

## JAPAN'S ODA Support for poverty reduction and prosperity in Bangladesh

**B**ANGLADESH and Japan sustain a profound friendship in history. Japan was one of the first countries that officially recognized Bangladesh. Moreover, Japan has wholeheartedly supported the people of Bangladesh and stood by them during their most difficult times. Today, although Bangladesh is a rising economy, it is still considered one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) due to its high population. Japan, as its friend, continues to support Bangladesh in battling the poverty and in gaining more prosperity.

Bangladesh is a key country in several international contexts: in South Asian region, in the Islamic world, and in multilateral groups, including UN. Besides, Bangladesh is Japan's important partner in trade and investment. The perpetual

friendship between Bangladesh and Japan generates impeccable impact on the lives of both the peoples.

Japan highly appreciates the Government of Bangladesh for its effort in implementing its Poverty Reduction Strategy II (PRSI) (revised). Along with other development partners, Japan supports Bangladesh to implement PRSI and to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The most visible Japanese support is portrayed in developing large-scale infrastructure in Bangladesh. Japan has significantly supported in constructing local transportation network that includes the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, the Meghna and Meghna-Gumti Bridges, the Lalmon Shah Bridge, and the Khan Jahan Ali Bridge, etc. Such transportation network greatly enhances the eco-

nomic activities. In addition, Japan supports to strengthen the power situation in Bangladesh. Further to the various assistances in generating and transmitting electricity, a new power plant is going to be built in near future by Japan's assistance in Haripur.

Japan's aid also gives a profound impact on daily lives of Bangladesh people. The sanitary situation is improving through JICA technical cooperation project on waste disposal in Dhaka and the water supply system is improving through another JICA project in Chittagong. Japan's assistance has been expanding in the health sector, such as improving mother and child health situation in Bangladesh. JICA also conducting technical cooperation projects in rural development, primary education in science/math and water quality testing as well as financial support to local NGOs all over the country.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries against climate change in the world. As a partner of Japan's Cool Earth Partnership, Japan supports Bangladesh to fight natural disasters. Japan has provided more than 80 cyclone shelters and meteorological radar systems in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali and Moulvibazar, which well contributed to the early warning for the cyclones "SIDR" and "AILA".

Evidently, Japan also pays much focus on developing human resources. Every year, approximately 80 Bangladeshi students and professionals go to Japan for education and training purposes under various Japanese government programs. More than 5,500 JICA trainees, 1,200 AOTS alumni and 2,800 Monbu-Kagakusho Scholarship alumni are now playing important and effective roles

in their respective fields including in policy-making all over Bangladesh.

Within the Japanese development community, the Embassy of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which was merged with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) last year, and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) are closely working, which are known as 'the 3Is,' by forming a Country ODA Taskforce. On the other hand, there exists a common platform and interface for communication among the government and development partners. Through such stakeholder mapping, Japan strategies to leverage most of its knowledge and wishes to utilize its limited available ODA resources as effectively as possible.

In Japan's Country Assistance Program for Bangladesh, the basic principle strategies are: (1) Supporting ownership and self-help efforts of Bangladesh; (2) Promoting development partnership, and; (3) Providing attention to gender and environment as crosscutting issues.

In this connection, in order to support the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh for its poverty reduction, Japan identifies three priority goals and nine sectors: (a) Promoting economic growth (private sector development, transport, power, agriculture and rural development), (b) Enhancing social development with human security aspects (education, health, environment (including water and sanitation), disaster management), and (c) Improving governance.

Japan will continue to work with the Government of Bangladesh and other development partners for further and sustainable development of this country.

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22**  
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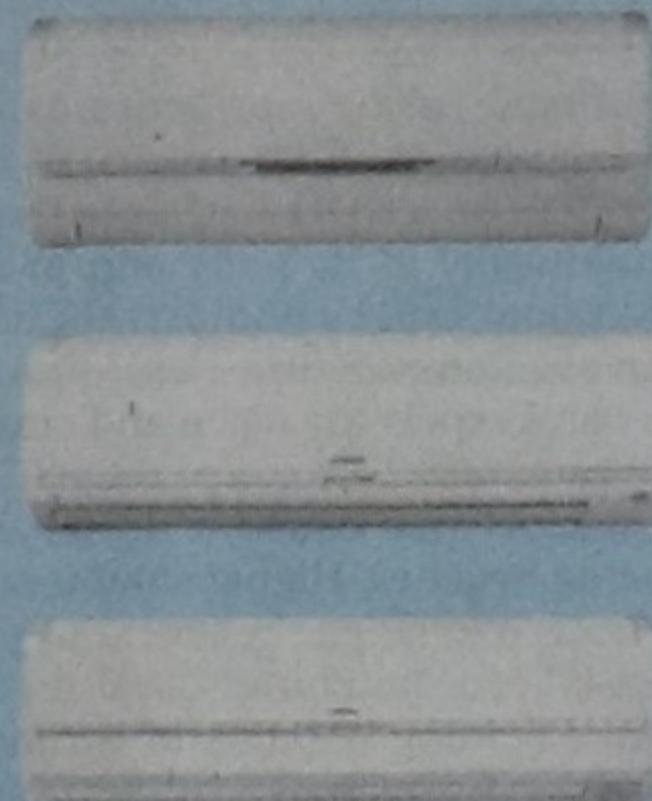
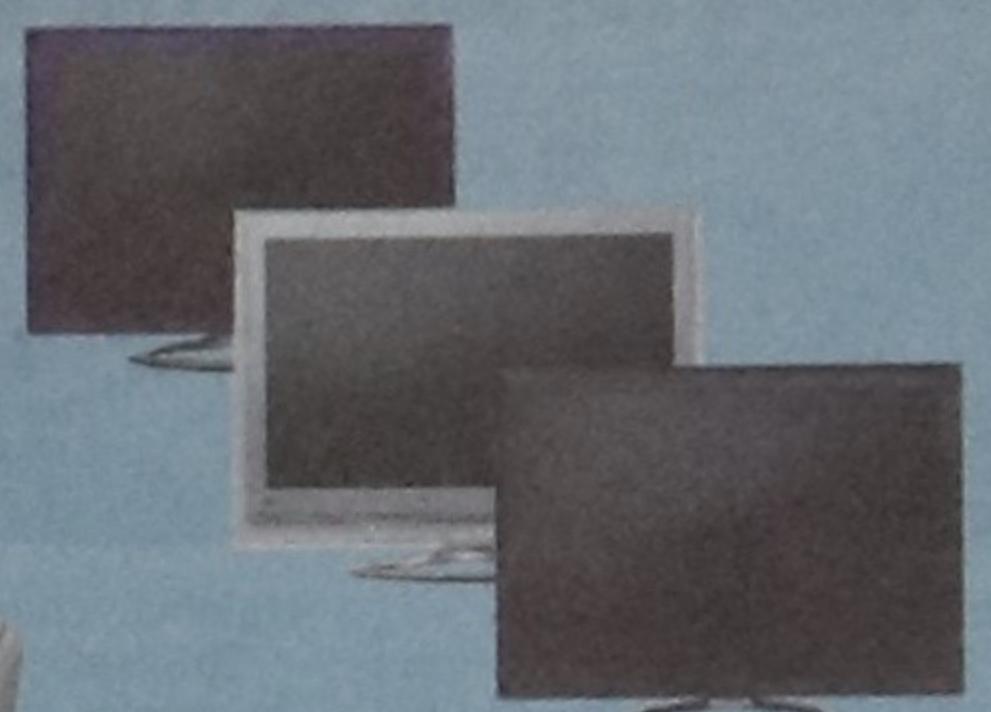
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