

# NEWS FROM JAPAN

## EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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### **Four Grant Assistance Projects for Bhutan to be signed in the amount of 991 million Yen**

The signing ceremony of documents for four grant assistance projects under Japan's ODA scheme, namely, the Exchange of Notes (E/N) for "The Project for Improvement of Machinery and Equipment for Construction of Rural Agricultural Road (Phase 3)", as well as Grant Contracts (G/Cs) for "The Project for Provision of Patrol Cars to Community Police Centers in Paro, Wangduephodrang and Trashigang", "The Project for Installation of Safe Water Supply System in Samthang, Wangduephodrang" and "The Project for the Construction of RNR Centre for Subtropical Horticulture Development in Panbhang, Zhemgang" will be held on 15th March 2016, at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi.

In this ceremony, the E/N and G/Cs for above mentioned projects will be signed between H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to Bhutan, and H.E. Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan to Japan.

The total amount of the four projects is around 991 million Yen. Details of each project are as follows:

#### 1. Grant Aid

**“The Project for Improvement of Machinery and Equipment for Construction of Rural Agricultural Road (Phase 3)” (Counterpart: Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest)**

This project, the amount of which totals 966 million Yen, aims to provide construction machineries and equipment to the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, in order to construct and maintain the rural agricultural roads.

The Government of Japan provided construction machineries in the last two Grant Aids, which have been used effectively and regarded with high appreciation by the Government of Bhutan and the local authorities in the targeted areas.

In Bhutan, while it is planned to expand the rural agricultural roads throughout the whole country, there is also an increasing demand for the maintenance of existing roads which are suffering damage from landslides and falling rocks. The current aging machineries are finding it difficult to cope with these problems from the aspects of quality and quantity.

Through this project, construction machineries and equipment are expected to help in enhancing the farmers’ income by improving the efficiency of agricultural work and providing better access to agricultural products and public service.

#### 2. Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

The Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project scheme was established in 1989 to meet the diverse basic human needs in developing countries. The Government of Japan has supported in Bhutan such projects as construction of bridges and school buildings, as well as provision of fire engines and compactor trucks.

**(1) “The Project for Provision of Patrol Cars to Community Police Centers in Paro, Wangduephodrang and Trashigang” (Recipient Organization: Royal Bhutan Police)**

This project, the amount of which totals around 15.3 million Yen, aims to provide four new patrol cars to Community Police Centers (CPCs) in Paro, Wangduephodrang and Trashigang.

Royal Bhutan Police has expanded the concept of CPCs in the whole country to enhance the capacity of patrolling. Paro, Wangduephodrang and Trashigang together attribute to over 16% of the total reported crime in the country. However, current patrol cars in the above areas suffer frequent breakdowns because of ageing, and are unavailable for duty in emergency cases, as they cannot start because of the cold weather.

Through this project, four new patrol cars will be provided to the CPCs in order to help maintain public peace in the city, and create a safer living environment for a total of 35,000 people in those areas.

**(2) “The Project for Installation of Safe Water Supply System in Samthang, Wangduephodrang” (Recipient Organization: Technical Training Institute, Samthang)**

This project, the amount of which totals around 2.8 million Yen, aims to set up a simple water supply scheme in Samthang, Wangduephodrang.

There are no public facilities to supply water in this area, where people (students and officials, as well as people living in the project area) use simple water supply facilities in the Technical Training Institute, Samthang. Consequently, people are suffering from water-borne diseases due to the lack of a proper water treatment system.

This project will benefit a total of about 610 people by facilitating access to clean and safe drinking water in the target area, and will contribute to improving the hygiene and sanitation situation of the people.

**(3) “The Project for the Construction of RNR Centre for Subtropical Horticulture Development in Panbhang, Zhemgang” (Recipient Organization: Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Centre, Bhur, Gelephu)**

This project, the amount of which totals around 7 million Yen, aims to construct a research center and a farm irrigation system in order to research and diffuse subtropical horticulture like Mango and Litchi.

The targeted area is situated in a subtropical zone, but the recipient organization has not been able to conduct technical guidance for cultivation or deliver fresh seedlings so far to the farmers in the target area, because of the remoteness of the region. As a result, farmers had to give up cultivating the subtropical horticulture and shifted to cultivating maize and millet. Thus, they missed the opportunity to increase their income.

The new research center to be constructed under this project will enable the organization to deliver development training and fresh seedlings to 400 farmers in this area, which is expected to help increase their income.

The Government of Japan hopes that these four new grant projects will enhance the quality of life and help reinforce the human security of the people of Bhutan through improved security, hygiene and sanitation, and agricultural development, and further strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between Japan and Bhutan, who are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations.

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