



Embassy of Japan

Press Release

September 24, 2010

Ambassador of Japan inaugurates ceremony of a week-long Food Security related photo exhibition

Dhaka: On September 24, 2010, Mr. Tamotsu SHINOTSUKA, the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, inaugurated a week-long Food-Security related photo exhibition and Photography Awards 2009 named ‘Tales of the Vulnerability of the Ultra-Poor’ which was organized by WFP. Ambassador also gave award for excellence in food security related photography in Bangladesh in 2009. The programme was held at Alliance Francaise de Dacca.

On August 25, 2010, Japan and WFP exchanged notes for Food Aid to developing countries including Bangladesh. Bangladesh will get US \$9.7 million. WFP will use this Japanese fund to distribute some 14000 metric tons of wheat, 3500 metric tons wheat soya beans and 200 metric tons of tuna cans to 500,000 extremely poor people in 13 districts including Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Serajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Bagerhat, Khulna, Shatkhira, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali. This photo exhibition was arranged following this food aid to light the real food situation in Bangladesh.

Mr. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Ambassador to Bangladesh started at the programme, “Food is the basic needs of the people. We fully understand this needs and that’s why we gave the food aid as a priority for the ultra poor of the country. We hope that this assistance will help the poor people have enough food and fulfill basic needs even in remote areas of the country. This photo exhibition will be one word the real sketch of the food security situation and will help WFP implement their programme successfully.”

WFP Bangladesh launched an annual award for excellence in Food Security related photography in Bangladesh to encourage photographers to raise national awareness and understanding of food security and how it impacts on the most vulnerable sectors, especially poor women and children. Among 160 photographers, 16 won the award.

Government of Japan has been one of the key donors to the food aid programme in Bangladesh since its independence in 1971. Japan has given approximately US\$30 million to WFP Bangladesh since 2007.

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