

# Japan's wage talks key to future of Abenomics

AFP, Tokyo

Hisashi Aoto was not holding out much hope that his employer would give him a bumper pay rise this year as Japan's spring labour talks wrap up.

The 44-year-old is among the millions of rank-and-file workers eyeing the annual union negotiations, as top companies including automakers Toyota and Nissan, conglomerate Hitachi and electronics giant Panasonic announce their pay plans from Wednesday.

"My employer's financial results were bad this year," said Aoto, who works in the sales department of a major computer and software maker.

"I don't think there is any chance of my salary rising," he added, ahead of the announcements.

That gloomy outlook is not good news for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has been pushing stingy companies to boost workers' wage packets.

His increasingly desperate calls are borne from a hope that more pay will mean more spending, which is crucial if Abe's plan to lift growth has any chance of success after three years of lacklustre results.

Many more firms will make wage announcements in the coming weeks, but union bosses are unlikely to be cracking open the champagne.

Despite record profits, Toyota said on Wednesday it would lift workers' monthly pay by just 1,500 yen (\$13) - although it is also raising twice-yearly bonuses - while Hitachi, Fujitsu and Panasonic will hike wages by the same amount.

Honda said its basic wages would increase 1,100 yen, while Altima sedan maker Nissan was a bit more generous, announcing a 3,000 yen jump. Workers at Japan's biggest banks did not even ask for wage rises, as a widely criticised negative interest rate policy by the Bank of Japan threatens lenders' bottom lines.

Japan's firms are growing more cautious as the world's number three economy, which contracted in the last quarter of 2015, runs up against slow-



Workers of the Japan Council of Metalworkers' Union check the results of wage negotiations to display on the white board in background at its headquarters in Tokyo yesterday.

ing growth overseas, weak spending at home and a stronger yen, which is bad news for exporters.

Until recently, the yen has been falling as massive monetary easing by the BoJ - a cornerstone of Abe's big-spending, easing money policy drive dubbed Abenomics - helped push down the currency.

The weak yen fattened exporting firms' profits, but the unit has strengthened recently and few cash-rich companies now seem willing to open up their war chests.

Many smaller firms that never reaped the rewards of a weaker currency are not in a position to raise pay, said Rikio Kozu, the boss of the 6.8-million member Japanese Trade Union Confederation.

"There are many companies where regular wage increases just couldn't happen," Kozu told AFP in an interview at his union's national headquarters in Tokyo.

"Income disparity has been going up over the past two years. If that keeps happening, there is no way to beat deflation."

While Japan's consumer prices were on the upswing for a while, they have fallen back, forcing the central

bank to push back its timeline for a 2.0 percent inflation target.

The once-soaring economy has struggled against deflation for years, as consumers hoped to buy stuff cheaper down the road.

But that lack of spending hurt expansion and hiring plans, while stagnant prices gave companies little incentive to boost pay.

More recently, the slowdown in key export markets such as China is offering companies another excuse to avoid inflating their fixed costs like salaries, said Martin Schulz, senior economist at the Fujitsu Research Institute.

"Remarkably, trade unions share this view," he added.

"They are well aware of the dilemma - they are scared about new waves of cost-cutting and restructuring when costs start to increase too fast."

About 1,300 representatives from the country's unions this month met at a boxing venue near the giant Tokyo Dome. But the talks, known as Shunto or "the spring offensive", tend to be anything but a slug fest these days, unlike in past decades when strikes and work slowdowns were common.

## Opec, non-Opec producers to meet on April 17 in Doha

AFP, Doha

Opec members and key oil producers from outside the cartel will meet on April 17 in Doha in a bid to stabilise falling crude prices, Qatari energy minister Mohammed al-Sada said Wednesday.

The meeting is a "follow-up" to last month's talks between Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela when they proposed an accord to freeze oil output at January levels, said a statement from Sada, the current Opec president.

He said 15 countries accounting for some 73 percent of global oil output supported the initiative, including the world's top exporter Saudi Arabia, and Russia. Russian energy minister Alexander Novak said this week that the meeting will "probably" be held in April.

