



Press Release

Embassy of Japan

November 5, 2012

Bangladesh U-14 Football Team to Report to Ambassador Sadoshima KIZUNA Project: Japan - SAARC U-14 Football Exchange Programme in support of reconstruction efforts in Tohoku/Kita Kanto Region



Bangladesh U-14 Football team in Japan Learning on Food Safety in Disaster-affected Area

The Government of Japan has launched the Youth-Exchange Project with Asia-Oceania and North America (Kizuna (bond) Project). Under this project, approximately 10,000 youths from the Asian/Oceanian/North American region will have an opportunity to participate in the related programmes; short-term visit to Japan, long-term stay in Japan, etc. This project is a part of Japanese reconstruction plans from the damages caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and is aimed at promoting global understanding of Japan's revival efforts in response to the earthquake.

The Japan - SAARC U-14 Football Exchange Programme is part of the Kizuna Project organized to foster exchanges between Japanese youths and youths from the member countries of SAARC and to support reconstruction efforts of the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake through

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football exchanges with Japanese youth football players as well as school visits and volunteer activities for community revitalization / regional development in the affected areas.

The first part of the program was football exchanges with Japanese youth football players in Gotemba, Shizuoka, who have temporarily evacuated from Fukushima following the Earthquake, as well as football matches among SAARC U-14 players. This part was organized in collaboration with Japan Football Association (JFA).

After football exchanges in Gotemba, Bangladeshi participants visited the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in Kita Kanto Region (Ibaraki) except for the exclusion and evacuation zones for four days. The visits included school visits, volunteer activities for community revitalization/regional development, exchanges with disaster sufferers, visit to disaster affected industrial facilities, etc. All the participants saw and learned about the current/accurate situation of Japan's reconstruction efforts from the disaster. In the end of the programme, the participants had a wrap-up meeting in Tokyo to discuss and present what they had learned through the programme. After returning home, the participants are expected to share their experience with others in their home country.

Bangladeshi team participated in this program from 7th October-20th October 2012. They are going to report to Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Shiro Sadoshima on 06th November, 2012 at Ambassador's Residence at 4:30pm.

[attachment: visit program]

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