



From  
the People of Japan

# PRESS RELEASE

**Press Release No: 21/2018**

**Date: 22 June 2018**

## **Japan Hands Over 15 Motorcycles for the Improvement of Tuberculosis and Leprosy Treatment Program in the Republic of Kiribati**

The Government of Japan provided assistance worth AU\$45,900 to the Ministry for Health and Medical Services for the provision of 15 motorcycles for the Tuberculosis and Leprosy Treatment Program on Tarawa through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. Genta YAMADA, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, will hand over the motorcycles at 12.00p.m. on Monday, 25 June, at the Tungaru Central Hospital, Tarawa.

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 Provision of Motorcycles for the Improvement of Tuberculosis and Leprosy Treatment Program**

#### **1. Basis for Implementing the Project**

In 2015, the Ministry reported that there were approximately 400 cases of tuberculosis and around 190 cases of leprosy in the Kiribati. Majority of these cases are found in the urban settlement in South Tarawa. Currently, community health workers have been using the bus every day for visiting patients who suffer from tuberculosis under its Direct Observed Treatment Program (DOT), and the leprosy patients, once a month. However, this method of administering DOT has proven to be highly uneconomical and a logistical challenge due to the associated transportation costs and accessibility to certain communities. This has also lead to community health workers finding difficulty in covering the designated areas on a daily basis thus requiring community health workers to work overtime which is an added expense to Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

#### **2. Basic Information**

- (a) Donor: Embassy of Japan
- (b) Recipient: Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Kiribati
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: AU\$45,900

#### **3. Long Term Benefits of the Project**

The successful implementation of this project will enable the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to improve and strengthen the ongoing medication delivery and sustainability of its Tuberculosis and Leprosy Treatment Programme, thus contributing to the achievement of the program's objectives to reduce the prevalence of tuberculosis and leprosy in Kiribati.

#### **4. Overview of the GGP Program in Kiribati**

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 60 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 4.0 million.

**END.**