Japan gives Rs. 258 million for mine clearance in North and East (Sri Lanka)

The Japanese government yesterday donated Rs. 258 million to four non-governmental organizations for the clearance of landmines in the North and East.

(19.06.2004)

Colombo -- Agreements in this regard were signed by representatives of the NGOs at the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation, where Japanese Ambassador Akio Suda attended.

The four NGOs were the Danish Demining Group (DDG), the Halo Trust, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Norwegian People's Aid.

DDG Project Officer Paul Mackintosh said, ?The grant will be utilized to purchase 19 ambulances, field supervision vehicles and two vegetation cutters to clear the overgrown mine fields. We also hope to expand our national staff to over 400 members by the end of this year and employ another team that would be trained and equipped using this money to be put into operation during the next two years.?

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