

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
on the occasion of the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
on Monday, March 7th, 2016 at the Japan Information and Culture Center of
the Consulate General of Japan at Karachi

Honorable Mr. Tahseen Ahmed Siddiqui, Chief Fire Officer of Karachi Fire Department, KMC

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to attend this grant contract signing ceremony for “The Project for the Enhancement of Karachi Fire Brigade” today.

The grant contract being signed today for the cost of reconditioning and transportation cost from Tokyo to Karachi for 2 Fire Trucks for Karachi Fire Department, KMC amounts to about 12 million rupees.

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, Japan has been implementing this grant scheme for about 350 projects throughout Pakistan and the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi

also initiated this scheme of assistance in 2009 and this project is the seventeenth project.

Karachi is the mega city of Pakistan with the population of over 20 million. But there are only 21 fire stations across the city with 1 rescue station on the outskirts of Karachi. With increasing number of high rises, it is an urgent need for the city to deploy more ladder trucks. Considering the needs of the city, Japan decided to provide a ladder truck and a rescue truck.

The grant of about 12 million rupees will cover the cost of reconditioning and transportation for the two fire trucks to be provided to Karachi Fire Department, KMC. This grant is in the form of recycling grant scheme, which utilizes used but valuable vehicles by bearing the cost of reconditioning and transportation. The two fire trucks, which were used to be used in fire stations in Japan, are donated by The Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy in Japan. I believe that this project will greatly contribute to enhancement of rescue services in Karachi.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that the assistance that we are providing through this project is a token of friendship from the people of Japan and I believe that it will further strengthen our friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan.

Bahot Shukria.

Thank you very much.

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