



Ambassador

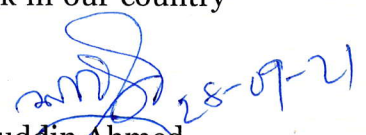
*Embassy of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh
Tokyo*

MESSAGE

This year, 2021, is the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh that we achieved in 1971. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize our independence on 10th Feb 1972. It was the same year when origins of Shapla Neer went to Bangladesh for supporting agricultural reconstruction work. We had just started to rebuild the country. At that trialing time, the care and concern that the Japanese friends exhibited was remarkable.

Alongside the Government, NGOs also play a significant role for reconstruction of the country. International NGOs from abroad including Japan have been involved for the social development work in Bangladesh. Shapla Neer stands out among those INGOs as it had started to work in our country right after the independence. Its name carries special significance since *Shapla* is our national flower and *Neer* means *Home* in Bangla. Right from the beginning, Shapla Neer has been working for the social development of Bangladesh especially in the areas of *child rights*, *disaster risk reduction* and *fair trade*. I understand that Shapla Neer runs by the contributions of its volunteer members and extend my appreciation for your support towards the people and the society.

Next year, 2022, is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan. We expect that Shapla Neer which has the same duration of relationship with Bangladesh will continue doing good work in our country in the years to come.


Shahabuddin Ahmed
Ambassador