

JAPAN HANDS OVER VEHICLES AND TRAINING FACILITY TO THE SA PEACEKEEPERS

6 August 2014

The vehicles and training facility to be utilized at the South African National Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTC) for which the Japanese Government funded through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were officially handed over to the South African National Defence Force at the PMTC facility in Thaba Tshwane near Pretoria on 4 August 2014.

The handing-over ceremony coincided with the visit by Hon Minoru Kihara, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense, and the vehicles and training facility were handed over to his counterpart Hon Kebby Maphatsoe, Deputy Minister of Defense and Military Veterans. Ambassador Yutaka Yoshizawa of Japan, Mr. Walid Badawi Country Director of UNDP South Africa and other senior SANDF officials were among the participants of the ceremony.



In the ceremony Vice-Minister Kihara said “Africa’s peace and stability is directly linked to those of the entire international community” and reiterated the significance of South African contributions to the peace missions across the continent.

The PMTC was established in Pretoria in 2007 to provide necessary education and training to military, police and other civilian personnel in fulfilling their activities in peace missions abroad. Japan, in collaboration with the UNDP, has so far contributed 1 million US dollars to the PMTC for facility upgrades and vehicles, as well as the dispatch of a lecturer from the Japanese Self-Defense Force to one of the centre’s training courses.

Japan has sent a resident defence attaché to Pretoria in July this year, for its first in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim of promoting further exchanges between the two militaries. //