

NEWS FROM JAPAN

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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Two New Grassroots Grant Assistance Projects to be signed in the amount of 16 million Yen

The signing ceremony of two new Grant Contracts for “The Project for Supply of Eye Surgical Equipment for Underprivileged Patients in Delhi” and “The Project for Construction of a Vocational Training Center for the Poor Women in Kamrup, Assam”, under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP), will be held on 15th March 2016, at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi.

In this ceremony, Grant Contracts for the projects will be signed between H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, and the representatives of the respective recipient organizations.

The Government of Japan offers a financial assistance scheme called “the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)” for development projects designed to meet the diverse basic human needs of the people in developing countries. Since 1989, the scheme has been supporting relatively small-scaled

projects implemented by non-profit organizations such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), educational and medical institutions, through Japanese diplomatic missions in developing countries.

The total amount of the two projects to be signed at this ceremony is around 16 million Yen. Details of each project are as follows:

1. “The Project for Supply of Eye Surgical Equipment for Underprivileged Patients in Delhi” (Recipient Organization: Venu Charitable Society)

This project, the amount of which totals 6 million Yen, will support the purchase of eye surgical equipment for treating key eye ailments of underprivileged people, by a hospital located in Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi.

In India, one of the cases of blindness is caused by curable diseases which go untreated due to inaccessibility to medical care. Majority of people needing eye care live in rural areas, whereas most of the eye care facilities are available in urban areas. Being poor, their inability to access quality eye care acts as an impediment.

Venu Charitable Society, the recipient organization of this project, established in 1980, is running a total of 14 eye medical centers spread across 4 states, along with a hospital in New Delhi. The organization is facing an acute need to enhance and upgrade its clinical diagnostic and surgical facilities, given the increasing number of patients - especially of the unprivileged, for whom it offers surgeries at free of cost.

This project, through the purchase of 5 operating microscopes, will help in efficiently delivering appropriate eye care to a larger section of economically disadvantaged population, and will contribute to facilitate the quality of life of 8,300 people per year for weaker sections of the society.

2. “The Project for Construction of a Vocational Training Center for the Poor Women in Kamrup, Assam” (Recipient Organization: Assam Centre for Rural Development)

This project, the amount of which totals around 10 million Yen, aims to construct a vocational training center for adolescent girls and women in Kamrup, Assam.

In Assam, there is limited scope of job opportunities in the public and private sectors, due to factors such as remoteness and poor infrastructure. Owing to poverty, most of the girls stop going to school. Also, women in the area have limited access to resources and, being uneducated, they have no income in the rural areas.

Assam Centre for Rural Development, the recipient organization of this project, was established in 1995 and has been implementing several poverty alleviation programs for the upliftment of the masses. They undertake support for the disabled, as well as women's empowerment and income, and rehabilitation for trafficked victims, etc., with the aim to facilitate and strengthen the rural disadvantaged people and provide alternative livelihood opportunities. However, they presently have no vocational training spaces for women, and they cannot meet the growing needs of training for the rural women.

The new vocational training center, which will be constructed under this project, will enable the organization to deliver skill development training to 100 women per year and help them become economically and socially independent.

The Government of Japan hopes that the above two new grassroots grant assistance projects will improve the quality of living of the people in the project

areas, and will further develop the friendly and cooperative relationship between Japan and India.

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