

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects FY2017:

Signing Ceremony of “The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan”

On March 14th, 2018, a Signing Ceremony of “The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan” within the frameworks of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects was held in Yerevan. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Eiji Taguchi (Ambassador of Japan to Armenia) as well as Mr. Sarkis Balkhian (Executive Director of Aleppo NGO), Ms. Ruzanna Zakaryan (Head of Yerevan Municipality Department of Social Welfare), Mr. Christoph Bierwirth (Representative of UNHCR Armenia), Ms. Karine Simonyan and Mr. Martin Hiebsch (Program experts at GIZ Armenia), Ms. Lusine Stepanyan (Program manager at Armenian Caritas), and other guests.

The project aims to establish a successful “for-profit” multi-food service business employing unemployed Syrian refugees in Armenia, specifically targeting women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable Syrian community members. The concept of the cuisine center is unique and remarkable in a sense that all the profits will be used to provide humanitarian relief assistance and employment opportunities to Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Armenia. The project is joint effort of various parties, with a recommendation from UNHCR Armenia, Japanese Government has taken a role of renovating the building, GIZ has provided equipment and technical training to future staffs, Parish Council of St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church in Houston (USA) has funded for purchasing the property, and numbers of partners and supporters have contributed to realize the establishment of the Middle Eastern Cuisine Center.

Note : According to UNHCR and the Government of Armenia, over 22,000 Syrian refugees of Armenian ethnic background have entered Armenia since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011. Of that number, 15,000 remain seeking to reestablish their livelihoods. The majority are urban refugees living in and around Yerevan, where they face barriers to their economic integration and social isolation.

Project Name : The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan
Recipient : Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization
G/C Amount : USD 40,635 (JPY 4,469,850)
G/C Signed Date : March 14th, 2018



Opening speech by Mr. Balkhian



Speech by Vice President Mrs. Tsovik Paytaryan



Congratulatory address by Ambassador Taguchi



Presentation by Mr. Balkhian



Signing on the Grant Contract



Strong handshake by Ambassador Taguchi and Mr. Balkhian



Cake cutting



Entrance of the cuisine center



Equipment provided by GIZ

【Press Release】

Aleppo NGO.org : <https://aleppo-ngo.org/news/embassy-japan-newest-supporter-aleppo-cuisine-center/>

Armenpress : <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/926129/tchaponiayi-karavarutyuny-satarum-e-hayastanum-bnakvox.html>

Lragir : <http://www.lragir.am/index/arm/0/society/rss/171955>

News.am : <https://news.am/arm/news/441020.html>

Yerkir Media : <http://yerkirmedia.am/economy/japonia-nerdrum-hayastan/>

Hayern Aysor : <http://hayernaysor.am/en/archives/276789>

Panorama.am :

- <https://www.panorama.am/am/news/2018/03/15/%D5%A1%D6%80%D6%87%D5%A5%D5%AC%D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%BF%D5%A5%D5%BD%D5%BF%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80/1919861>
- <https://www.panorama.am/am/photos/%D5%83%D5%A1%D5%BA%D5%B8%D5%B6%D5%AB%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D6%86%D5%AB%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%BD%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B0%D5%A1%D5%BF%D5%AF%D5%A1%D6%81%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80-%D5%A7-%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A5%D5%AC-%D5%80%D5%A1%D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%BD%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%AB-%D5%A7%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%A3%D5%A5%D5%BF%D5%AB%D5%AF-%D5%A1%D5%BC%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%BB%D5%A1%D5%BA%D5%A1%D5%B0%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D6%87-%D5%AF%D6%80%D5%A9%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B8%D5%AC%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%BF%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4/4138>