

Remarks by Yasuharu Shinto, Acting Consul-General of Japan in Karachi on the occasion of the Handover of a ladder truck and a rescue truck donated by Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy, Karachi, 27th October, 2016

Dr. Arshad Abdullah Vohra, Deputy Mayor of Karachi,
Mr. Tahseen Ahmed Siddiqui, Chief Fire Officer, KMC,
Ms. Kyoko Terada, General Director, The Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy
Representatives from firehouses,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan and to participate in the handover ceremony of two fire trucks, donated by the Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy to Karachi Fire Brigade.

It was March 7th this year when we had a signing ceremony and extended US\$ 113,868 (approx. Rs.12 million) to the Karachi Fire Department for “The Project for the Enhancement of Karachi Fire Brigade” under Grand Assistant for Grassroots Programs. I am glad to see today the project is successfully completed and to be able to handover the trucks, and this is a fruit of efforts and goodwill of many people in Japan and Pakistan. Karachi Fire Brigade and the SPJD have worked very hard to make this happen. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Mr. Tahseen Ahmed who has worked sincerely for this project and engaged to do good for his community.

Today's ceremony is not just about the hand-over of the vehicles. It is also about a hand-over of life-saving skills. Since last week, Mr. Satoshi Takano, a Japanese expert, has worked with members of the recipient fire station to transfer skills on the operation and maintenance of the vehicles. I hope and believe that people of Pakistan will ensure effective and efficient management of the vehicles so that these vehicles can serve many people for many years to come. These vehicles have saved many lives and people's properties in Japan. I hope they will do the same here in Pakistan from now.

Japan's development assistance is aimed to support self-help efforts made by its partner countries. I sincerely hope that this contribution of vehicles will have an important positive impact on the initiatives being undertaken by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation aimed at mitigating people's suffering from fire outbreaks.

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by hoping that the assistance we are providing through this project will further strengthen the cordial relationship that exists between Japan and Pakistan.

Bahot Shukria.

Thank you very much.

(END)