

at the signing ceremony of Grant Contracts for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP), in

the Ambassador's residence at Embassy of Japan, 5th March, 2019

1) **Huda Educational and Social Welfare Society**

Dr. Athar Raihan, President, Huda Educational and Social Welfare Society,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to sign today the Grant Contract documents for “**The Project for Establishment of Basic School cum Vocational Training Centre for Underprivileged Children**”, under Japan’s scheme of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).

Our two countries are partners aspiring for a stable and prosperous world. Our strong bonds are rooted in the friendship between our people. That is why we attach an importance to supporting a grass-roots project.

GGP has been utilized to support the lives of underprivileged people and society at the grass-roots level. Japan feels strongly about “leaving no one behind”, because we know the most vulnerable is in the greatest need of help. India is one of the major beneficiaries of the GGP scheme, through which Japanese Government has been providing schools, medical facilities and equipment, and others, to various organizations of India.

Education is particularly important. If all the children in India can attend school and feel the joy of learning, the economic and social stride of this country will be even furthered.

Education will provide a chance for underprivileged children for better employment and hope for better future.

Under this project, Huda Educational and Social Welfare Society will construct a new school cum vocational centre for the scheduled castes and tribes, in Mahona, Amethi District, Uttar Pradesh. We understand that the local community appreciates the Society's contributions since its establishment in 1993, by running 5 schools from nursery school to college, and by providing quality education at an affordable cost.

I am glad that this project, which we signed today, enables many more children and youth to attend school under better educational environment. They can also receive vocational trainings to get well-equipped for the job market in the future.

Finally, let me reiterate that the expansion of quality education and vocational training for underprivileged children will lead to the all-round improvement of living standards of the people in India. I sincerely hope that this grant will bear fruits, as a symbol of the friendly relationship and cooperation between Japan and India.

Thank you very much.

[END]

2) The Project for Solar PV Plant on the top of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School Hostel Building, Jhalwa, Allahabad

Dr. Dina Nath Tewari, President, UTTHAN - Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to sign today the Grant Contract documents for **“The Project for Solar PV Plant on the top of Vishnu Bhagwan School Hostel Building, Jhalwa, Allahabad”** under Japan’s scheme of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).

Since its establishment in 1996, UTTHAN has been working on sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Their activities have been highly appreciated by the local community. Now, UTTHAN is driving efforts to transform the school into an environmentally friendly campus, raising local awareness on environmental conservation.

Under this project, UTTHAN will install a solar power generation system on top of the school hostel run by the organization, where students from scheduled castes and tribes study.

I am particularly pleased with this project, because both education and environment are priorities for Japan. While we welcome the fruits of rapid economic development of India, environmental issues, including air pollution, have become a prominent challenge in the country.

Allahabad is known for being a smart city. But power supply has not kept pace with the growing energy needs, leaving people dependent on costly diesel generators. In fact, the school run by UTTHAN also has so far relied upon diesel generators, due to a lack of power supply during the class hours. I am told that the classes are disturbed by the smoke and noise coming out of the generator, and it is an urgent need for the school to have a stable power supply to improve the educational environment for students.

This project which we have just signed today will ensure steady power supply to the school. Students will be able to concentrate on their studies under a healthier and safer educational environment, and to make the most of their educational opportunity. I also believe that promoting green energy in the school will help students and the local community to be more environmentally conscious.

Finally, let me reiterate that the expansion of opportunities of better educational environment for the students will lead to an all-round improvement in living standards of the people in India. I sincerely hope that this grant will further strengthen the friendly relationship and cooperation between Japan and India.

[END]