



## Rich nations' help to eradicate illiteracy urged

A 10-day Bangladesh country meeting under the aegis of UNESCO co-action world Terakoya movement was inaugurated at a hotel in Dhaka on Monday with an appeal for increased cooperation of rich nations towards eradication of illiteracy from poor countries like Bangladesh.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar inaugurated the meeting begin organised by National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) and Bangladesh Terakoya Committee.

The NFUAJ Chairman, Prof. Akihiro Chiba was the special guest on the occasion while President of Bangladesh Terakoya Committee Dr. S.I. Khan and General Secretary Abdul Matin gave the welcome and thanks giving addresses.

Explaining the objectives of Terakoya Movement, Prof. Akihiro Chiba said Terakoya means 'house for teaching children' from which, Japan had benefitted a lot over the past decades in educating the Japanese children.

"We now want to send the message of Terakoya to the outer world", he said seeking all-out cooperation of all in this noble venture which needs sharing feelings and experience of other countries with Japan.

Prof. Akihiro Chiba also said the Japanese governments had achieved remarkable progress in education through Terakoya which was encouraged by many to proceed with it.

Mr Sircar appreciated the attempt for Terakoya in Bangladesh saying the rich nations should provide increased cooperation towards the poor nations to overcome their burden of illiteracy.

He said Terakoya would be immensely helpful for the education now being pursued by the present government with an aim to eradicate illiteracy from the country.

Mr Sircar said the present government had undertaken realistic approaches towards development in the education sector keeping in mind the national benefit.

He mentioned compulsory primary education, food for education, technical education, emphasis on higher education, science and technical education

alongwith formation of various committees at all levels to oversee these.

"We are now stressing on quality education because the nation cannot prosper without it," he said adding that the government had also done a commendable progress in infrastructural development in education sector throughout the country.

The Education Minister, in this respect, also recalled the contribution of the non-government organisations (NGOs) saying that they were playing an important role in eradicating illiteracy from the country.

He also mentioned with a note of appreciation the role of UNESCO in education especially for the tribals to help them uphold their culture and ethnic values in Bangladesh.

Besides, he said, UNESCO is contributing a lot in preservation of the historical relics in Bangladesh.

According to the organisers' statement, the NFUAJ will explore 'progress' in the context of literacy projects together with some of the most experienced NGOs supported by NFUAJ in Bangladesh.

After their evaluation, the NFUAJ will take up future plans for the programme and support NGOs working in this field, the statement said.

The 10-day programme will specially focus on the progress in literacy education, case study, visit to project sites, discussion, sharing experience, development of evaluation and survey methods and presentation of activity reports.