

Japan commits more than USD 1 million to Grass-Roots Projects in Ethiopia

On 26 February, 2015, H.E. Kazuhiro Suzuki, the Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, signed Grant Contracts for 11 development projects, amounting in total to more than USD 1 million, in sectors such as child education, women's empowerment, agriculture and water supply in various parts of Ethiopia including Addis Ababa. The projects will be implemented through a scheme run by the Embassy called Japan's Grant in Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGPs).

Last year, in January 2014, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, visited Ethiopia and announced in his speech titled "Japan's Diplomacy towards Africa: Strengthening Each Individual, One by One" at African Union Headquarters that Japan would commit to realize "An Africa in which women shine" and "Bringing a bright future to youth" in Africa. Based upon his statement, the Embassy of Japan has committed to supporting the above mentioned projects.

Through the project signed today, in total three vocational training centers will be expanded with clothing and leather processing machines; one maternity center will be equipped with ultrasound, delivery beds, and necessary medical equipment; one ICT center with 50 computers will be provided; five schools will be expanded with additional facilities; 15ha of land will be irrigated for the enhancement of agricultural production; and facilities for clean water will be constructed to improve the health conditions of people in rural communities (The list of projects is attached.).

Following the signing ceremony, H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki emphasized in his remarks that Japan will continue to contribute to the improvement of child education for the poor families as well as promoting women's active roles in the economy.

He also hoped in his speech that the friendly relationship between Ethiopia and Japan will be enhanced further through the implementation of these projects, and expected our project partners to successfully implement the projects, to support people in every corner of society, and to build a bridge to the bright future of Ethiopia.

The grant scheme was first introduced in 1997 in Ethiopia to accelerate its development cooperation and to support the lives of ordinary citizens and ameliorate poverty at the grassroots level. Since 1997, 343 projects have been implemented under this scheme in sectors such as women's empowerment, education, water supply, health services, agriculture, transportation and other basic human needs, and Japan's assistance under this single scheme has amounted to approximately USD 27 million.

26 February 2015
Addis Ababa



