

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Japan Provides Assistance to the Kiritimati Urban Council for the Construction of a Pre-School in Banana Village**

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth AU\$100,842 to the Kiritimati Urban Council for the construction of a pre-school through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. Tomoaki Miyamoto, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, will sign the grant contract with Mr. Bakaia Kiabo, Mayor of Kiritimati Urban Council, to formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony at 10:00am on Thursday, 16 March at the Kiritimati Urban Council.

For further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and phone number: 3304633.

### **Details for the Project for Construction of Banana Pre-School**

1. The Project for Construction of Banana Pre-school
  - (a) Recipient: Kiritimati Urban Council
  - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Bakaia Kiabo, Mayor
  - (c) Details: The Kiritimati Urban Council will receive AU\$100,842 for the construction of a pre-school with 2 classrooms with toilet facilities and fence. Currently, two teachers are teaching 40 students in a small open shed made from unstable materials, where there are no proper storage units for educational materials. Also, pupils have neither sanitary toilet facilities nor a fence that can ensure the safety of the students.

Therefore, this project aims to alleviate such difficulties through the construction of two classrooms, toilet and fence to provide a more hygienic and safer environment for the pupils. Through proper infrastructure, children will have a caring and supportive environment that promotes optimal early childhood development, thereby greatly increasing children's chances of a successful transition to primary and high school. This, in turn, promotes children's chances of achieving better learning outcomes while at school and better education, employment and health.

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 fishery since 1995. To date, about 55 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 3.7 million.

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