



71st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

December 23, 2004

Japan's ODA Towards a more prosperous Bangladesh

BANGLADESH, since its independence, has maintained very friendly relationship with Japan. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh, and Japan supported the Bangladeshi people during their most difficult times. Since Bangladesh is one of the Least Developed Countries in Asia and is endeavouring hard for development, Japan, as a country in the same region, feels a great sympathy and is willing to support its efforts. Advancing the cause of development in Bangladesh will also contribute to achieving the global targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bangladesh is important for Japan, since it plays key roles in South Asia, the Islamic world and multilateral fora. It is also a good trade and investment partner of Japan for the future.

Against such backgrounds, Japan has long supported the development of Bangladesh and has produced a number of tangible outcomes.

The most visible support is in the area of large-scale infrastructure. Japan has supported the construction of transportation network, including the Meghna and Meghna-Gumti Bridges, the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, the Lalon Shah Bridge opened this year, and the Rupsa Bridge due to be commissioned next year. Such network has greatly enhanced economic activities and improved people's lives. Fertilizer factories financed by Japan's ODA produce 60% of total fertilizer production, contributing to this country's food self-sufficiency.

Japan's aid has also made an impact on daily lives of the grassroots people. It has played a prominent role in supporting polio eradication and improving reproductive health. To prepare for disasters, Japan has worked to provide more than 80 cyclone shelters in this country. Japan's support for participatory approach in rural development and arsenic mitigation has triggered significant progress in this largely rural-based country.

Japan has always laid its emphasis on human resource development. Every year, more than 400 Bangladeshis go to Japan for education and training under various Japanese Government programs. More than 4000 JICA alumni, 1000 AOTS alumni and 2000 Monbu-Kagakusho Scholarship alumni are now playing important roles in various fields all over the country.

As such, Bangladesh has made a number of achievements till date. Nevertheless, Japan perceives much room for further development

in this country. We strongly feel the existence of such a potential, since we supported even faster development of other neighbouring countries in East Asia and elsewhere as well. To realise such a potential, Japan is now considering the three goals of pro-poor growth, human security and governance and twelve sectors contributing to these goals in extending its development assistance.

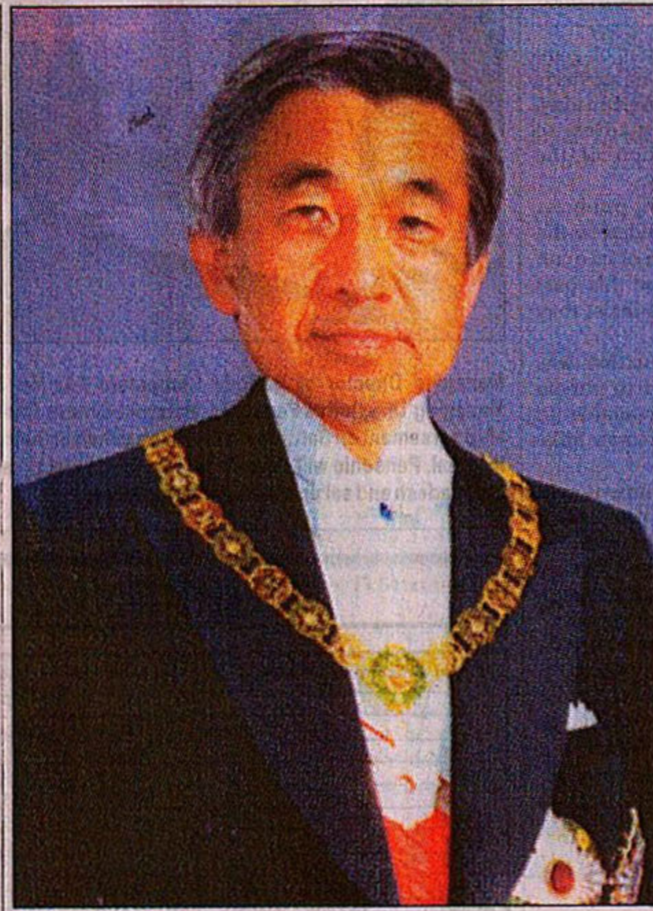
There is a growing consensus among development partners that development can be achieved through strong ownership and effective partnership.

Japan is taking steps to institutionalise the joint work of the Embassy of Japan, JICA, JBIC, and JETRO offices (4Js) by forming a Country ODA Taskforce. It has become a common platform and interface for communication with the government, donors, and Japan's development community. This way, Japan can make most of its knowledge stored in various organizations and can utilise its limited available ODA resources as effectively as possible.

In short, Japan's assistance aims to strengthen government ownership. More specifically, Japan makes capacity development to strengthen the government institutions as an integral component in Japan's development projects. Japan will fully support the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy now under preparation.

