

Japan and FDRE-PSTC co-organize Conflict Management Course

On 13 June 2015, the Government of Japan, together with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Peace Support Training Centre (FDRE-PSTC), held an Opening Ceremony for a Conflict Management Course, which they co-organized, at the Nexus Hotel. This 14-day course (13 to 28 June) is the second course of the FDRE-PSTC, which uses its own course curriculum, and focuses on the components of Protection of Civilians, International Humanitarian Law, Civil-Military Cooperation and Early Recovery. High ranking military officials from 6 countries, namely Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia will also participate in this course as students.

In his opening remarks on 13 June, Colonel Mr. Toshihiko Nishimura, Defense Attaché of Japan to Ethiopia expressed his belief that the Conflict Management Course will benefit the realization of not only an improvement in the capacity of regional Peacekeeping Operation troops, but also the concept of an African Standby Force.

Emphasizing Japan's declaration to be a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013, Colonel Nishimura reiterated his country's proactive cooperation to maintain international peace and security. "To follow up this agenda more specifically, last year he [Prime Minister Abe] announced at the 'Strengthening International Peace Operations' Summit on September 26 on the margins of the UNGA that, in response to the need for the rapid deployment of PKOs, especially in Africa, Japan is prepared to provide engineering equipment in Africa through the Trust Fund at the United Nations as well as training in operating these machines effectively", Colonel Nishimura said.

Commending Ethiopia's role in the field of peace and security in both in Africa and in the world, Colonel Nishimura recalled the establishment of the FDRE-PSTC by Ethiopia in 2010 to enhance the regional standby capacity of military, police and civilian experts for peacekeeping and peace-building missions.

Since 2012, Japan has supported the establishment of the FDRE-PSTC by providing USD 940,000 for the construction of the Centre's theatre building, the development of the curriculum for courses, and for technical cooperation through the assignment of a Japan Self-Defense Force official to the FDRE-PSTC.

The curriculum for this course was designed by the above-mentioned Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mr. Norihisa Urakami, who is also the International Consultant in charge of curriculum development at the FDRE-PSTC.

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