Oil prices, which have plummeted more than 60 percent since mid-2014 partly because of oversupply, recently recovered slightly following talk of an output freeze.

But Novak's comments put pressure on oil prices after he indicated Iran could be excluded from a freeze deal to allow it to increase its crude production after Western sanctions over its nuclear programme.



Meherun N Islam, group managing director of Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS) - USA and Asia Pacific, speaks at a press meet. Tanveer Qamrul Islam, executive director of CEMS Bangladesh, was also present. CEMS Global and CEMS Bangladesh will organise the 11th Dhaka Motor Show 2016 at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka from March 31 to April 2.

## Economic growth no longer translates into more greenhouse gas: IEA

AFP, Paris

Global economic growth did not translate into more harmful greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector last year, the IEA said on Wednesday, a strong indication that growth and increased pollution no longer go hand in hand.

For the second year running, worldwide CO2 emissions stalled in 2015 while the global economy grew by 3.1 percent, after a 3.4-percent rise in 2014, the International Energy Agency said.

A surge in the contribution from renewable energy sources explains the decoupling of growth and CO2 emissions, with clean energy sources accounting for 90 percent of all new electricity generation in 2015.

Wind alone contributed half of all new electricity generation, the IEA said.

"We now have seen two straight years of greenhouse gas emissions decoupling

from economic growth," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

"Coming just a few months after the landmark COP21 agreement in Paris, this is yet another boost to the global fight against climate change."

There have been four instances of falling CO2 emissions year-on-year in the last four decades, three of which coincided with economic weakness, in contrast to the scenario seen these past two years.

The two largest greenhouse gas emitters, the United States and China, both registered declines in CO2 production in 2015.

But this was offset by increased emissions in other Asian developing countries, the Middle East and, to a less extent, in Europe, keeping the overall emissions level flat, the IEA said.

The 29-nation IEA provides analysis on global energy markets and advocates policies enhancing the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy.

### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH Land Reforms Board 141-143, Motijheel C/A area, Dhaka-1000. INVITATION FOR TENDER

Memo No: 31.02.0000.012.10.001.16.96

Date-15.03.2016

1. Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Land.				
2. Agency	Land Reforms Board, Dhaka.				
3. Procuring Entity Name	Land Reforms Board, Dhaka.				
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh.				
5. Invitation for	Purchase of software as goods.				
6. Invitation Ref. No.	Memo No: 31.02.0000.012.10.001.16.96				
7. Date	15.03.2016				
8. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.(OTM)				
9. Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget of 2015-2016, GOB.				
10. Tender Package No.	01				
11. Tender Package Name	Supplying, Installing, Customizing, Testing and Commissioning of integrated Land Information Management System (LIMS) Software as goods for LRB.				
12. Tender Schedule Last Selling Date	30/03/2016 upto 5.00 PM				
13. Tender submission Date and Time	31/03/2016 upto 1.00 PM				
14. Tender Opening Date and Time	31/03/2016 at 2.00 PM				
15. Name & Address of the Office (s) -Selling Tender Document (principal) -Receiving Tender Document -Opening Tender Document	Assistant Land Reforms Commissioner, Land Reforms Board, Dhaka -do- Tender Opening Committee of Land Reforms Board				
16. General Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should have at least Five years of IT working &amp; training conducting experience.</li> <li>Experience in Land Related software service</li> <li>The tenderer must have three government related working experience.</li> <li>During submission of tender document need to submit up-to-date Trade license, 11 Digit VAT certificate, TIN, Bank Solvency certificate, infrastructure of Team &amp; Experience certificate.</li> <li>BASIS membership certificate</li> </ul>				
17. Brief Description of goods	The Land Information Management System (LIMS) software should be an integrated system and must have the following modules : 1. Land Mutation Management System 2. Land Mutation Review Management System. 3. Land Misc. Case Management System. 4. Land Development Tax Management System. 5. Online/Offline messaging system 6. Case tracking system 7. Budget Management System 8. Rent Certificate Management 9. All Employee Information System. 10. Monitoring Dashboard (AC Land office monitoring system from DC office, Land Reforms Board (LRB) and Ministry of Land using different dashboard)				
18. Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in weeks/months
1.	01	Dhaka	5000.00 (Five Thousand)	2,00,000.00 (Two Lac Taka Only)	Three weeks from the date of contract signing.
19. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Rezaul kabir				
20. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Assistant Land Reforms Commissioner				
21. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Land Reforms Board, BIWTA Building, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000				
22. Contact details of Official Invitation Tender	Tele : 9562671 (Office)				
Public Procurement Act-2006, Public Procurement Regulations-2008 (revised) shall be followed for this procurement process. The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.					

