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the People of Japan

# Joint Press Release

*For immediate release*



## UNITAR and Government of Japan launch Fourth UNITAR Entrepreneurship and Project Planning Training Programme in South Sudan

7 March 2018, Juba, Republic of South Sudan – The United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office and the Embassy of Japan in South Sudan are pleased to announce the launch of the fourth cycle of the UNITAR Hiroshima South Sudan Fellowship on Entrepreneurship and Project Planning (hereafter “the programme”). Focusing on project planning, leadership and entrepreneurship skills, the six-month specialized capacity-building training programme offers scholarship to 20 South Sudanese Fellows from the public sector, private sector, academic institutions, and civil society.

Designed for junior- to mid-career-level South Sudanese professionals, the programme offers four workshops: two in Juba, and two international. Each workshop will be linked by training modules and participant-led projects focused on addressing contemporary issues in South Sudan. As Africa’s newest nation, South Sudan faces several challenges to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity. The programme will build the local capacity of the South Sudanese people to counter these challenges and support the sustainable development and recovery of South Sudan.

On 5 March 2018, a Commencement Ceremony was held in Juba to launch the 2018 Cycle, as well as to conclude the 2017 Cycle of the programme. A number of key guests attended the ceremony alongside 64 alumni of the programme. Three selected Fellows presented on the projects they have

developed through the programme, showcasing the relevance and the impact of the training. The Commencement Ceremony also served for alumni from the 2015 to 2017 Cycles to build friendships and to work together for a common goal, which is to create a better future for South Sudan.

Honorary Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Amb. Baak Valentino Wol, stated, “We are grateful to the Government and people of Japan for their support to the people of South Sudan through this Fellowship Programme. We believe that capacity building will lead to job creation, as well as enabling participants to develop key skills such as needs assessment, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and to become experts and professionals in their areas of work and service.”

“The importance of this training lies in that it targets young people from diverse backgrounds, who have the potential to contribute to the development of South Sudan utilizing skills and competencies acquired throughout the programme. We value friendship and partnership with the people of Japan and UNITAR Hiroshima Office through this training programme,” said Honorary Dr. John Gai Yoh, Presidential Advisor on Education Affairs and Chairman, Board of Directors, the Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS), Republic of South Sudan.

H.E. Seiji Okada, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, noted, “I am happy to see that many participants of the UNITAR programme successfully completed its training, because we believe building the capacity of people is very important for the future prosperity of South Sudan, its economy, and society. Last month, the Government of Japan approved new assistance package of \$34 million US dollars, which includes a new round of the UNITAR programme for fiscal year 2018-2019. The Government of Japan continues to provide humanitarian assistance, capacity building, and other forms of development assistance, so that we can support the people of South Sudan in a balanced manner, based on their needs.”

“The UNITAR training for South Sudan has entered its fourth year. A total of 64 junior- to mid-level professionals, of which 30 are women, have been trained to become effective project managers, leaders, and change agents. We are excited to see the alumni growing and active in diverse sectors in South Sudan,” said Mihoko Kumamoto, Head of UNITAR Hiroshima Office.

The programme is being coordinated with the support of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is the political focal point for the programme and the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources Development is the operational focal point.

## About UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a principal training arm of the United Nations, working in every region of the world. We empower individuals, governments and organizations through knowledge and learning to effectively overcome contemporary global challenges.

The UNITAR Hiroshima Office, mandated to promote post-conflict reconstruction and international peace, has long engaged in designing and conducting training for people from post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan and Iraq, now commanding a unique understanding of the needs of such trainees as they work toward peace.

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