

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Finance  
Economic Relations Division

**PRESS RELEASE**

Dhaka, June 24, 2015


The Government of Japan will provide an amount of 2,881 (Two thousand eight hundred eighty one) million Japanese Yen (equivalent to approximately Taka 186.26 crore) as Grant Aid for "The Project for Improvement of Meteorological RADAR System in Dhaka and Rangpur." In this regard, 'Exchange of Notes' and 'Grant Agreement' have been signed today between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Japan. Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance has signed the 'Exchange of Notes' and the 'Grant Agreement' on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh while His Excellency Mr. Takeshi Matsunaga, Charges d'affaires ad interim of Japan to Bangladesh has signed the 'Exchange of Notes' and Mr. Mikio Hataeda, Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh Office, Dhaka has signed the 'Grant Agreement' on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The project will be implemented by Bangladesh Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Defence. Under the project, the present meteorological RADAR system of Dhaka and Rangpur will be modernized by replacing the present RADAR system with the ultramodern Doppler RADAR system. Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) has taken this project with a view to reducing the damages of lives and properties caused by natural disasters like thunderstorm, storm, storm surge, cyclone, tornado, heavy rainfall, flood, draught etc. and for the maintenance of safe aviation and riverine movement by providing more accurate and timely weather forecast and warning. After implementation of the project, BMD will be capable to get the following data/parameter in addition to the existing RADAR data:-

- wind velocity up to 270 km per hour within the radius of 200 km from RADAR centre.
- forecasting of rainfall per hour within the radius of 450 km from the RADAR centre.
- a composite picture of the radar images will be available at Storm Warning Center, Dhaka and Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport.

Moreover, cyclone tracking (position and intensity), safe aviation & riverine forecast as well as all sorts of weather forecasting and warning systems will be strengthened. As a result, position and intensity of severe meteorological phenomena such as thunderstorm, storm, storm surge, cyclone, tornado, heavy rainfall, flood, draught etc. will be determined in advance and accurately and BMD will be able to contribute in a greater perspective to reduce the losses of lives and properties caused by those natural disasters and thus it will play a pivotal role for the socio-economic development of the country.

Japan is the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh. Japan has contributed significantly to the overall development of the country. In addition to soft loans, Japan is also providing significant amounts of Grant Aid and Technical Assistance for different projects among which human resource development and environment protection are remarkable. Japan has also been supporting the important sectors in Bangladesh out of the Japanese Debt Cancellation Fund.

  
24/06/2015  
Monoranjan Biswas  
Joint Secretary