



# Press Release

Embassy of Japan

January 25, 2012

**Japan signed ODA Loan with the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**To save precious lives**  
**- Japan's support for Mothers and Babies to be expanded-**

On January 25, 2012, an Exchange of Notes was signed in Dhaka by H.E. Mr. Shiro Sadoshima, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to 5.04 billion yen (approximately 63 million US\$) to the "Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Improvement Project (Phase I) (the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP))". The loan agreement of the Project was also signed between the Senior Secretary and Dr. Takao Toda, Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Office.

The loan will be provided to finance the trainings and the upgrade of the facilities and equipment related to Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH). And thus it will contribute to the improvement of the status of maternal and neonatal health of Bangladesh.

By the end of the 5-year HPNSDP, it is expected that child mortality will have been reduced to 31/1,000 birth and maternal mortality will have been reduced to 144/100,000 birth. If it is achieved, it might be simply rephrased as 30,000 infants and 1,500 mothers would be saved annually.

Since 2006, the Government of Japan, through JICA, has provided the holistic technical cooperation project titled as "Safe Motherhood Promotion Project" in Narsingdi, which is reputed as "Narsingdi Model". It has developed the Community Support System (CmSS) supported by the local governments through raising the awareness of basic knowledge on maternal and child health among community members and coordinating the needs of communities and the services to be provided by health facilities. The Bangladeshi Government now plans to expand the model nationwide, and the Government of Japan intends to assist the execution process. In this regard, it is significant that the Loan facilitates the expansion of output of the technical cooperation to a national level under the ownership of the Government of Bangladesh.

The conditions of the loan are the most generous. The interest rate is only 0.01% per annum and the repayment period is 40 years inclusive of 10-year grace period. PQ conditions are untied.

For Further Information

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