



The members of the first dispatch left from Narita to Sudan today. (from left; Mr. Yamamoto, Ms. Ando, Ms. Tsuyada, Mr. Takegaawa, and Mr. Tatewaki)

Amid Christmas mood they have left earlier than others in order to set up headquarters in Juba.

The main body of the Japan Referendum Observation Mission will be departing on 31 January. This Diary will update their activities in the field.

Look forward!

Reported by Mr. Umemoto, PKO Secretariat

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We have left Narita airport on 23 December and made two transits in Amsterdam and Nairobi before arriving at Juba on 24 December. It was such a drastic change from the White Christmas in Amsterdam to heated sun-shine in Juba.

Today, we put ourselves on work, but the day falls on Christmas which is the most important day for Christians. Thus, some of us headed to the Church of Nuer tribe at 8 am in the morning to listen to the preach. At the occasion the Priest encouraged the congregation to participate in the upcoming referendum scheduled on 9-15 January 2011.



The remaining members who did not go to the church stayed at the hotel setting up our Juba headquarters. The work continued even after the members returned from the church.



In the afternoon, we divided into two teams to visit some voting centers. We took a picture with children who dressed up for Christmas. Look at their smiley faces!

Reported by Ms. Ando



Breakfast at the hotel we are staying. The chef has once worked at a Japanese restaurant in Nairobi and can serve us a great Japanese meal if ordered. It may be a bit greasy for the morning, but this gives us enough energy for carrying out our duties under the hardship of the field.

Reported by Mr. Takegawa



This is how we work. Every day, we gather information from those officials and staff who are concerned with the referendum. We then prepare reports upon our return to the headquarters and work until late in the evening. We will spare no effort in supporting free and fair referendum in Southern Sudan.

Reported by Mr. Takegawa



The members of the first dispatch divided into two teams today in order to visit some voting centers in Juba. The visits were made on the basis of the list where the voters' registration had previously taken place. Juggling a mobile phone, a satellite phone, and a radio transceiver, we continuously checked the function of these communication tools during our visit.

No one was at sight at the voting centers we visited today. Most of the centers are merely under the mango tree or make-up shifts which barely stand up. Villagers from a neighborhood told us that the center was then flooded by full of people making a line for voting registration. Imagine. You feel the exciting heat on your skin.

Reported by Mr. Tatewaki



Combining with the visit to voting centers, we have also visited a location where the training was being taken place for those who will be involved in the referendum. The training lasts two days under the support from the United Nations and it contains lessons on how to check the required documents, how to prepare necessary tools at the centers, and some important points to bear in mind during the referendum period.

Their serious reminded me that the referendum is approaching. Their cheerful welcome to “the team that came all the way from Japan” made every one of us happy.

We saw White Nile on our way back to the hotel. The river flew with full of water and its shore is covered with the big-stemmed woods.

Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> day since we made the first footprint on the land of Juba. The scene of the river was such a striking contrast with the town filled with dust and garbage, and I had to let the car stop so that I enjoyed the moment.



Reported by Ms. Tsuyada