



## **JAPANESE GRASSROOTS GRANT ASSISTANCE AND MITSUBISHI CORPORATION'S CSR CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT FUTURE GENERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA**

An inauguration ceremony for the Expansion of the Udassa Repe Secondary School, Mareko Woreda, Gurage Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities & Peoples Region was held on 6 June 2015, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia, Mr. Takuo Tanaka, Representative of the Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan, Ato Million Mathewos, the Head of SNNPR Education Bureau.

In total USD 164,499 was provided by Japan's Grant-in-Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP), and the Mitsubishi Corporation's Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative "Supporting Africa's Future Generations".

The contributions will benefit more than 1,000 secondary school students, supporting educational opportunities and the quality of education at the secondary school level by building three school blocks, a library, a laboratory with furniture, and a latrine with hand washing facilities, all beautifully constructed.

In his congratulatory message H.E. Mr. Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia said that "those *girls and boys*, who were left behind the benefits of education due to limited facilities and the long distance to school, will gain access to secondary education, and the school will serve as a good example of how education will empower future generations of Ethiopians".

He also introduced the Mitsubishi Corporation's Initiative as "a remarkable example of a Japanese company's contribution to a foreign country's development", and that "such cooperation from the private sector shall be encouraged in order to extend the partnership between Japan and Africa".

On 4 June, two days before the inauguration ceremony, H.E. Ato Dessie Dalkie, the President of the Southern Nations Nationalities & Peoples Region made a courtesy call on Ambassador Mr. Suzuki in Addis Ababa, and expressed his gratitude for Japan's support for grassroots assistance for the betterment of the lives of ordinary people, including the support from the GGP scheme. In reply, Ambassador Suzuki stated that "Japan wishes to continue walking side by side with the people from Ethiopia, while the country pursues its socio economic development path".

The Japan's Grant-in-Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP) was first introduced in 1989, and in Ethiopia, since 1997, over 340 projects, worth approximately USD 27 million, have been implemented through this scheme in such sectors as education, water supply, health services, and other basic human needs.

Active across the globe, the Mitsubishi Corporation's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme has supported a large number of projects since its establishment in 1991, and in Ethiopia, since 2009, the programme has supported the provision of solar PV Power Generation Systems in rural capacity building projects for five years and also the provision of vehicle for service for children with Autism and related diseases, contributing approximately USD 50,000 for social projects every year.

**June 6, 2015**

**Addis Ababa**

