

## **Japan allocated \$4.5 million for the installation of x - ray scanning equipment at the customs points on the border of Uzbekistan with neighbouring countries**

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On November 13, 2012 the railway station "Galaba" of Surkhandarya region hosted opening ceremony of "Project of installation of x - ray scanning equipment at customs points on border of Uzbekistan with neighbouring countries" in the framework of the Gratuitous Aid of the Japanese Government in direction of anti-terrorism and security. For realization of the project the Japanese side allocated 360 million yen, which is equivalent to approximately \$4.5 million.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in the Republic of Uzbekistan Yoshihisa Kuroda and the First Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee - Shuhrat Hayrullayev.

Note that in the framework of this cooperation the Japanese representatives granted the x-ray scanning equipment for cars of customs post "Ayriton" of Surkhandarya region and the customs post "Oybek" of Tashkent region in the framework of "Project on installation of x-ray scanning equipment at customs points on the border of Uzbekistan with the neighbouring countries" (the first phase).

Under continuing cooperation under this project, relevant bodies implemented the second phase of provision of x-ray scanning equipment for freight trains of "Galaba" railway station, which will help strengthen the control of the country's borders.

Yoshihisa Kuroda in his speech at the opening ceremony noted that the aim of this cooperation is provision of x-ray scanning equipment for freight trains of "Galaba" railway station, where there is a high risk of drugs and other illicit goods from Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

- At the end of the last week on November 10 in Tokyo, representatives of the 5 Central Asian countries met and held the 4th Meeting at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the framework of the dialogue "Central Asia + Japan". Representatives of the countries-participants noted that the level of threat of terrorism and the flow of drugs into Central Asia still remains high, and reaffirmed the need to strengthen border control at borders of countries of the Central Asian region. The Japanese party expressed its intention to continue to provide assistance in this sphere, - the Ambassador said.

Up to the present time Japan has provided the Central Asian countries with equipment for inspection, provided assistance in improvement of the system of border control, training of customs officers, and also launched this project, which is one of types in the field of combating terrorism.

-I hope that thanks to this cooperation we will be able to prevent drugs penetration, weapons and terrorist funds in Uzbekistan. At the same time, simplification of customs procedures will promote trade and commerce, strengthening of peace and stability in Uzbekistan and the region as a whole, as well as economic prosperity" Y. Kuroda said.

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