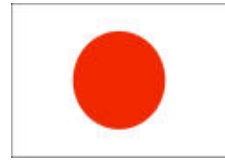




**World Food Programme**  
**Bangladesh**



**JAPAN**

**News Release**

**06 December 2006**

## **Japan Donates Food Aid worth Tk. 30 Crore to WFP in Bangladesh**

**Dhaka** – The Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Masayuki Inoue handed over 8,000 tons of rice and 100 tons of canned fish worth US\$ 4.3 million (Tk. 30 crore) to Mr. AKM. Jahangir, Director General, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

The Japanese food assistance, through WFP, will assist 250,000 poor people to improve their health status and community infrastructure. The rice will be distributed to 40,000 ultra-poor households suffering from chronic food insecurity. The canned tuna fish arrived in August and has been given to 50,000 households in the last three months.

*“Malnutrition, hunger and poverty continues to pose a serious threat to over 60 million people in Bangladesh. Our contribution aims to assist marginalized people to meet their immediate nutritional needs, and gain capacity to cope with difficulties in their lives in the longer term,”* said Mr. Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan at Japanese Embassy.

*“The challenge of overcoming the hunger and food insecurity of 60 million people is immense. We are glad that the Government and the people of Japan are partnering with us in facing this formidable challenge. We hope to cement this partnership further and work together to meet key national development priorities and targets,”* said Mr. AKM. Jahangir, Director General, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation.

*“We thank the Japanese Government and people for their support to the people of Bangladesh. Japan has been a generous food aid donor to Bangladesh since the independence in 1971. Globally, Japan has been one of the top donors to WFP. This US\$4.3 million contribution forms part of Japan’s US\$12 million aid package to WFP operations in six countries and territory, for reducing human sufferings and promoting peace,”* said Mr. Douglas Broderick, WFP Representative in Bangladesh.

The food donation supports poor communities and households to build community assets that strengthen their capacity to cope with difficult times. It will also assist women to develop income-generating skills to improve their livelihoods.

### **Notes to the Editor**

1. Despite considerable improvements in food availability situation, almost half the population of Bangladesh is still going hungry and becoming stunted with reduced mental and physical capacity. The hungry population of over 60 million people is larger than most other global cases—the third largest poor population in any country after China and India<sup>1</sup>. Nearly half of Bangladesh’s children are underweight, making it one of the most severe cases of malnutrition in the world. At present rate of progress, the achievement of Millennium Development Goal target to reduce the proportion of underweight children from the present 50% to 34% by 2015 looks unlikely.
2. Japan has been one of WFP’s top donors and in 2005 alone donated US\$161 million worldwide. In Bangladesh, Japan is the third largest donor in 2006 (as of end July).
3. The donation of US\$4.3 million to Bangladesh was approved in March 2006 by Government of Japan as a part of its US\$12 million aid package to WFP operations in six countries and territory. Other than Bangladesh, the aid went to Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Timor Leste, the Philippines, and Occupied Palestinian Territory. The grant aims to assist peace building and promotion of human security.
4. WFP has been working in Bangladesh for the past 30 years to help its people reach and maintain food security. Its current Country Programme aims to assist about 5 million people annually. WFP food assistance targets almost exclusively at the ultra poor, who are subsisting on less than 1800 Kcal per day. Some 30 million people fall into that category. In addition to food, WFP provides awareness and skills training, and access to cash credit.

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