

Nigeria: Japan to Build 30 Primary Schools in Oyo State

By Yusha'u A. Ibrahim

LAGOS, Nigeria, April 15, 2015 (Daily Trust) -- Japan under its programme, Japan's Grant Aid 2014, is to spend 8.5m US dollars for the construct of 30 Primary Schools in Oyo state, the project's Coordinator, Mr. Kazunori Ogaguchi has said.

Mr. Ogaguchi, who stated this at the tender opening ceremony of the project in Abuja, said while the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) stands for the Japan for the project, the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) represents the Nigerian government.

He said the 30 schools comprise 225 classrooms and the contract is to be completed within one year.

Ogaguchi said Japan's Grant Aid started working in Nigeria in 2004 and so far it has executed various projects in Kano; Kaduna, Plateau and Niger states.

He explained that the project was aimed at enhancing access to education for Nigerian pupils, adding that the programme is also determined to provide educational soft components to Nigerian schools.

On his part, the UBEC's project coordinator, Alhaji Iro Umar, said 490 classrooms were constructed in Kano by the JICS under the programme.

He pointed out that the major challenge of basic education sub-sector in Nigeria is lack of adequate school structures.

"Thirteen million Nigerian children are out of school. This kind of assistance will complement the efforts of the FG in addressing the situation. Between 2004 and 2008, JICS has constructed many classrooms in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Niger states," he said.