In development partnership, Japan aims to provide distinct value additions. In the primary education sector program (PEDP-II), we are now working on improving the quality of education in science and mathematics. In the private sector development program under preparation (RISE), we will try to invest in infrastructure and have the investors' voices reflected in the regulatory framework, drawing from the experiences in East Asian countries. As such, we try to leverage our strength through partnership and work with other donors having expertise and resources to achieve maximum synergy and complementarity.

The process of revising Japan's Country Assistance Plan for Bangladesh is now underway. The current plan was made nearly five years ago, and the draft outline of the new plan was discussed at the ODA Strategy Council in Tokyo earlier this month. After a series of consultations with various stakeholders, the new plan will be finalised in mid-2005 and will be implemented for the further development of Bangladesh.



His Majesty Emperor Akihito

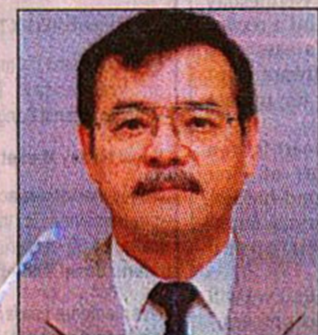
MESSAGE

WE, on behalf of Shoo-Koo-Kai (Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka) are pleased to extend our heartfelt greeting and best wishes to the people and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on this occasion of 71st birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito on 23rd of December 2004.

Shoo-Koo-Kai has been expanding its activities in Bangladesh for 31 years with the aim of promoting and enhancing better economic and trade relationship between Bangladesh and Japan, and also for sharing possible efforts to lead new investment opportunities from Japan to Bangladesh.

On this occasion I would like to

solicit your warmest support to our activities for enhancing our better economic and cultural relationship between the peoples of Bangladesh and Japan.



Toshiaki Shoji
President
Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka

MESSAGE

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the auspicious occasion of the 71st birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 23rd December. This year Japan and Bangladesh have continued to strengthen our relationship in every area of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Let us look back upon some of the major events in our relations during the year 2004.

Diplomatic relations

Last June, high-level bilateral consultation meeting was held in Tokyo between Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanaka. The meeting covered a wide range of regional and international issues, including the situation in Iraq. Both sides shared the view that reinforcing their dialogue from strategic point of view would be of great benefit to both countries. The Japanese side particularly appreciated Bangladesh's credentials as a moderate and democratic Islamic state.

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP and President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians League, and Mr. Kazuyasu Shiina, MP and Deputy Secretary of the League, visited Bangladesh in December and paid calls on Honourable President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, and Foreign Minister. At these meetings, Mr. Sakurai proposed mutual visits of bipartisan parliamentarians leagues of both countries. Mr. Sakurai is widely recognized as the most eager promoter of Japan-Bangladesh relations after the demise of Mr. Takashi Hayakawa.

Japan and Bangladesh share the common goal of eliminating the nuclear weapons from the Earth. Again in 2004, Bangladesh co-sponsored the draft resolution "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" proposed by Japan. The resolution was adopted in December by an enormous majority at the UN General Assembly.

Trade and investment

In June this year, Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JBCCI) was launched on the occasion of the first Japan Trade Show in Dhaka. It already has about fifty companies/organizations as members. I had the first formal dialogue with the JBCCI members last month and received specific requests and suggestions, to which I will respond immediately.

I will work with the government, the private sector including the JBCCI, and

other development partners to improve business environment in Bangladesh and promote trade and investment with Japan.

Japanese investment in Bangladesh continues to grow. It rose to US\$48.2 million last year on registration basis. The actual investment flow from Japan to Bangladesh EPZ was US\$13.96 million last year, which includes zippers, ICT, recycling, vending machines, and photocopy machine parts. Nevertheless, this level of investment is far below the potential of this country.

Development cooperation

In March this year, Japan and Bangladesh exchanged notes to cancel about US\$1.46 billion (Taka 8,395 crore) of Bangladesh's debt owed to Japan. It includes the debt from loans for a number of power and gas plants, fertilizer factories, telecommunication network extended in the past.

In May, the Lalon Shah Bridge was commissioned. Japan provided financial assistance of US\$141 million (Taka 820 crore) through JBIC, which amounted to about 80% of the total cost. Next spring, the Rupsa Bridge, also financed by Japan, will be commissioned. Japan is also supporting the basic design study of Padma Bridge, which is now underway.

Since July this country was hit by severe floods, and Japan took immediate actions to support the Bangladeshi people during such desperate times. Japan's relief assistance amounted to more than \$6.8 million (Taka 40.50 crore), including rice, tube wells and latrines, Oral Re-hydration Salines, and water purifying tablets.

In the joint visit of senior development officials of Japan and the United Kingdom earlier this month, we expressed the critical importance of improving governance, including corruption and law and order, which is also a common agenda of the Government of Bangladesh. Japan will continue to work with the Government and other partners on important issues and sectors for the development of Bangladesh.

