



Today, we have been to Rokon, two-hour-ride from Juba. We checked the road condition, security and safety situation as well as the locations of voting centers.

The way was bumping at times, but all and all the ride was OK. The security situation was rather calm. Upon arriving, we have received a warm welcome from the villagers who provided us with information upon the numbers of registered voters and the local security situation.



Some part of the road to Rokon indeed comes a bit narrow and not necessarily friendly with the presence of landmines on the roadsides.



GPS helped us to record the exact location of the voting centers. Also we constantly kept notes on the useful information regarding voting centers and registered voters so that to utilize them at the later stage.

Reported by Mr. Yamamoto

No.7 30 December 2010



Here is the supper prepared at the hotel we are staying. Today's menu is the BBQ of the week. It is nicer than ordinary supper. Some meats may have not yet well cooked, but do not worry as I could not see it due to dim light. Will get stomach upset tomorrow again? Do not worry, I am well prepared for that and just take pills to cure it.



This is a village located outskirts of Juba. This traditional housing is at the common sight once stepping out from Juba town. With the limited transport, I am sure many people will spend hours on road in order to reach the nearest voting center to cast their vote.

Reported by Mr. Takegawa



Time always passes quickly. Now a week has passed already since we have arrived. Today, we made a visit to the voting centers in Lokiliri area towards Nimule, a village bordering Uganda. The condition of the main road that connects Juba – Nimule is not bad, although it is not paved. The project to pave this road is currently underway by a Turkish constructing company funded by USAID.

Passing Njerjebi, a villager, coming to know that we are from Japan to observe the upcoming referendum, talked to the village leader who provided us with a guide. Thanks to the guide we restarted our way to the voting centers. After we departed from the main road as the guide indicated, the way became narrower and narrower.... Two vehicles made its way slowly maintaining a good distance just for precaution, as we saw an UXO near the remains of a vehicle which was left behind from the conflict.



The road became narrower in the end to the extent that only one car could pass. Although we still continued our way as we hesitated to make a U-turn, in the end, we had to do so as we apparently reached the end of the road.



Today is the last day of 2010. Returning from Lokiliri we got a permission from the hotel to use their kitchen and made Soba noodle to mark the day with the staff members from the Japanese Embassy who came to help us from Khartoum.

Reported by Ms. Ando



Here we introduce our remaining ten members of the Japan Referendum Observation Mission in Sudan. From left: Mr. Adachi, Mr. Kawanishi, Mr. Ishii (Team Leader), Mr. Yamada, Mr. Yamano, Dr. Kurimoto, Ms. Terawaki, Ms. Watanabe, Ms. Ogawa and Mr. Watanabe.

While the first dispatch of the team left amid the Christmas mood, the departure this time was amid the New Year mood. Although we had officially observed the closing the office business for the year, the members led by the Team Leader Ishii, has left for Sudan without really immersing themselves in the New Year mood.

Despite some of the members of the first dispatch have experienced sick feeling, in general, they are actively performing their tasks till now. They will soon be joined by the 10 more members to become a full-fledged team and their activities will be at full-throttle.

As noticed in our daily reporting arrived from the field, landmines and UXO still remain underground. The working condition is tough. Give it your best!!

Reported by Mr. Umemoto, PKO Secretariat



A happy new year!

The five members of the Japan Referendum Observation Mission have joined today and now we are 10 in Juba. Yet another five members including our Team Leader haven't arrived at Khartoum. All the 15 members of the Japan Referendum Observation Mission are now in Sudan and on the ground.



The first day of the year is also the Independence Day for Sudan. We thus see many people in formal attire walking towards to the church from the morning. After the meeting, we celebrated the New Year with Ozo-ni and vacuum-packed Osechi arranged by the staff from the Japanese Embassy. We made a toast to cheering ourselves for the referendum observation.

Reported by Mr. Tatewaki