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PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Provides Assistance to the Upgrading of Two Clinics in Betio, the Republic of Kiribati

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth up to AU\$83,949 the Ministry for Health and Medical Services for the rehabilitation of Takoronga and Temakin Clinics through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. Genta Yamada, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, will sign the grant contracts with Dr. Kaaro Neeti, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry for Health and Medical Services, to formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony **at 9.00a.m. on Tuesday, 19 February, at the Ministry for Tungaru Central Hospital, 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: 3304633.

Details of the Project

1. The Project for Rehabilitation of Takoronga Clinic and Temakin Clinic
 - (a) Recipient: Ministry for Health and Medical Services
 - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Dr. Kaaro Neeti, Permanent Secretary
 - (c) Details: The Ministry for Health and Medical Services will receive up to US\$65,961 (AU\$83,949) for the rehabilitation of Takoronga Clinic and Temakin Clinic in Betio. The two clinics, has been earmarked for an upgrade to better meet the needs of the community and health staff stationed in these two clinics which have sustained damages to the buildings such as cracked walls, broken windows, missing and damaged doors, faulty lights and non-functioning toilet facilities. These clinics, on average would serve 50 patients a day and up to a 100 during an outbreak. This project aims to provide a boost to health services in Betio which will ensure the two clinics are safe, secure and more comfortable for both staff and visitors alike. Additionally, the upgrades will also enhance the clinics ability to meet its key functions of providing medical care, immunisation and public health education and awareness.

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 million.

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