Cultural exchange

Maintaining a great momentum created on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of diplomatic relationship between Japan and Bangladesh in 2002, we organized several cultural programs. Especially the Japanese Drum Concert of "Haguruma" on November 23, 2004, at Osmani Memorial Hall left tremendous impact on the Bangladeshi audience. We will further strengthen cultural exchange between the two countries through such cultural programs.

Since the independence of Bangladesh,

our two countries have made significant strides in creating various human networks both at government and grassroots levels. Especially, Japan is making a vital contribution to the human resource development in Bangladesh.

Since 1955 a total of about 2000 Bangladeshi nationals have studied in Japan under Japanese Government Scholarship programs. Every year, more than 400 Bangladeshi nationals go to Japan under various Japanese Government scholarships and training programs, including JICA and AOTS schemes. In June, 20 Bangladeshi students left for Japan for their two-year post graduate courses under Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS). Eighty students are already benefiting from this program.

I am very pleased to say that many Bangladeshis who studied in Japan are now playing important roles in the development of their country. They include Mr. M. Morshed Khan, Honourable Foreign Minister, Professor Mohammad Kibria, eminent painter, as well as high government officials, medical doctors, engineers and other professionals.

Conclusion
Finally, I would avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and members of the Japanese community for their significant contribution in promoting the bonds of friendship and trust between our two peoples. I wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year.



Matsushiro Horiguchi
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh.

LONG LIVE THE KING!



We wish His Majesty
Emperor Akihito
health and happiness on his 71st birthday

Navana Limited

NAVANA

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Heartiest Felicitations to His Majesty Emperor Akihito, On the Occasion of His 71st Birthday & Warm Hearted Wishes to the People of Bangladesh on its 31st year's Celebration of Shoo-Koo-Kai

- ◆ ASSOCIATION FOR OVERSEAS TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP (AOTS).
- ◆ BANK OF TOKYO-MITSUBISHI LTD.
- ◆ ITOCHU CORPORATION.
- ◆ JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (JBIC).
- ◆ JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA).
- ◆ JEISN DHAKA LIMITED
- ◆ JETRO, DHAKA.
- ◆ KANEMATSU CORPORATION
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- ◆ YKK BANGLADESH PTE LTD

SHOOK-KOO-KAI (JAPANESE COMMERCE & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION IN DHAKA) ESTABLISHED 31 YEARS AGO WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING & ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANGLADESH & JAPAN



Our heartiest felicitations to the Government and the friendly people of Japan on the occasion of the 71st Birthday of His Majesty Emperor AKIHITO
JAPAN-BANGLADESH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (JBCCI)
is committed to serve the business community of Japan and Bangladesh at every step of promoting trade and investment

MEMBERS OF JBCCI

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Uttara Motors Limited | 18. Juki Bangladesh Ltd. | 35. Jennys Shoes Ltd. |
| 2. ITOCHU Corporation, Dhaka Office | 19. YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd. | 36. Otobi Ltd. |
| 3. Haq's Bay Automobiles Ltd | 20. "K" Line Bangladesh Ltd. | 37. Contech Limited |
| 4. Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society | 21. Rahim Rahman & Agha | 38. Nippon Auto Trading |
| 5. JETRO, Dhaka Office | 22. Pacific Consultant International | 39. Brother International Singapore Pte Ltd. |
| 6. Sumitomo Corporation, Dhaka Branch | 23. Lino Electronics Ltd. | 40. Falguni Trade International |
| 7. Marubeni Corporation, Dhaka Office | 24. NYK Line (Bangladesh) Ltd. | 41. Shepherd World Trade Ltd. |
| 8. Mitsui & Co. Ltd, Dhaka Office | 25. Magnum Marketing Ltd. | 42. TradeStar Ltd. |
| 9. Mitsubishi Corporation, Dhaka Office | 26. KAFCO | 43. Pacific Jeans Ltd. |
| 10. Toka Ink Bangladesh Ltd. | 27. Gulf Environmental Technologies Ltd. | 44. Meenhar Seafoods Ltd. |
| 11. Navana Limited | 28. Japan Bank for International Cooperation | 45. Bengal Fisheries Limited |
| 12. Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd. | 29. Millenium Information Solution Ltd. | 46. Pegasus Sewing Machine Pte. Ltd. |
| 13. Toyo Engineering Corp (TEC), Dhaka Office | 30. Nippon Academy | 47. PHP Steels Limited |
| 14. Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel | 31. Rang's Electronics Ltd. | 48. Bashundhara Steel Complex Limited |
| 15. Eastern Motors Ltd. | 32. Everell Bangladesh Private Ltd. | 49. Remex Corporation Ltd. |
| 16. Uttara Automobiles Ltd. | 33. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi | |
| 17. Aftab Automobiles Ltd. | 34. BJIT Limited | |

Contact JBCCI

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