



# Press Release

Embassy of Japan

March 29, 2015

## Japan Supports Three Grass-roots Human Security Projects



H.E. Mr. Shiro Sadoshima, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, poses with the representatives of NGOs, Dr. Sk. Akhtar Ahmad, President of Asia Arsenic Network(AAN); Mr. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation; and Prof. Dr. Hosne-Ara Begum, Executive Director of Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS).

On 29 March 2015, the Government of Japan extended grants to three Bangladeshi NGOs. Ambassador Shiro Sadoshima signed 'Grant Contracts' for Grass-roots Human Security Projects at Embassy of Japan with the representatives of these NGOs: Dr. Sk. Akhtar Ahmad, President of Asia Arsenic Network (AAN), Mr. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation, and Prof. Dr. Hosne-Ara Begum, Executive Director of Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS).

AAN was awarded the grant for its project to strengthen arsenic mitigation capacity. In Jessore, most people depend on ground water for domestic purposes. But many water-wells are

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contaminated by arsenic. Arsenic causes harmful diseases such as cancer and many suffer from arsenic poisoning and diseases. With the Japanese assistance, AAN will upgrade analytical capacity to carry out water quality test aiming for effective arsenic mitigation. AAN will assess the safety of water sources from arsenic contamination and help to install the alternative water sources in some Upazilas of Jessore district in order to decrease the number of arsenicosis patients.

SKS Foundation's grant-awarded project aims at establishing community radio station. In Gaibandha, there are many perennial islands, called 'Char', in the Jamuna River. People in Char areas suffer from perennial natural disasters being deprived of basic human needs such as health, education, communication and information services. With the community radio station to be established through the Japanese assistance, SKS foundation will broadcast disaster information and cultural programs with a view to decreasing the natural disaster damage and ensuring sustainable community development.

TMSS will use the grant to improve coronary care services. The number of coronary patients has been increasing and such diseases may cause death unless prompt and appropriate treatments are provided. In Bogra district, there are not enough number of hospitals which can provide advanced treatments for coronary patients. Some patients are transferred to Dhaka, which takes more than 4 hours. With the Japanese assistance, TMSS will install the extended medical treatment facilities to patients suffering from coronary disease in order to provide prompt and appropriate treatments and save their lives. These facilities are expected to provide medical care for road traffic casualties, too.

In total, these grants amount to US\$ 221,101. Japan has supported 186 NGO projects through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGHSP) since 1989 with a view to enhancing economic and social human security at the grass-roots level. The total sum of these GGHSP grants extended to NGOs in Bangladesh to date amount approximately to US\$ 14 million.



From  
the People of Japan

# Establishment of a Community Radio Station in Gaibandha

## 1. Purpose

To establish a community radio station to broadcast disaster warning. To ensure easy access to information such on education, health, gender sensitivity, agriculture-market, culture, etc. To attain sustainable development in Gaibandha district.

## 2. Project Profile

Establishment of a community radio station by installing the radio station equipments.

## 3. Amount

US\$ 70,692

## 4. Executing Organization

SKS Foundation

## 5. Location

Gaibandha District

### Background

Many people in 'Char' islands of the Jamuna River do not have access to local information regarding disaster warning, education, agriculture-market, culture, etc. due to the lack of affordable broadcasting service.

### Disaster

'Chars' are the islands in the Jamuna River. People suffer from natural disaster every year.



Failed to escape and trapped in flood.

### Information Access

For locals, radio is the affordable choice to get information. Community radio can provide them with information of great importance.



A farmer can get market information from the radio.



# Expansion of Coronary Care Services in Rafatullah Community Hospital in Bogra Sadar

## 1. Purpose

To enhance the tertiary level medical treatment service capacity concerning coronary disease and traffic accident injury in Rafatullah Community Hospital with a view to reducing the number of death and disabilities.

## 2. Project Profile

Installing a diagnostic imaging unit (C-Arm<sup>※</sup>), 3 temporary pace-maker, 10 CCU Beds and 3 Post CCU Beds.

## 3. Amount

US\$ 72,922

## 4. Executing Organization

Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha(TMSS)

## 5. Location

Bogra District

## Background

In Bogra, the capacity of treatment for coronary disease and traffic accident injury is not enough. Some patients need to travel over 6 hours to be transferred to Dhaka. Such delay often cause death and disability.



※ C-Arm is an imaging scanner intensifier. C-arms have radiographic capabilities, though they are used primarily for fluoroscopic imaging during surgical, orthopedic, critical care, and emergency care procedures.

# Strengthening Arsenic Mitigation Capacity in Jessore



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## 1. Purpose

To prevent drinking water from arsenic contamination with a view to reducing the number of arsenicosis patients.

## 2. Project Profile

Strengthening water safety assessment capacity by installing a water quality analysis equipment which can provide accurate concentrations of various parameters including arsenic.

## 3. Amount

US\$ 77,487

## 4. Executing Organization

Asia Arsenic Network (AAN)

## 5. Location

Jessore District

## Background

In Jessore, many locals drink arsenic contaminated water. This has made arsenic poisoning disease prevalent.

## Unsafe Water

Many water wells are contaminated by arsenic.



A contaminated well are being marked to call for vigilance.

## Harmful Disease

Arsenic poisoning may cause cancer and other harmful diseases.



Skin cancers induced by arsenic poisoning.