

## **Participation in the opening ceremony of STRONG FAMILIES program supported by the Government of Japan**

The opening ceremony of the STRONG FAMILIES Programme which is the part of the UNODC project donated by the Government of Japan was held at the Ferdowsi Hotel in Tehran on 19-20 November 2019. H. E. SAITO Mitsugu, Ambassador of Japan in Iran attended the event.

Drug diffusion situation in Iran is quite serious. As large amount of drug is seized in Iran every year, drug abuse is one of the social issues in Iran. Therefore, the Japanese Government decided to donate around US\$ 880 thousand to the UNODC project for “Strengthening capacities of Iranian Law Enforcement in countering transnational organized crime including illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, countering financing of terrorism and violent extremism as well as drug demand reduction initiatives”. The STRONG FAMILIES programme is one of the abovementioned projects and the program aims to protect families and children from drug use, violence and other negative consequences.

Ambassador Saito delivered a speech in Farsi in the ceremony and expressed that “The drug trafficking is a very serious threat to the whole world. Therefore, the Government of Japan is continuously making efforts in order to address global security issues and has a long history of supporting UNODC in fulfilling its international mission. I hope the contribution of the Government of Japan would help to achieve its goals successfully.”



Ambassador delivering the speech