

Speech by Mr. Tomio Sakamoto, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim at the Embassy of Japan, on the Occasion of the Opening Ceremony for Peace Support Operations Logistics Course at Rwanda Peace Academy on 31st August 2015

- Brigadier General Andrew Rwigamba, Director General of Foreign Military Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Defense,
- Mr. Lamin Manneh, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative,
- Mr. Eugene Methode Ruzindana, Director of Training, 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 (PSO) Logistics Course” organized by the Rwanda Peace Academy, RPA. I thank the Ministry of Defense and RPA to have invited me to today's ceremony.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the opening ceremony. As you may know, this course is conducted by the funds from the Government of Japan through UNDP Rwanda. In addition to this training course, Japan's assistance this time in the amount of 537 thousand USD would be utilized for such activities as conducting five more training courses, developing a Five – Year Strategic Plan for RPA, and enhancing capacity of RPA to conduct research

and to plan through recruitment of a Senior Researcher and Strategic Advisor.

On top of this assistance I just mentioned, in 2008, the Government of Japan extended assistance to RPA to establish training facilities including Auditorium, Plenary room, E-library, Workshop rooms. I am very glad to be 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. Since 2008, the Government of Japan has provided more than 39 million USD to support 13 PKO training centers in Africa including RPA.

Furthermore, in the “Yokohama Action Plan,” which was agreed upon in the TICAD V which was held in June 2013 in Yokohama, Japan, the Government of Japan committed to strengthen human resource development especially for peace building and to train three thousand people for peace building through the Peacekeeping Operations training centers. The support which is extended to RPA would contribute to achieving this commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan appreciates the continuous efforts for peace and security in the region including Eastern Africa Standby Force. I am sure 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 the international community will also keep supporting RPA for further promotion of its objectives.

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

Thank you for your attention.

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