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Mymensingh  
www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No: IFT 302/2015-2016, Memo No: LGED/XEN/Mym/2015-2016/1247

Date: 14-03-2016

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of (1) Construction of 165.20m-Long PC Girder Bridge on R&H (Nagla)-Goatola GC Shakuai GC (Haluaghat Part) over Godaria river 16+680km under Haluaghat Upazila, district: Mymensingh (ID No: 361242003) (Package No: WNOBI-Mym(Hal)-UZRB-164, e-Tender ID 50793). This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 12-30pm on 13-04-2016.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) also from E-mail: [xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd) or call to 091-66110 or 091-66376.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Sohrab Ali  
Executive Engineer  
LGED Mymensingh  
Tel. 091-64365  
[xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd)

GD-672

### বাংলাদেশ ট্রায়নিজম বোর্ড

(জাতীয় পর্যটন সংস্থা)

লেভেল-৩, বিল্ডিং-২

বি এস এল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স (হোটেল ইন্টারকন্টিনেন্টাল ঢাকা)

১ মিল্টো রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

নং- বিটিবি(বিপণন)/ফেলোশীপ-১৬/২০১৬(৩৫৮)/২৩০

তারিখ : ১৭ মার্চ, ২০১৬।

### পর্যটন সাংবাদিকতায় ফেলোশীপ প্রদানের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

পর্যটন সাংবাদিকতায় ফেলোশীপ প্রদানের জন্য জাতীয় পর্যটন সংস্থা বাংলাদেশ ট্রায়নিজম বোর্ড এর পক্ষ থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত ফেলোশীপ প্রদানের মূল লক্ষ্য হচ্ছে, প্রিন্ট, ইলেকট্রনিক ও অনলাইন মিডিয়ায় দেশের পর্যটন শিল্পের বিদ্যমান সমস্যা, প্রতিকার ও করণীয় বিষয়ে রিপোর্টিং এর মাধ্যমে নীতিনির্ধারক, পর্যটন সংশ্লিষ্ট স্টেকহোল্ডার ও জনসাধারণের মধ্যে সচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করা এবং এর মাধ্যমে পর্যটন শিল্পের সার্বিক উন্নয়নে প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা। পর্যটন সাংবাদিকতায় কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রিন্ট, ইলেকট্রনিক ও অনলাইন মিডিয়ার সাংবাদিকবৃন্দ এই ফেলোশীপের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

আগ্রহী সাংবাদিকবৃন্দ কে আগামী ৩১ মার্চ ২০১৬ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র, এক কপি জীবন বৃত্তান্ত এবং ইতোপূর্বে গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত পর্যটন বিষয়ক কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) টি রিপোর্টের কপি (হার্ড কপি/ সিডি) প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, বাংলাদেশ ট্রায়নিজম বোর্ড, লেভেল-৩, বিল্ডিং-২, বি এস এল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স (হোটেল ইন্টারকন্টিনেন্টাল), ১ মিল্টো রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবরে প্রেরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

(আখতারুজ্জামান খান কবির)  
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা  
ফোন : ৫৮৩১৫৯৫৪।

ই-মেইল : [btbnto@gmail.com](mailto:btbnto@gmail.com)

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