



Today, we will introduce you the people of Sudan and how a market in the town looks like.

One day while we were making a check for our vehicle, we found ourselves surrounded by the villagers. Apparently a local festival was on and the team was received with a warm welcome. As the day passes in the field, our fatigue may reach at its peak, their smiles always blow it off!



We also visited KonyoKonyo Market in Juba. A funny name, isn't it? It is a quite lively market and full of people and goods. A member of the team bought a beautiful accessory. Why don't you visit there when you come around? (But be mindful for night security...)

Reported by Mr. Takegawa

Today it marks the 6th day of voting. Things are seemingly going well. Those who could not come earlier are now appearing at the voting centers to cast their votes.



Although it may seem no problem, some incidents have occurred. Look at this registration card. The holder was burned by accident. What shall he do?



There are also some ballot papers which are considered invalid as they have been erroneously marked.

Here, somebody mistakenly left his fingerprint upon the stamp of the referendum committee. How enthusiastic! These invalid ballot papers are of course replaced with new blank ones so voters can vote in a correct manner.



And finally, a cases like this! Although it's not his fault, he is too tall to cover himself. People around him are all nice and considerate enough to look some other direction so that he can keep his choice by himself.



(Interviewing the voters is like looking up the sky!)



Tomorrow is the final day of voting. The day after tomorrow the ballot counting will start.

Reported by Mr. Tatewaki and Ms. Ogawa

No. 23 Special Report – Wildlife

Sudan was once abundant in wild animals such as elephants, giraffes, lions and hippopotamus, but due to the internal conflict, many of them have either been killed or left the homeland and sought refuge in neighboring countries. As peace gradually prevails, they are seemingly coming back. Hope Sudan becomes the Sudan-once-to-be as soon as possible so that they can lead a relaxed life.

In its hope, today, we will contribute this issue to them, wild animals in Sudan.



First of all, cows come to the front line of South Sudan. A big white one like this costs some 1,500 pounds or equivalent to some USD 500.

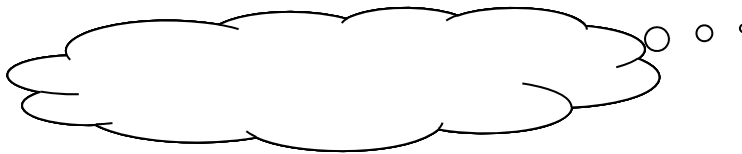
And quite often encountered are goats and sheep. Can you tell which one is which? You can tell goat with its upward tail and sheep with downward tail. Goats come in different marks and colors.



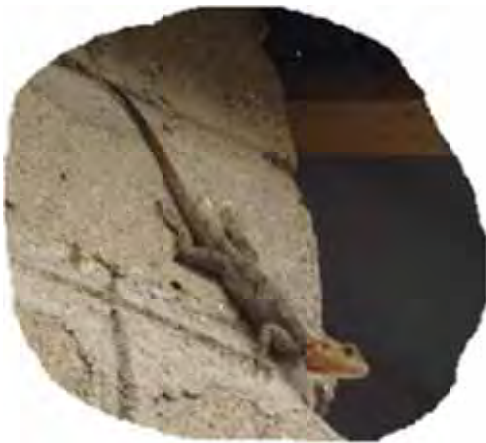
Doggies are coping well with the heat in Southern Sudan.



Sometimes you will find even a dog waiting his turn to vote.



You will see lizards here and there...



Wow! "So-called Uribo(Japanese name for a young wild boar)" !!

(Don't dare to eat me!)



Here! Sudan version of Neko-Nabe(cat in a pan) !!!

Reported by Ms. Watanabe

No. 24 15 January 2011

Today we finally reach the last day of voting which lasted 7 days.



Here at a voting center on the outskirts of Juba, the last voter casted his ballot with a smily face at exactly 6 pm – the time of closure.



The ballot counting will start either tonight or tomorrow morning latest. Depending on the voting centers, the counting takes full one day and one night.

Unity? Or Secession? Ballot papers are being awaited for counting work.

Reported by Mr. Watanabe

No. 25 16 January 2011

Soon the mission will be concluded which started on 24 December 2010 for the first dispatch and 1 January 2011 for the rest of team members.

The voting has been closed yesterday and the ballot counting has been started immediately at many voting centers. Some centers could not finish the counting until 3 o'clock in the morning, and many staffs look exhausted. Our local drivers and assistants who have been working tirelessly for the mission are also exhausted.



(Group photo, some 30 people)



(Team member of Group D together with their assistant and driver)

We have thrown this evening a party to acknowledge the contribution of our assistants and drivers. We appreciate their commitment as they work almost all days with us from early in the morning till late in the evening.

Reported by Ms. Terawaki