



JICA Project on Human Resources Development for Darfur and the Three Protocol Areas'

NEWSLETTER

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*Time for Peace, Development, and Inclusiveness
In the Sudan of Diversity*

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Palm trees (HCDG)
Photo by: IDO Yuko



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Message from the People of Blue Nile State

By: H.E. Mubarak Mukhtar Omer
Ministry of Finance, Blue Nile

We would like to pay tribute to the Government of Japan represented by JICA as we looking to further assistance in infrastructure projects.

The Government of Japan is greatly contributing to the assistance of the third world countries, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is considered as one of the Japanese agencies providing support in the scopes of human development and capacity building.

Blue Nile state is in need for that kind of support as for health, water, and vocational training since it is a state suffered from warfare and its massive destruction.

In spite of the ordeal which Japan has recently gone through, supports continued ceaselessly. A delegation of JICA visited the state headed by Mr. Mori the Resident Representative and included his assistant Mr. Shikano, Ms. Yuko Ido the Project Chief Advisor and accompanied by representatives from the Higher Council for Decentralized Governance and the Ministry of International Cooperation.

JICA: the Development Partner

By: Abdullah Bashir Omer
Development Directorate, HCDG



The meeting was held in the strategic planning hall where the Secretary General welcomed the delegation in the presence of all ministries representatives. During the meeting, the State Coordination Committee was held and attended by all ministries.

The necessity and importance of this committee's existence is to play a major role in coordination between the organizations and agencies working in the development and technical assistance at the state in order to prevent activities inconsistency, ensuring development balanced distribution, exchanging information, securing interrupted flow of local component, etc.

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance in Blue Nile state, we present our appreciations to the Government of Japan represented by JICA as we looking forward to seeing further support for other sectors.



It is known that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is perseveringly working to contribute to international cooperation empowerment. JICA has chosen Sudan as a developing country that has just eradicated the war in the south and seriously trying to resolve the crisis in Darfur.

Since 2010 and until 2012, JICA has allocated budget for Darfur and the Three Protocol Areas; therefore, the Government of Sudan has committed itself to secure the local component for the five (5) targeted states in the sectors of midwifery, vocational training, and water.

Since the early start for the agency's activities, the Higher Council for Decentralized Governance has played an effective role by strengthen the coordination process through field visits conducted to many states for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation with the states'

Coordination Committees in which the Project administration has participated.

The Project administration at the Higher Council for Decentralized Governance has established direct communication channels with states as well as conducting training courses for different sectors in addition to the provision of all necessary equipment.

The visit of States Representatives to Japan in February 2011 was a good opportunity to witness the Japanese scientific and labor experiences and as a result, a proposal of establishing a federal coordination mechanism to coordinate between parties involved, improve performance, and unifying efforts came into being. The states have welcomed the proposal and soon we will see results for this committee's effort.

We at the General Directorate for Decentralized Governance Development are completely satisfied with the

appreciated efforts for the Project administration at the council which was appropriated in improving the working environment as well as securing certain equipment which eased the communications and improved the performance.

Through following up with the activities in Darfur and the three Protocol Areas, we are quite confident that JICA is capable of extending its activities to include the whole Sudan. What make JICA a distinctive organization are honesty, seriousness, and transparency in projects implementation which can be verified by the participation of the Embassy of Japan, the Resident Representative and the staff of JICA in the field visits to the states.

We are delighted to have JICA here in Sudan, as we hope that it will extend its activities to include all northern states. We recommend targeting new sectors as

agricultural development and infrastructure necessary for attaining balanced development.

Blue Nile after Renaissance: State Coordination Committee coming into being, the role and functionality

By: Dr. Elhadi Mohammed Adam
General Secretariat for Strategic Planning Council,
Blue Nile State

As collaboration with JICA's projects in Blue Nile state, the state government has opted to establish a coordination body between all acting organizations at the state in order to avoid any inconsistency probabilities in projects implementation between the state and acting organizations; including JICA. To that end, a coordination committee has been established. The new established committee will be headed by the Director General of Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Director General of Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the Secretary General of Strategic Planning Council, Representatives of Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Local Governance and Civil Service, State Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Education, Women's Union, in addition to a representative for each acting organization at the state.

The new established committee will be in charge of the coordination between acting agencies and organizations in the scope of development and the state government for the purpose of strengthen the performance and avoiding duplication. The committee will also be in charge of encouraging experiences and information exchange, overcoming local component security obstructions, seeking foreign aid, and coordination among different governmental levels.

As a result of the establishment meeting, the committee's work plan has been approved. The latter consists of six (6) activities which are: Firstly, the official establishment of the committee as stated on the state's Governor's letter. The committee meetings are to be held regularly every three (3) months. Secondly, meetings of sectors committees are to be on the fifth (5th) day of every month. Thirdly, Sectors' annual

meetings are to be in the presence of the state's Governor and the committee's president for the purpose of evaluating previous year activities and declare the directions for the new one. Fourthly, coordinate among different governance levels.

Fifthly, coordinate for smooth flow of local component. Sixthly, seeking foreign aid through holding donors conferences for which the state represented by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs as in charge of the conference, shall coordinate with the state's Governor and other parties.

