

Remarks at the Inauguration Ceremony for “The Project for Expansion of Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Delhi”

9th May, 2016, 11:00 am, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

- Mr. Mukesh Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Dr. Shyama Chona, President, Tamana
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Introduction)

- It is a great pleasure for me to be able to participate in today’s ceremony for handing over the vocational training facilities to Tamana, through Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (GGP) scheme of the Government of Japan.
- I would like to offer, on behalf of the Government and People of Japan, our sincere congratulations on the successful completion of the construction, and to express our deep appreciation for all the efforts put in by Tamana, as well as all those involved in this endeavor for making this project a reality. These facilities will greatly benefit the persons with disability.

(Overview for Support to Persons with Disabilities and situation in Japan)

- To support vulnerable persons including those with disabilities is a priority policy in Japan. We also put effort to support persons with disabilities to make them independent. In order to attain their self-dependence, it is important to create a conducive environment in the society and simultaneously enhance opportunities for skill training and employment. Thus, under Japanese law, 2% of the entire staff should comprise of persons with disabilities, even in private companies. Moreover, Japanese government is promoting to establish vocational training centers and is entrusting private companies and NGO’s for formulating vocational training courses.
- We are also supporting the persons with disabilities through our Official Development Assistance Projects. I am pleased to be associated with Tamana in this project which is to expand opportunity of vocational training for disabled people.

(Tamana's Activities and the GGP Projects)

- Tamana has been commendably undertaking the cause of the children suffering from intellectual disabilities ever since its inception in 1984 and provides rehabilitation services for the mentally challenged and autistic children through education, therapy, vocational training facilities in Delhi.
- I must also mention here that in the year 2014 Japan's First Lady Mrs. Akie Abe visited the School of Hope to witness the activities of Tamana and she took back fond memories of her experience and interaction with these children.
- This is our second opportunity to be associated with Tamana through the GGP Scheme which extends financial assistance to non-profit organizations for undertaking development work at the community level.
- The new project signed in March 2015 with the grant amount of around 81,600 (eighty one thousand six hundred) USD, approximately 51 (fifty one) lakh rupees, is for setting up 2 prefab structures and a bakery unit in this center. These new facilities will not only add to the number of beneficiaries but will also be used to train the students in new skills like textile work, pottery and baking. I would like to commend the visionary leadership of Dr. Shayama Chona, the senior management and other members of Tamana, for bringing this project to its successful completion. This will leave a lasting impact on the society

(Closing)

- In closing, allow me to express sincere hope of the Government and people of Japan that the facility will be put into effective use for as long a period as possible. This project will serve as the symbol of goodwill and friendly relations between the people of Japan and India. Congratulations once again, and thank you very much for your attention.

Dhanyawaad