

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to attend this Inauguration Ceremony for the *“Project for the Improvement of the Eye Hospital in the District Badin, Sindh”* today.

Under the scheme of “the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project” (GGP), the Japanese government extended a grant of about 104 thousand US dollars to cover the cost of construction of a new operation theatre with surgical equipment together with a generator to improve its treatment and surgical facility for the eye patients in Southern Sindh.

LRBT has been committed to providing free eye treatment with the mission that no man, woman, or child should become blind just because they cannot afford the treatment. It currently manages 17 hospitals and 44 community eye health centers and treats 36% of all eye patients in Pakistan. I would like to commend LRBT’s tremendous efforts for the betterment of eye treatment in Pakistan including rural areas such as Badin. The new operation theatre provided under GGP is expected to provide more than 10 thousand patients every year with free eye surgical operations in a safe environment. I sincerely hope that this eye hospital will continue to help more people to receive eye treatment.

On this occasion I would like to mention that since 1989, the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan has been implementing this GGP scheme for more than 300 projects throughout Pakistan and the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi has implemented 11 projects since it initiated this scheme of assistance in 2009.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that the new operation theatre and the surgical equipment provided by the Government of Japan to LRBT are the token of friendship from the people of Japan and I wish this support will further strengthen the friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan.

Thank you very much.

Bahot Shukria