

**Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects FY 2020:
Signing Ceremony of
“The Project for Establishing Social Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training Center
to Support Vulnerable People in Dilijan”**

On March 19, 2021, the Signing Ceremony of “The Project for Establishing Social Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training Center to Support Vulnerable People in Dilijan” up to USD 74,879, within the framework of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects was held at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia. The Grant Contract was signed by Mr. Jun Yamada, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia and Mr. Emin Yeristyan, President of “Union of Communities of Armenia”. The Signing Ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia and Mr. Davit Sargsyan, Acting Head of Dilijan community.

The Project aims to promote sustainable employment opportunities for people with physical or mental disabilities and their family members in Dilijan, Tavush region by establishing the social entrepreneurship and vocational training center with a Laundromat Café and annually providing training for 360 people. The Project will also contribute to making social return by providing expert consultation and promoting social entrepreneurship in Dilijan which has great potential for tourism.

Warmly welcoming all the guests, Deputy Minister Sargsyan expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Embassy of Japan in Armenia, as well as the representatives from Union of Communities of Armenia for their contribution and active participation in the field of community development which promotes inclusive vocational training and adaptation programs. Deputy Minister Sargsyan mentioned that the Project will greatly help to create new employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Dilijan.

Ambassador Yamada, in turn, mentioned that in Japan social enterprises are increasingly regarded as essential organizations for enhancing wellbeing of people as well as creating sustainable future. Reflecting the Japanese Government’s strong commitment to uphold the concept of “Human Security”, this assistance is a clear manifestation of enhancing the wellbeing and safety of people at the grassroots level. Ambassador also added that this assistance will not only become a step towards sustainable regional development of Armenia, but also will become a strong bond and embodiment of friendship and mutual sympathy which traditionally form the very foundation of Japan–Armenia relations.

Mr. Eritsyan in his speech mentioned that the Project aspires to become a model of cooperation between state, local and professional bodies and will be replicated also in other regions. Mr. Eritsyan also expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan, as well as the Embassy of Japan in Armenia for the support.



Speech by Mr. Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia



Speech by Ambassador Yamada



Speech by Mr. Yeritsyan, President of "Union of Communities of Armenia"



Ambassador Yamada Signing the Grant Contract



Mr. Yeritsyan Signing the Grant Contract



Participants