

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
on the occasion of the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015 at the Japan Information and Culture Center of
the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi

Honorable Chief Executive Officer of Jam-e-Shafa Organization, Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Ishaq

Respected Chief Executive Officer of Indus Motors Company Limited, Mr. Parvez Ghias

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to attend this grant contract signing ceremony for the “*Project for Provision of Ambulances to Jam-e-Shafa Organization*” today.

The grant contract being signed today for the purchase of two ambulances fully equipped with basic life-support equipment amounts to about 10.2 million Rupees. In addition to the grant, about 1.4 million Rupees are contributed by Indus Motors Company Limited for the purchase of medical equipment to be installed in the ambulances.

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 12th project. And it is the first project in Balochistan to be implemented by the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi. It is also the second project of public-private partnership between the Consulate-General of Japan and Indus Motors Company Limited.

Jam-e-Shafa Organization has been providing health services to the people in Quetta since 1992. The Government of Japan provided them with an ambulance and medical equipment under the GGP scheme in 2003. It has two ambulances including the one provided under GGP, which have been providing emergency medical services to about 1,500 people every year, for more than 10

years. The two new ambulances to be provided under the GGP which will replace the old ones are expected to improve the quality of emergency medical services to help save the lives of more people.

This project in Balochistan has been realized as a result of my meeting with Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Chief Minister of Balochistan in April last year, when I promised him to consider Japan's assistance to Balochistan through GGP in the future. I am pleased to announce that the first project in Balochistan to be implemented by the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi is now successfully realized.

This project has been realized speedily like other projects under the GGP scheme within only 6 months after we received the application in August 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, the lives of more people in Quetta will be saved.

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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