

14 June 2011

“KIZUNA” FROM JAPAN TO MALAYSIA

“Kizuna” means bonds of friendship in Japanese. Japan was hit by an unprecedented earthquake and tsunami on 11 March. Since then, we have been receiving donations and kind messages from all over Malaysia, which included a donation from an orphanage. We are deeply moved by the fact that even small children without a home shared their pockets money and thoughts with the people in difficulty in Japan. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Malaysian friends who have come together to help us.

When we heard the news about the landslide which killed 16 children of the Hidayah Madrasah Al-Taqwa orphanage in Hulu Langat, we, the Japanese diplomats of the Japanese Embassy in Malaysia, thought that it is our turn to show our “Kizuna” for Malaysia. Our prayers are with the Malaysians who are trying to rebuild the orphanage in on a safe plot of land and we decided to do what we can to help.

Besides this voluntary contribution from the Japanese diplomats, the Government of Japan has also signed an agreement with the Government of Malaysia to start a joint research on “Reducing Geo-hazard Damage in Malaysia caused by Landslide and Flood”. Prominent professors and researchers from Chiba University, the University of Tokyo and the National Research Institute of Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED) will come to Malaysia to conduct a joint study with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) for 5 years. In this project, a new methodology for geographical landslide hazard mapping will be developed by space satellite remote sensing technology. The budget for this project is 360million yen (equivalent to RM13million RM) to cover the cost in Malaysia and will be fully funded by the Government of Japan.

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We will cherish the “Kizuna” shown by Malaysians and hope that our “Kizuna” will save Malaysian people from landslide disasters in the future. Our hearts are with you, Malaysia.

Japanese Diplomats

Embassy of Japan in Malaysia