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PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalizes Assistance to Betio Town Council, Teinainano Urban Council and Tungaru Central Hospital in the Republic of Kiribati

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth US\$162,222 (AU\$189,362) to Betio Town Council and Teinainano Urban Council for the provision of a garbage truck to each respective Council and to Tungaru Central Hospital for the provision of an ambulance through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. Hirotaro Ohira, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, will sign the grant contracts to formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony at 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m on Friday, 16 February, at the Ministry for Health and Medical Services and Ministry of Internal Affairs, Tarawa.

For further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp and phone number: +679 3304633.

Details for the Three Projects

1. The Project for Provision of Garbage Truck to Betio Town
 - (a) Recipient: Betio Town Council
 - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Tauia Viane, Mayor
 - (c) Details: Betio Town Council will receive US\$53,942 (AU\$62,681) for the provision of a garbage truck to assist the Council with garbage collection activities. Currently, the Council hires three open trucks to ensure waste collection schedule is aptly covered. However, this option is not economically viable for the Council and it also poses occupational, health and safety risks to the garbage collectors and the general public as well. This project aims to improve waste management operations of the Council by providing an efficient, hazard free and timely waste collection service to the people of Betio Town.
2. The Project for Provision of Garbage Truck to South Tarawa
 - (a) Recipient: Teinainano Urban Council
 - (b) Details: Teinainano Urban Council will receive US\$53,942 (AU\$62,681) for the provision of a garbage truck to support the Council's garbage collection services. The Council currently owns one garbage truck and hires an extra truck for waste collection operations. South Tarawa is the most populated area in Kiribati prompting garbage collectors to work 12 hour shifts (6am to 6pm) in order to cover their designated areas. On various occasions the allocated time frame is not enough for council workers who resort to working on Sundays to ensure that all garbage have been collected. The core objective of this project is to enhance waste management operations of the Council by providing an efficient and timely waste collection service to the people of South Tarawa.
3. The Project for Provision of Ambulance to Tungaru Central Hospital
 - (a) Recipient: Ministry of Health and Medical Services
 - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Ms. Tiene Tooki, Permanent Secretary
 - (c) Details: Ministry of Health and Medical Services will receive US\$54,338 (AU\$64,000) for the provision of an ambulance to assist Tungaru Central Hospital (TCH) in providing timely and efficient medical services. TCH is the main hospital in Tarawa and receives referrals from sub-division hospitals and health centers. There are only two ambulances that services 56,324 (2015 Census) residents of South Tarawa. On average, calls received through the Emergency/Outpatient Department range from 10- 15 on a daily shift basis. This project intends to improve emergency response to those who require immediate medical assistance and provide a safe and reliable transport to medical facilities.

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The GGP Programme is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people and the communities from the grassroots level. The GGP Programme in Kiribati has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health and education, transportation and IT, agriculture and fisheries since 1995. To date, about 57 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 3.8 million.

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