

SPEECH BY H.E. KAZUYA OGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR PEACE SUPPORT
OPERATIONS FOUNDATION COURSE AT RWANDA PEACE ACADEMY
ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2013

- Brigadier General Norbert Kalimba, Head of Peace Support Operation (PSO), today's Guest of Honor,
- Mr. Arthur Kamya, Representative of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Nairobi,
- Ms. Fridah Kibuko, Representing GIZ Nairobi,
- Colonel Jill Rutaremara, Director of Rwanda Peace Academy,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is my great honour to attend this opening ceremony for the “Peace Support Operations Foundation Course” organized by the Rwanda Peace Academy, RPA. I thank the Ministry of Defense and RPA's officials to have invited me to today's ceremony.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the opening ceremony and to commend GIZ for its support to the course. Please allow me to introduce you the reason I am here today. As you might already know, these premises were built by the funds from the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Program, UNDP in Rwanda. The project plan of establishing “RPA Training Facility” including Auditorium, Plenary room, E-library, Workshop rooms and so forth was approved in 2007 with a total budget of three million dollars. The project was finally completed the

end of last year, and various courses, such as “Gender, Leadership and Peace Building”, “Political Affairs Course” and “The Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers” have been already conducted at this location. I am very glad and proud of being here among you today to see that our support has contributed to enhance regional capacity for conflict prevention and management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan has been backing peace and social stability of Africa through TICAD process. TICAD stands for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. During the course of the TICAD process, the “Consolidation of Peace” was adopted as one of the important policy pillars of Japan’s assistance to Africa. The fifth conference of TICAD, called TICAD V, was held in Yokohama in June 1st to 3rd this year which His Excellency President Paul Kagame attended and addressed African peace and stability as well as various challenges in African development.

In the TICAD V, the “Yokohama Action Plan” was agreed upon and spelled out goals to be achieved for the next five years. As for the measure of “Consolidating Peace, Stability, Democracy and Good Governance” in the Action Plan, the Government of Japan and the other partners of TICAD process set several outcome targets. Among others, the Government of Japan is committed to strengthen human resources development especially for peace building and to train three thousand people for peace building through the Peacekeeping Operations training centers.

In addition to the commitment of TICAD process, Japan is also contributing a peacekeeping mission to South Sudan since January 2012, sending more than 300 peace keepers for the support of nation building mainly in infrastructure such as water supply and road building. I heard that the Japanese peacekeeping mission had cooperated with other countries' missions including Rwanda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan appreciates the continuous efforts for peace and security in the region including Eastern Africa Standby Force. I am sure the RPA will play a vital role for further development of the regional and sub-regional capacity for conflict prevention, management, resolution, post-conflict recovery and peace building, by drawing on Rwanda's extensive experience in peace building and international best practices. Moreover, I hope international community will also keep supporting RPA, like GIZ is doing this time, for further promotion of the objectives of RPA.

Lastly, I would like to commend you all once again for a good collaboration and organization of today's course. It is a great pleasure for us to witness successful implementation of the activities in RPA. I strongly hope that the two weeks course will be very fruitful for all participants.

Thank you for your attention.