

18th UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme

Thank you Speech by a Representative of the Participants

Mr. Akuei Mayuen Deng DUT*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Protocol Observed, Good evening,

I am honored to stand before you tonight to say a few words of thanks and appreciation to our host, the government and people of Japan in general and UNAFEI, JICA, and ACPF in particular.

This privilege and honour of being here today started a way back in our respective home countries when each one of us received a generous hand of sponsorship from JICA to attend this prestigious training at such a globally highly regarded institution, UNAFEI. We understand JICA is a public agency funded through Japanese tax payers' money.

In appreciation of this generous gesture of good will we would like to express our profound vote of thanks and gratefulness to the JICA offices in our respective countries and to the JICA head office here in Japan. And through the JICA head office we wish to as well thank the government and people of Japan for their unwavering commitment and support to the development of our countries. We assure you: JICA, the government and people of Japan, we assure you that this investment in our knowledge and skills will be put to good use, the development of our respective countries and hopefully the development of humankind in general.

Upon our arrival the good gesture of JICA was given yet another enriching dimension by well thought out and tireless efforts of UNAFEI's wise leadership, distinguished Professors and

*Director General, Investigations and Legal Services, South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission

kind, supportive staff. As a matter of fact, every component of the Training was well planned and calculated to make our learning experience and indeed our stay in Japan enjoyable and exiting.

The course brought together different jurisdictions, nineteen countries in total. These countries are represented by a wide shade of criminal justice practitioners ranging from honourable judges, prosecutors and an array of law enforcement agencies including, among others, police and anticorruption authorities. This wide ranging representation has enriched discussion and knowledge sharing. It was indeed a well thought out plan to explore different angles of knowledge and practice for combating corruption.

Visiting Experts were procured to share their extensive knowledge and experience with the participants. This, in our view, added an especially valuable seasoning and dressing to the programme. All the visiting experts were carefully selected, and the topics of their presentations gave a holistic dimension and broadened understanding of the training theme.

In a show of warm and generous hospitality to the participants, we were on many occasions treated to lavish and blissful reception parties by ACPF. Memories drawn from these reception parties will linger in our memories for a very long time, I believe.

This is so not only because of the nice catering and the luxurious, refined surroundings in which these parties were always held, but the warmth and spirit of the reception spoke volumes of the level of kindness of ACPF members and indeed the Japanese people.

It was specifically quite impressive and inspiring to see senior citizens and dignitaries of the society dedicating their resources and precious time in championing an important public affair such

as crime prevention. We are indebted to you for the profound show of kindness and true leadership. We wish you all the very best in your good endeavours.

Our Japanese colleagues as well have done their part in ensuring that we don't feel lonely or bored. They have gone a step further to let us enjoy the feel of Japanese blessings, culture and beauty. Colleagues, we are grateful for your good work.

We are grateful and thankful to you all, and specifically we are grateful to the Programming Officer, Professor Hirose, and his team for leaving no stone unturned to make sure that the participants were well looked after.

Because of your kindness and generosity, we will not be going home only with the few kilos of weight that we gained during our stay here, but more importantly we will carry along with us the valuable knowledge and experience your imparted on us. We are looking forward to invest this in our systems and colleagues.

Last but not least allow me to salute the people of this great country, Japan, for their ardent, resilient and determined personality. Hearing or reading about the nuclear devastation that befell Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 is one thing and coming into direct contact with that history through visiting the sites and meeting a survivor, is quite another. The harrowing tale by the survivor and the gruesome pictures of the immediate aftermath's devastation of the atomic blast were horrific to say the least. Yet the city and the people of Japan remained strong and managed to emerge from this. Seeing the pictures of the city and how the development was picking up pace just few years after the catastrophe, speak volumes of the greatness of this nation. Quite remarkably, from the surviving victims to the ordinary citizen you feel reconciliation has a strong hold on their hearts and

souls. All in this great city, Hiroshima, seem to be sending one clear and loud message of peace and harmony.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Japan in general and the victims of the atomic bomb in particular. It is our sincere wish that the list of the names of the victims that keeps growing shall stop from doing so and that Japan and indeed humanity will never see such a horrific abomination again.

On a positive note, our visit to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, was soul lifting. We came to understand that choosing Kyoto to be the cradle of global action on the environmental "Kyoto Protocol" was not arbitrary. Although our visit to Kyoto was short, we were able to appreciate the beauty of the city with its iconic shrines and temples of great religions, Shinto and Buddhism, living side by side in a remarkable harmony befitting the people of God.

On our way back to our respective countries, we shall be laden with many good things we acquired here in Japan: knowledge and experience; friendships we have forged among ourselves; aspects of the rich culture of the Japanese people as well as souvenirs we bought for ourselves and our loved ones. We wholeheartedly thank all of you for affording us the opportunity and making our time in Japan enjoyable and fruitful. It is our sincere wish that we equally have left something memorable behind. Specifically, we hope we have managed to positively contribute to knowledge co-creation, the ultimate objective of this Programme.

Once more thank you all for your support during our stay in Japan. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

And on a personal note I wish our Japanese colleagues well in their stay and in a special way I wish each and every overseas colleague a safe journey back home and a very good luck in his/ her public and private life.

Thank you very much for your patience.