

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi**  
**on the occasion of the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony**  
**on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Japan Information and Culture**  
**Center of the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi**

Honorable President of Hamdard Foundation, Ms. Sadia Rashid

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to attend this grant contract signing ceremony for “*The Project for Expanding and Strengthening Hamdard Free Mobile Dispensaries*” today.

The grant contract being signed today for the purchase of 10 vehicles along with equipment for the mobile dispensaries amounts to about 7.3 million Rupees. In addition to the grant, Pak Suzuki Motors Company Limited has extended their after-sales service warranty for two additional years.

As part of the Official Development Assistance to developing countries, the Government of Japan offers a scheme to support non-governmental organizations and community based organizations that are working specifically in the social development sector. Known as the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), it provides flexible and timely support to small-scale development projects, which aim to improve the social well-being of the people at the grassroots level.

Since 1989, the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan has been implementing this grant scheme for more than three hundred projects throughout Pakistan and the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi also initiated this scheme of assistance in 2009 and this project is the 13<sup>th</sup> project. It is the first case of public-private partnership between the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi and Pak Suzuki Motor Company Limited.

Hamdard Foundation has been providing free medical services by mobile dispensaries to the people living in rural areas since 1956. Currently 16 vehicles are in operation to serve more than 40 thousand people every month. 6 new vehicles out of 10 vehicles to be provided under the grant will replace the old ones and 4 new

vehicles are expected to provide free medical services to an additional number of more than 10 thousand people every month. I believe that the project will contribute to the expansion of the provision of free medical services to the people in Karachi.

This project has been realized speedily like other projects under the GGP scheme within only 4 months after we received the application in October last year. The assistance that we are providing through this project is a token of friendship from the people of Japan and I believe that by this project, more people will attain access to health-care services.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that Japan will continue to provide Pakistan with assistance in many fields to further strengthen our friendly relationship. And I am certain that this project will contribute to such an aim.

Thank you very much.

Bahot Shukria.

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