

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalizes Assistance for Upgrading of Junior Secondary School in Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati

The Government of Japan will provide funding worth up to AU\$454,859 to Kiribati's Ministry of Education for the construction of a 10 classroom facility at Teinainano Urban Council Junior Secondary School 1 and provision of 350 student desks and chairs, a toilet block and a water tank through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan will sign the grant contracts with H.E. Mr. David Teaabo, High Commissioner of Kiribati to Fiji, to formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony, <u>at 3:30p.m., on Tuesday, 12 March 2019, at the Embassy of Japan, Suva, Fiji.</u>

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

Details of the Project

- 1. The Project for Upgrading of Teinainano Urban Council Junior Secondary School 1
- (a) Recipient: Ministry of Education
- (b) Grant Contract Signatory: H.E. Mr. David Teaabo, High Commissioner of Kiribati to Fiji
- (c) Details: Kiribati's Ministry of Education will receive up to US\$ 357,396 (AU\$454,859) for the construction of a 10 classroom facility at Teinainano Urban Council Junior Secondary School 1 and provision of desks and chairs for 350 students, a toilet block and a water tank. The school has been advised by Kiribati authorities to cordon off three main classroom buildings due to cracks found in the buildings which pose—major safety risks to students and teachers. Currently, Year 7 and Year 9 students are sharing the available classrooms for half a day each, while the Year 8 students use the classrooms of a nearby primary school in the afternoons. The school provides junior and intermediate level education to the largest municipality in Kiribati. The project intends to bring normalcy to the operations of the school and enhance the learning environment so that students receive quality education while progressing to senior level education.

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 61 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 4million.

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