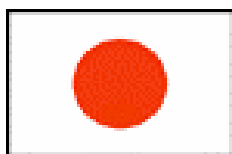


JAPAN



March 31, 2005

MEDIA RELEASE

**Signing of Grant Contract under the Japanese Grassroots Grant
Assistance for Human Security Project with UNDP**

March 31, 2005, His Excellency Mr. Matsushiro Horiguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh signed a Grant Contract amounting to US \$ 88,703 (approximately Taka 52 lakh) with Mr. Jorgen Lissner, Resident Coordinator of UNDP Bangladesh.

UNDP will receive this grant to construct multi-purpose community centres for capacity building of the traditional & elected leaders. By this Japanese grant UNDP will construct 10 community centres at different location in Chittagong Hill Tracts. These multi-purpose community centres will help the traditional leaders in delivering their various services efficiently to the local people. This centre will also be used for community meetings/gatherings, community learning center for evening tuition/coaching courses to the primary school pupils, community basic health service such as mobile medical teams, immunization, emergency shelter in disaster, night shelter/guest house for distant travelers during market day of the locality. The multi-purpose community centres will make a significant impact on the efficiency of the traditional leaders and also on the lives of the grassroots communities in the CHT.

Ambassador Horiguchi said, “ I sincerely hope that Japanese assistance through UNDP will make a significant contribution to improving the quality of lives of the people of CHT ”.

Mr. Lissner said, “I am very pleased to see this development partnership with the Government of Japan to be realized”.

For more information, Please contact

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March 31, 2005



His Excellency Mr. Matsushiro Horiguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh is exchanging the Grant Contract with Mr. Jorgen Lissner, Resident Coordinator of UNDP in Bangladesh regarding US \$ 88,703 (approximately 52 lakh Taka) under Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects for the Project for Construction of Multi-purpose Community Center in Chittagong Hill Tracts.