



From
the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalises Grant Aid for the Government of Kiribati

The Government of Japan has provided assistance worth 800 million Japanese Yen (approximately AU\$11million) to the Government of the Republic of Kiribati through its Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP). The funding assistance was approved by the Government of Japan in February 2019 and will support the procurement of equipment for fisheries and marine resource development, medical equipment and a dredger. His Excellency Mr. David Teaabo, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kiribati to Fiji, and H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan to Kiribati, formalised Japan's assistance at an Exchange of Notes signing ceremony that was hosted by the Embassy of Japan at its conference room on **Level 2 of BSP Life Centre, Suva, at 10:30AM on Wednesday, 2 October 2019.**

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Details of Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP)

- (1) **Purpose:** Procurement of equipment for fisheries and marine resource development, medical equipment, and a dredger.
- (2) **Recipient Agency:** Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development and Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- (3) The funding provision of 800million JPY (app. AU\$11M) is allocated to two separate projects. Project A will involve the procurement of equipment for fisheries and marine resource development worth JPY 200M (app. AU\$3M). The new equipment will strengthen the supply chain and add value to fisheries products that are available in Kiribati
Project B on the other hand will involve the procurement of medical equipment and a dredger worth JPY 600M (app. AU\$8M). The project will provide essential medical equipment to Tangaru Central hospital and other regional hospitals in Betio, South Tarawa and London hospitals to support the delivery of quality health care to the people of Kiribati. The project will also support the procurement of a dredger to assist the Government of Kiribati's efforts in dredging the channels and passages to allow safe access to essential health care services for people and improved access and docking of vessels.

(4) Background of the Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP)

ESDP is a type of assistance which is intended to support the socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction of developing countries. The ESDP has a facility for providing foreign currency for import of goods, machinery and other amenities (industrial materials such as petroleum and steel products etc.) necessary to promote national efforts of recipient countries.

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