

Press Release

The Government of Japan grants US\$ 95,235 for the project for the Installation of Seven Water Filtration Plants in Punjab

17th December 2009

The Government of Japan has decided to extend financial support of US\$ 95,235 (Rs.7.73 million approx.) to the Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, a non-governmental organization, under the “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects” for the project for Provision of Safe Drinking Water in Punjab.

The agreement for the project was signed on Thursday, 17th December 2009 at the Japanese Ambassador’s residence in Islamabad between H.E. Mr. Chihiro Atsumi, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Niamatullah Khan, President of Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan.

The grant will be utilized for the installation of seven filtration plants. It will provide clean and hygienic water to seven localities in five different cities in Punjab including Lahore, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Sargodha and Multan. In those localities, water isn’t suitable for drinking because it is drawn from unsanitary groundwater. Consequently, residents in those areas, especially children and the elderly people, have high risk of having or facing health problems by drinking that contaminated water. Filtration plants will be installed in schools and hospitals of the project areas. As a result, students, patients and also residents of those localities will be able to have access to the clean and safe drinking water. This project would improve the health and sanitary conditions of about 143,000 residents in the respective project areas. In addition to that, prevention of infectious disease caused by polluted water would lead to the reduction of the medical cost of the residents.

At the signing ceremony, The Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Chihiro Atsumi said that the provision of safe drinking water is of great importance for Japan, This project would help to improve the living and sanitary conditions of the people in those areas. Furthermore, he hoped that this project would contribute to further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the people of Pakistan and that of Japan.