

UNITAR organizes five day capacity Building training



UNITAR Head Mihoko Kumamoto, Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin and other Officials

By Daniel Majack Kuany

United Nations Institute for Training and Research [UNITAR] organized a five days' workshop that started on Monday at Juba Regency Hotel-Juba. Mihoko Kumamoto, UNITAR Head, Hiroshima Japan office and South Sudan, said UNITAR South Sudan is a project development and implementation fellowship programme which is a five months-long initiative being undertaken with the support of the government of Japan and United Nations Development Program [UNDP] in collaboration with the government of South Sudan through two lines ministries of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development and Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Mihoko Kumamoto said the project brought 20 fellow participants through competitive selection process from 15 Ministries, giving each ministry one, one from Juba City Council, four from Civil Society Organizations and five from Non-governmental Organizations [NGOs]. She noted that among the 20 fellows, eight are women from these various ministries and organizations.

Kumamoto pointed out that the programme aims to directly impact the knowledge, skills and attitudes by offering three work-

shops- two in Juba, and one in Hiroshima in Japan only to South Sudanese professionals in both the Public Sector and Civil Society Organizations. She highlighted that each workshop will be linked by training modules and participant-led projects.

The opening Session of the training was graced by Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the Minister of foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the attendance included the Japanese Ambassador to Juba, Masahiko Kiya, UNDP country Director, Balazes Horvath and, Ambassador Alier Deng Ruai the Undersecretary Ministry of Cabinet Affairs among others.

UNITAR boss said the training main purpose is to promote indigenous capacity development and ownership as well as to build professionalism. Barnaba Marial Benjamin expressed his happiness to UNITAR for considering gender equality when selecting the participants.

He argued that it is the role of civil servants to be mindful of how they constitute the establishment of capacity building for all.

"For us to continue and precept, we have to encourage gender equality in our country so that South Sudan, without educating our women, we can never go

ahead," said Marial.

Meanwhile Japanese Ambassador, Massahiko Kiya said he is very pleased to witness the launching of UNITAR first Training Projects that is supported by Japan Government and United Nations Development Program [UNDP]. He said he believes that the project is very important for South Sudan as a young country with aspirations and good vision to establish strong institutions that can be built by good leaders.

Ambassador Kiya believes the program will bring good opportunities for many young South Sudanese to have a look at Hiroshima [Japan] and see how a devastated place can be developed tremendously with in years.

"I believe this program will train and create the key national change agent like Hiroshima would like to develop. I hope the selected South Sudanese fellows will be a hope for all South Sudanese and will acquire skills to shape the peace through this program," Ambassador Kiya told participants. The five months-long initiative that is supported by UNDP and Japan Government will focus on key strategic pillars, namely Peace Building, disarmament, human security and building capacity with the intention of sustaining peace.