

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu

at the signing ceremony of Grant Contracts for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP),
in the Ambassador's residence at Embassy of Japan, 22nd March, 2018

1) Anallon Christian Development Committee

Mr. ^{エル} L . ^{ウォーリング} Wolring , Chairman, ^{アナロン} Anallon Christian Development
Committee,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure, to sign today the Grant Contract documents for **“The Project for Construction of Secondary School for Scheduled Tribe in Manipur”**, under Japan’s scheme of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).
- During the official visit of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, to India in September last year, the two Prime Ministers decided to work together to elevate the Japan-India partnership to the next level. On that occasion, the two countries signed a MOC to establish the ‘Japan-India Act East Forum’ and agreed to expand cooperation between Japan and the North Eastern Region of India.

The spheres of our cooperation are not limited to connectivity and infrastructure, but also include social and cultural aspects, as well as people to people exchanges. I am pleased that our cooperation has now resulted in this new project in Manipur.

- Since the establishment of the scheme in 1989, GGP has been broadly applied in many developing countries, to support the lives of underprivileged people and society at the grass-roots level, over the last 25 years. India is one of the major beneficiaries of the GGP scheme, through which schools, check dams, medical mobile buses, etc., have been provided to various parts of the country.
- I sincerely hope this project which we have signed today also becomes one of the shining symbols of the friendship between Japan and India.
- Under the project, ^{アナロン}Anallon Christian Development Committee will construct a new secondary school for the scheduled tribe in ^{ルンバング}Lambung village, ^{チャンデル}Chandel District, Manipur. We understand that the Committee has supported this area since 1975 and the past efforts made by it have been highly appreciated by the local community.

- 6 years ago, the Government of Japan supported the construction of the primary school through the grant scheme, which has been utilized in an appropriate way, thanks to the Committee. I sincerely hope that your organization will make judicious and effective use of the grant signed today as well, by completing the project in the targeted timeframe, and maintain the provided equipment and facilities in good condition.
- I am sure that this project will provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment, and eventually help in enhancing their standard of living in the future.
- Finally, let me reiterate that the expansion of quality education for underprivileged children will lead to the overall improvement of living standard of the people in India. I sincerely hope that this grant will further strengthen the friendly relationship and cooperation between Japan and India.
- Thank you very much.

[END]

2) Global Hospital & Research Centre

Dr. ^{バルタツプ}Partap ^{ミダ}Midha, Trustee, Global Hospital & Research Centre,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure, to sign today the Grant Contract documents for **“The Project for Provision of Eye Medical Equipment in ^{シロヒ}Sirohi, Rajasthan”**, under Japan’s scheme of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).
- During the official visit of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, to India in September last year, the two Prime Ministers decided to work together to elevate the Japan-India partnership to the next level. On that occasion, a variety of large-scale development projects were agreed upon, but I believe that it is also extremely important to continue supporting people at the grassroots levels.

- Since the establishment of the scheme in 1989, GGP has been broadly applied in many developing countries, to support the lives of underprivileged people and society at the grass-roots level, over the last 25 years. India is one of the major beneficiaries of the GGP scheme, through which schools, check dams, medical mobile buses, etc., have been provided to various parts of the country.
- I sincerely hope this project also becomes one of the shining symbols of the friendship between Japan and India
- This project signed today, aims to provide medical equipment which enables underprivileged people to receive necessary eye treatment.
- In India, many people are suffering from blindness caused by diseases, which can be prevented or cured, owing to inaccessibility to medical care for economic reasons. Under the circumstances, the free treatment, which your organization has been providing since its establishment, supports the health of many underprivileged people.

- Today, we are delighted to provide medical equipment under this scheme to your organization, in view of the increasing number of patients, and sincerely hope that this project will lead to improving the health and the quality of life of the people through availability of proper eye treatment.
- Thank you very much. [END]

3) Leprosy Mission Trust India

Dr. ^{メアリー ヴァルギース} Mary Verghese, Executive Director, Global Hospital & Research Centre,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure, to sign today the Grant Contract documents for **“The Project for Provision of Medical Equipment for Leprosy Patients in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh”**, under Japan’s scheme of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).
- During the official visit of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, to India in September last year, the two Prime Ministers decided to work together to elevate the India-Japan partnership to the next level. On that occasion, a variety of large-scale development projects were agreed upon, but I believe that it is also extremely important to continue supporting people at the grassroots levels.

- Since the establishment of the scheme in 1989, GGP has been broadly applied in many developing countries, to support the lives of underprivileged people and society at the grass-roots level, over the last 25 years. India is one of the major beneficiaries of the GGP scheme, through which schools, check dams, medical mobile buses, etc., have been provided to various parts of the country. I sincerely hope this project also becomes one of the shining symbols of the friendship between Japan and India.
- As we all know, leprosy, which is caused by a type of bacteria, is easily curable by timely and proper treatment. However, in India, a large number of people are still being afflicted by this disease. In response to the situation, the Japanese government has been intensively supporting leprosy patients, for example, by establishing the National JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacteria Disease, where Japanese doctors are providing necessary treatment to the patients in the rural communities. Also, the Nippon Foundation has been contributing greatly to the leprosy communities in fighting against stigma, as well as facilitating their livelihood.

- This project signed today, aims to provide medical equipment, which enables the underprivileged leprosy patients to receive proper treatment. We understand that your organization has been supporting leprosy patients and underprivileged people since its establishment, and the effort made by it has been highly appreciated by the local community.
- Given the fact that approximately 60 % of leprosy patients in the world are living in India, we believe it is our duty to take initiative to support these patients through the medium of the GGP scheme. I strongly hope that this project will offer leprosy patients with quality medical treatment, and thus contribute to the improvement of their general health and livelihood.
- Thank you very much. [END]