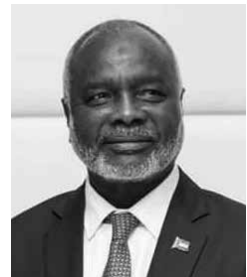


Unlocking Sudan's Potential: A Call for Strategic Cooperation with Japan in Agriculture and Investment



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At the opening of my short article, I would like to thank the Japanese people for their very kind treatment during my study in Japan at their expense. I hope their investment in me has not turned out to be a waste.

Breadbasket of Africa and beyond

As far as natural resources are concerned, my country, Sudan, is one of the richest on earth. Area-wise, Sudan is the third-biggest country in Africa, with an area of over 1.887 million square kilometers. It has over 88 million hectares of arable land, of which less than one quarter is under poor cultivation. It enjoys a rainfall of 200mm on average and has one of the largest under-service water reserves. The River Nile and its several tributaries cover a vast swath of the country. In addition to its potential capabilities, Sudan has one of the largest animal populations in Africa. This makes her the country with the highest potential to be the breadbasket of Africa and beyond. With the right investments and strategic planning, Sudan has the potential for significant economic development and infrastructure improvement, offering a promising future for investors.



Center Pivot Irrigation



Wheat Combine Harvesters

Mining Potential

Notably, Sudan is not just rich in agricultural potential, but also in a variety of minerals. With proper organization, Sudan is poised to become a leading producer of gold. The country also boasts substantial reserves of oil and natural gas, both on land and offshore. Much of its land remains untapped, making



Petroleum Derivatives Industry

it a treasure trove of resources for potential investors.

Strategic Location

Adding to its allure, Sudan is strategically located in the heart of Africa, with a Red Sea coast spanning 780 km. This prime location positions Sudan as a vital bridge between Africa and the Middle East, serving as a gateway for the exports and imports of the four landlocked countries surrounding it and beyond. With the recent shift towards East-West trade and its extensive access to the Red Sea coast, Sudan's location has become increasingly strategic.



To Attract Foreign Investment

Despite all these endowments and advantages, Sudan is still one of the poorest countries in the world. Its continued wars have prevented the country from

exploiting its potential and making significant strides towards economic development and affluence. Imminent stability, sustainable peace, and substantial investments in infrastructure and human capital are necessary to unlock these advancements.

To attract foreign investors, Sudan enacted one of the best investment codes in the region, which is now under review to make it the most attractive. Further, Sudan passed a public-private partnership law facilitating partnerships between the public sector and domestic or international entrepreneurs. The country also passed an electricity law that allows the private sector to generate electricity and sell part of its excess power to the public sector.

Together with Japanese Companies

As a result of the fact that Sudan does not have the financial resources to meet the enormous capital infrastructure requirements, the country is looking for partners who are ready to invest on a Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) basis. Japan, with its clean history with Africa and its invaluable contributions to the development of essential services such as drinking water, sanitation, and health services through its international cooperation arm (JICA), in addition to its unmatched reputation in dexterity and quality control, is an attractive partner that Sudan wholeheartedly wants. Though Sudan might look geographically remote to the Japanese people, the expected returns from investments in Sudan can rarely be matched. Africa is the strategic store of the world that has not been touched, and Sudan represents the heart of that store. The Sudanese who have been privileged to have been educated or trained in Japan are ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to remove any obstacles that impede current or future Japanese in Sudan. 🍀

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