## Opening Ceremony of Vocational Training Center for Afghan Refugees

The opening ceremony of the Vocational Training Center for Afghan Refugees was held at Shahre-Rey in Tehran province on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

This Center is managed by NICCO (Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development), using "Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects". The grant provides government funds for economic and social development projects, undertaken by Japanese NGOs in developing countries and regions.

There are over 800,000 registered Afghan refugees residing in Iran. The aim of this center is to improve vocational capabilities such as PC, plan/graphic design, English, medical services, etc. of the Afghan refugees, who live in the southern part of Tehran Province and are willing to return to their country.

Mr. Akira CHIBA, Minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iran took part in the ceremony and delivered a speech together with Mr. Arsari, Second Secretary of the Afghan Embassy and Mr. Doyle, UNHCR Iran Representative.

In his speech, Mr. Arsari expressed his appreciation for the government and people of Japan for their best and continuous assistance to Afghanistan, especially in training and health sectors. Also, Mr. Doyle expressed his gratitude for Japan's long time assistance, especially even when Japan suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and its aftermath.

The Government of Japan hopes that more Afghan trainees will render services after going back to their country, using the knowledge and skills acquired at this Center.



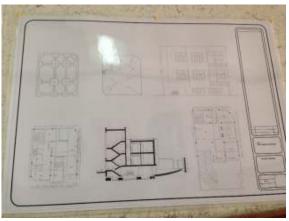
The ceremony



Mr. CHIBA Delivering speech



Sample of trainee's work (1)



Sample of trainees work (2)