



## PRESS RELEASE



26<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**PR1/F2014**

**Subject: Japan extends a loan of JPY 8,285,000,000  
(equivalent of USD 85 million) for the Polio Eradication Project**

The Government of Japan has decided to extend a loan of JPY 8,258,000,000 (equivalent of USD 85 million) to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the Polio Eradication Project. On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014, the Exchange of Notes (E/N) for the Project was signed between H.E. Mr. Ryuichi SHOJI, the Ambassador of Japan to Nigeria, and Prof. C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu, Honourable Minister of Health, at the Federal Ministry of Health (See the details below).

<b>Project Title</b>	Polio Eradication Project
<b>Loan Amount</b>	JPY 8,285,000,000 (equivalent of USD 85 million) *Exchange Rate: USD 1= JPY 97
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)
<b>Project Summary</b>	Japan supports polio immunisation campaigns in Nigeria to optimise immunization of vaccines to children under 5 years of age through procurement of polio vaccine, thereby contributing to polio eradication in Nigeria.

Nigeria is said to be one of three remaining countries (Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan) where wild poliovirus still exists. The Government of Japan has been a faithful partner of Nigeria over 14 years and already provided grant assistance amounting to JPY 8,115,000,000 in total for prevention of polio and other infectious diseases for children in collaboration with UNICEF since Japanese Fiscal Year 2000.

Although Nigeria is making progress in fight against polio, Nigeria has yet to achieve the ultimate goal of polio eradication. Childhood killer diseases such as polio are still rampant despite the fact that they are vaccine-preventable. The level of child mortality can be reduced with simple intervention of immunisation of polio vaccine delivered in an integrated manner.

As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of polio. However, international spread of wild poliovirus has been found recently in some countries in Asia, Africa and Middle East according to WHO. The global situation concerning polio spread requires an urgent reaction, and this loan project amounting to JPY 8,285,000,000 will constitute an important step towards the world free of polio.

< Signing Ceremony of Exchange of Notes (E/N) >

Venue: Conference Room (6<sup>th</sup> floor), Federal Ministry of Health  
Date: Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

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