To conclude, we appreciate JICA's superior work in Blue Nile especially in the scopes of women and youth training and water.



G R E E T I N G S

By: Yuko Ido
HRD for Darfur and the Three Protocol Areas

First of all, we would like to express our deep sympathy towards people in South Kordofan State and to remain with our sincere prayers for as prompt stability as possible to be achieved in the State, so that people could be back to their normal lives in their communities peacefully. Needless to mention, our prayers are extended to peace and stability for all of the people in this great country.

Meanwhile, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for Sudanese people's understanding and support towards our daily operation and collaboration conducted within the framework of Japanese Official Development Aid here in the Republic of Sudan.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has implemented a Technical

Project on "Human Resources Development for Darfur and the Three Protocol Areas", based on an agreement between the Governments of Sudan and Japan since June 2009 for 3 years. This Project has aimed at improving the public access to better basic services in the fields of water, health and vocational training in the Darfur States, Blue Nile and South Kordofan States, which, we believe, would strengthen a basis for the mutual trust in this country.

We hope this newsletter would be a small platform not only for stakeholders involved in this humble Project, but also for everyone who is interested in our activities. All articles and greetings are written by our fellow counterparts and colleagues. Let us listen to them, and you are part of our Project family...

Thank you & Allah yubarik fikom!



JICA Experience

With: Hindia Omer Mohamed
Roseries Locality,
Blue Nile State



After she joined the three (3) weeks training course on dress-making conducted by Women's Union in Blue Nile state and Supported by UNDP/DDR Reintegration Unit in Demazin, Hindia Omer, a former teacher and combatant, shares her experience with the Project at Blue Nile state.

"I used to work as a teacher at Alsya Zaineb Elementary School for girls in Roseries Locality," says Hindia "I used to teach 1st to 3rd grade students the Arabic language and the mathematics." Hindia graduated as a teacher from The Training Institute for teachers in Madani, Gezira state. After weapons were taken up and the war took place, she was sent to receive military training and finally became a combatant. According to Hindia, during the war time the school was closed and they were living the gruesome fear of being attacked at any moment.

"You know the teacher income is quite limited and barely covers the basic needs for living" says Hindia. She considers JICA project as an opportunity to learn a craft that may support her life "It is my first time to deal with sewing and contrary to what I had expected; I found it an enjoyable profession."

However, although of her spirit, Hindia is now faced with an obstinate challenge: possessing a sewing machine. As she told, a good machine costs SDG 1,000 which is quite a high price for her, but she is optimistic about her chances getting one "I'm intending to buy a sewing machine before I forgot what I have learnt. Yes, the price of a sewing machine is 1,000 pounds, but with the support of my family and the almighty God; I hope to get it." She says.

From the Project

With: Abdelgader Babiker
HRD for Darfur and
the Three Protocol Areas



Abdelgader Babiker, the Coordinator of the Project, has been acting as a focal person in its administration since its start back in 2009. Babiker gives his observations on the Project. As he answers quietly and confidently, he comes forward for further details..

"This is a rather complicated and extensive project." that is how Babiker started his speech. "Or even we might be able to say that this is a 'program'" he adds. According to Babiker, the project has targeted five states of Darfur, South Kordfan, and Blue Nile, each of which is a war-affected area. The project covers four sectors; water, health, vocational training, and administration/management respectively.

Surprisingly, not only Hindia found sewing is interesting, but her family as well. "My family was watching me with great curiosity during every day of the training. After they saw my homework, it seemed like we have got a new baby at home and the whole family is taking care of it." She says.

About the training, Hindia has some comments regarding the training environment. To her, the training centre was very tight and uncomfortable during day time. "The steel structure makes the place very hot, which obliges us to leave the class for some time." Says Hindia

Finally, Hindia thanks the nation of Japan for the generosity and the attention paid by its people to them in Blue Nile state. "Last but not least, I would like to say thank you to all Japanese people for their generosity and attention to us and may Allah bless you..."

As a result, wider ministries and organizations are involved. "Coordinating with diverse people and organizations is not an easy task" he says.

Babiker believes that the Project has paved a basis for many people. "This sort of pilot programs is not only for JICA, but also for Sudanese side" he says. By taking into account the severe financial conditions, the State Governments have had a tendency to focus on infrastructure, not on capacities of service providers or responsible governmental staff. "But now, I am so happy to see the State Governments have started allocating and disbursing some budget for their pilot activities which will be beneficial for Sudanese citizens," says Babiker "including marginalized people too."

In his opinion, Babiker thinks through daily concrete activities which are resulted from the stages of studying, consulting, planning, implementing, and monitoring, all parties involved are collaborating with each other for one direction: building capacity development in order to strengthen mutual trust among people and the government. "I am so proud of working on my own country, the one that full of diversity and potentials" says Babiker "Believe me, we are working for future together."

From the Editor's Room:

Your daily activities and trials will be shared with our colleagues across the states and sectors!

Your contributions are most welcome..!

For further information, please contact the Project on HRD for Darfur and the Three Protocol Areas..