

Signing of the First Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Moldova –Aiming for Improved Healthcare Services Using Japanese Technology–

On June 27, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the capital of Chişinău to provide a Japanese loan of up to 5.926 billion yen for the Project for Improvement of Medical Care Service.

The objective of this project is to make the healthcare service system stronger and more efficient through providing medical and laboratory equipment for core hospitals primarily in Chişinău and medical centers. The funds for this project will be allocated to procuring medical equipment, consulting services (including project management, procurement assistance, and construction supervision) and capacity development for the medical staffs.

Moldova is a small country in Eastern Europe with a population of approximately 3.5 million people. It is a landlocked country borders with Romania and Ukraine.

After independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, economic situation in Moldova worsened and people could not receive the medical care they needed as the government was not able to allocate enough budget for the health sector. Since then, Moldova has spent 20 years to improve the healthcare service system through introducing universal coverage, reforming health finances and defining proper division of roles among hospitals and medical centers. As a result, the healthcare sector in Moldova has improved so much as to be called a "model of healthcare reform."

Japan has supported the Moldovan healthcare reform through providing medical equipment by grant aid. The Government of Moldova highly appreciated durability and reliability of Japanese medical equipment and applied for the STEP[1]. (Special Terms for Economic Partnership) for its first Japanese ODA loan project.

Though healthcare facilities in Moldova have skilled staffs, they confront shortage of medical equipment, particularly in secondary and tertiary hospitals and medical centers. There are also difficulties in responding to the increasing number of patients who need highly advanced medical treatment in such areas as cardiovascular disease and cancer. Through this project, more people are expected to receive higher quality healthcare. To further enhance the effects of this project, JICA will also provide technical assistance to improve the capacity to maintain and operate the equipment, and to improve the quality of laboratory examination.

Through cooperation for the Project for Improvement of Medical Care Service, JICA will proactively work on the social sector development which is one of the priority area of Japanese cooperation in Moldova.

Reference

1. Terms and Amounts of Loans

Project title	Amount (million yen)	Annual interest rate (%)		Repayment period (years)	Grace period (years)	Procurement
		Project	Consulting services			
Project for Improvement of Medical Care Service	5,926	0.1*	0.01	30	10	Japan tied

* Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) apply to the project.

2. Project Summaries

Executing Agency

Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova
Address: 2, Vasile Alecsandri Str. MD-2009, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Phone: +373-22-26-88-66, fax: +373-22-26-88-66

3. Planned Implementation Schedule

- (i) Completion of project: May 2015 – with completion of the provision of equipment
- (ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services: September 2013
- (iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction:
Procurement package title: Medical and Laboratory Equipment Package
Release date: May 2014

4. JICA Contact Information

For further information about the procurement schedule, please contact the offices listed below.

Regarding procurement of consulting services
Contact point: Europe Division, Middle East and Europe Department, JICA
Address: Nibancho Center Building, 2-5-25, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Phone: 03-5226-6893, fax: 03-5226-6365

Regarding other matters
Contact point: The JICA France Office
Address: 8 rue Sainte-Anne 75001 Paris FRANCE
Phone: +33-1-4020-0421, fax: +33-1-4020-9768

Note

[1] These special Japanese ODA loan terms were established to provide greater visibility of Japanese aid through the transfer of advanced technology and expertise to developing countries.



Signing ceremony (Left: Masakazu Ichikawa, vice president of JICA. Right: Andrei Usatii, minister of Health, Moldova.)