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the People of Japan

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Japan Formalises Grant Aid for Medical Equipment to the Republic of Kiribati**

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth 250 million Japanese Yen (approximately 3.4 million AUD) to the Government of the Republic of Kiribati through its Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP). The funding assistance will enable the procurement of equipment to support the efficient delivery of health and medical services in Kiribati.

H.E. Mr. David Teaabo, Kiribati High Commissioner to Fiji, and H.E. Mr. OMURA Masahiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kiribati, will sign and exchange notes concerning Japan's assistance to the Republic of Kiribati at the **Embassy of Japan, Level 2, BSP Life Centre, Suva, at 10:00AM, on Thursday, 23 July 2020.**

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara at the Embassy of Japan on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [ojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:ojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and telephone number: (+679) 3304633.

### **Details of the Programme**

1. The Government of the Republic of Kiribati will receive 250 million Japanese Yen (approximately 3.4 million AUD) to purchase various medical equipment for improving health and medical service delivery. Although Kiribati has yet to have a positive case of COVID-19, the ongoing global pandemic has brought about the need to strengthen health systems in order to increase the country's preparedness.
2. This assistance is in line with the Government of Kiribati's 20-Year Vision 2016-2036 (KV20), which aims to ensure accessible and affordable quality healthcare. It is also consistent with Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) Leaders' Declaration. The Leaders agreed that to achieve resilient and sustainable development in major sectors of the economy including health, a special consideration needs to be channelled towards enhancing cooperation to elevate the quality of medical services and the welfare of the people in the Pacific and to accelerate progress towards a universal health coverage through access to better diagnostic, better screening, essential medicines and medical equipment and human resources development. The current COVID-19 pandemic has increased the urgency of this goal, and Japan is committed to cooperate actively with the international community to respond to this global crisis from not only a short-term viewpoint but also a medium to long-term development perspective.
3. Japan's past assistance to the medical sector in Kiribati includes the construction of the new Tungaru Central Hospital in 1990 through General Grant Aid, which later also funded the upgrade of the hospital's water supply system. Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP), also supported Betio Hospital, Tungaru Hospital, and various clinics/ health centres around Kiribati by providing ambulances, improving barrier-free access, installing radio equipment, and expanding specialist wards. In 2019, Kiribati also received 600 million JPY for essential medical equipment for hospitals. The most recent ESDP grant aims to increase Kiribati's capacity to deal with health challenges as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**END.**