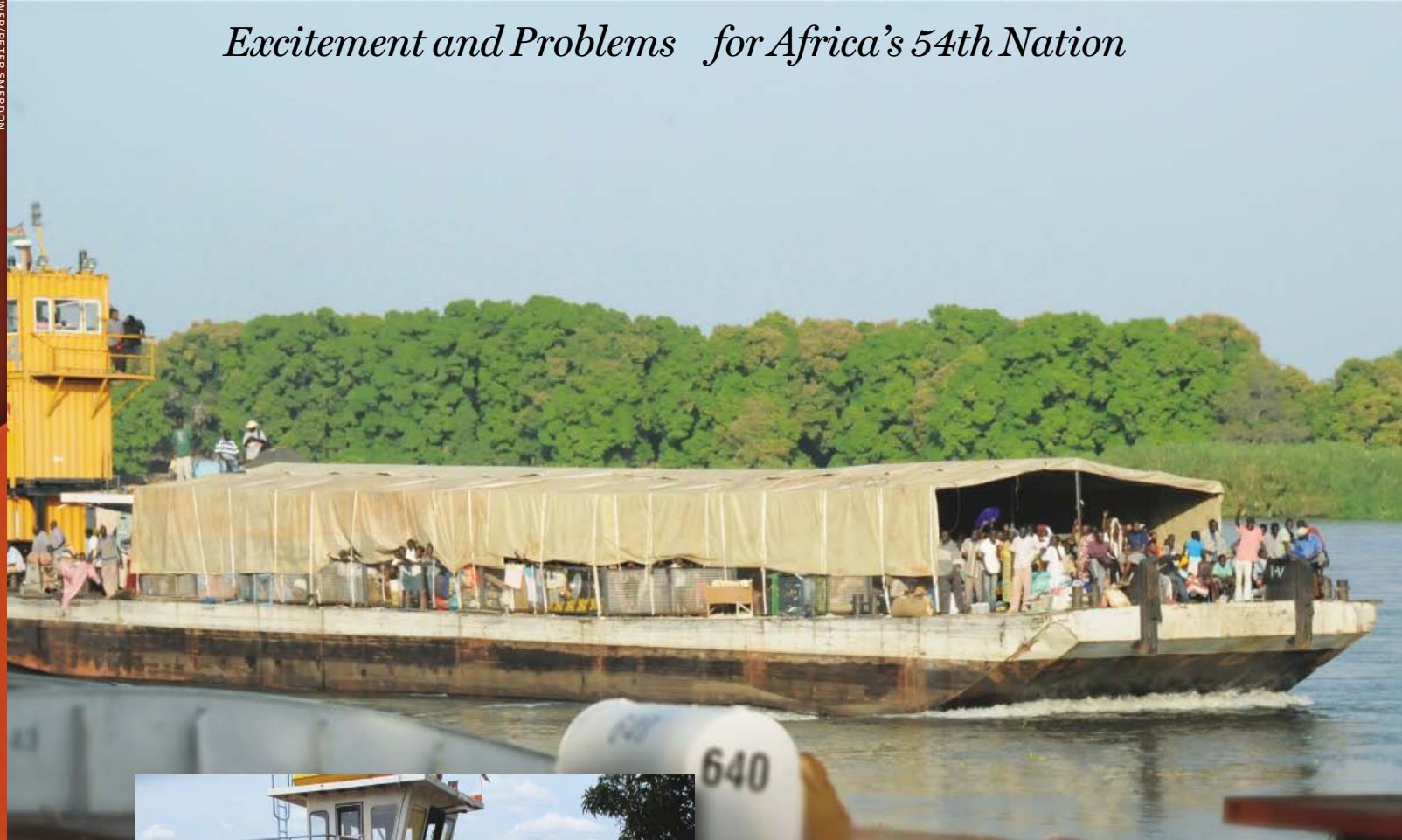
But the route plied weekly by ancient 'pusher' tugs and lines of captive barges carrying 1,200 tons of everything from diesel to soda pop to displaced persons seeking a new life, is the vital lifeline between the world's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan and its capital, Juba, and the outside world.

Juba itself and its river terminus were virtually abandoned during years of conflict between government forces and southern rebels, but hundreds of thousands of persons have poured back into the capital and surrounding countryside in recent years.

JICA, which has expanded its Juba office to meet the needs of a region recovering from war and now those of a new nation, has helped to rehabilitate the dockside which is busy with deep-bellied cargo barges unloading vital diesel supplies, foodstuffs and, as a reminder of ongoing tensions between neighbors, southern Sudanese returning from the north with their beds, pots and pans and clothing.

Design plans have already been approved to expand the port and its jetty which has only one crane and port managers are undergoing JICA-financed training.

WFP/PETER SMERDON



The Nile is a vital lifeline for the new nation

Putting South Sudan to work

Fastest Growing City

JUBA ITSELF HAS BECOME ONE OF AFRICA'S fastest growing towns, a crazy mosaic of traditional huts, container homes and shops, classy restaurants and bars, and air conditioned portakabin hotels housing global entrepreneurs, aid officials, diplomatic staff, government bureaucrats and returning displaced persons.

Electricity is sporadic. Huge lines of tankers deliver water supplies each day. A few kilometers of paved road have been expanded and there are even occasional traffic jams.

The new nation faces an exciting but daunting future. Four million persons were displaced during the civil war. Many have returned to an uncertain future but others continue to arrive daily. Health facilities are precarious with many children malnourished. School attendance and literacy are 30% and the nation is short of everything including skilled technicians such as plumbers, builders and auto mechanics essential to keep an emerging economy moving.

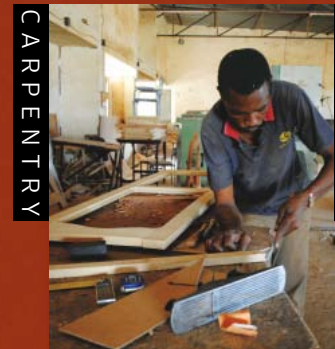
In addition to port, road and hospital infrastructure, JICA is involved in helping to train thousands of workers in vocational centers in Juba and two other southern centers. The Juba center is being expanded with new student dorms, classrooms, dining facilities and administration offices, financed by Japanese grant aid.

In separate projects customs officials have undergone training—currently the government receives little customs revenue because of the lack of facilities and officials—and science and mathematics primary schools teachers have improved their classroom skills.

Though rich in oil reserves, the new nation enters its first year as one of the world's poorest countries and JICA has identified improving its vast agricultural potential—so called 'food security'—as a major target to help resettle many of the four million people who fled the region during the war years and assist

South Sudanese returnees (top). Water trucks in booming Juba town.

The new nation faces an exciting but daunting future



CARPENTRY



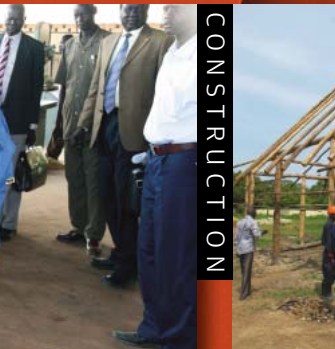
MECHANICS



ELECTRICITY



BRICKLAYING



CONSTRUCTION



JUBA