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the People of Japan

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Japan Hands Over Newly Reconstructed Causeway to the Republic of Kiribati**

The Government of Japan is pleased to announce the completion of the Project for Reconstruction of the Nippon Causeway. This project was funded through Japan's Grant Aid Programme worth 3.8 billion Japanese Yen (approximately AU\$49m).

H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, the Ambassador of Japan to Kiribati, will hand over the Causeway to H.E. Mr. Taneti Maamau, Te Beretitenti (President) of the Republic of Kiribati, at a ceremony hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kiribati, at the **Nauru Park, Betio at 14:00 on Wednesday 17 April 2019.**

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and 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 telephone number: 3304633.

### **Details for the Project for Reconstruction of the Nippon Causeway**

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

The Nippon Causeway is the only link between the two most populated towns in Tarawa namely, Betio, where the country's only international port is located, and Bairiki, an administrative centre that has most of the Government Ministries and offices. The construction of the causeway began in 1987, through Japan's Grant Aid Programme and was completed and handed over to the Government of Kiribati in 1989. Over time as well as by encroachment of the sea, the conditions of the causeway had deteriorated. In March 2015, the causeway was heavily damaged by heavy rains and storm surges, prompting the need for repairs which forced the authorities to impose a load restriction and limit traffic to one lane, thereby hindering the transportation of goods and people.

In addressing such difficulties faced by the people of Kiribati, the Government of Japan decided to support the reconstruction of Nippon Causeway which is in line with Kiribati's national development plan or KV 20. Such harmonisation with Kiribati's development aspirations is crucial to the Government of Japan's decision to support this project.

The reconstruction involves strengthening its embankment and widening the existing bridge followed by asphalt paving. New utility box along the causeway accommodates water pipeline, electricity and telecommunication cables which are the lifeline for the peoples' daily lives. It is particularly designed for easy maintenance as well as protection of the causeway structure itself. Road safety has also been improved with sufficient features such as street lights, road reflectors, and humps etc.

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

- **Donor:** The Government of Japan
- **Implementing Agency:** JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)
- **Recipient:** The Government of the Republic of Kiribati
- **Implementing Organization:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy
- **Total Value of the Funding Assistance:** AU\$49million (JPY 3.805 billion)

**END.**