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the People of Japan

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Japan Formalises Grant Aid for Procurement of Fish Collection Vessel**

The Government of Japan will provide funding worth 500 million JPY or appx. 5.5 million AUD to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development for the procurement of a fish collection vessel under the Government of Japan's "Economic Social Development Programme" (ESDP). The assistance is part of Japan's ongoing support towards Kiribati's Fisheries sector for efficient, safe and effective fish and material between Tarawa and the outer islands.

H.E Mr. KAWAKAMI Fumihiro, Ambassador of Japan to Kiribati and H.E Mr. Tebuai Uaai signed and Exchange of Notes at 12:30pm on 24 May 2022 at the Ambassador's Residence 337 Princes Road, Suva.

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: (+679)3304633.

### **Details of the Fish Collection Vessel**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development will receive 500million Japanese Yen (app. AU\$5.4million) for the procurement of a fish collection vessel under Japan's Economic Social Development Programme. This will boost the Ministry's support towards the livelihood of the people through fisheries sector developments in achieving the Kiribati 20 year vision (KV20).

The fishing vessel will have a significant contribution in bridging the gap related to the untimely collection of fish from the outer islands. It will ensure an ongoing and regular supply of fresh quality reef fish and tuna to the urban market in Tarawa from outer islands through fish centers. Supporting people on the outer islands to be more engaged in fish trade and export by maintaining the quality of their fish/ catch from outer island to Tarawa. The provision of a designated vessel to ensure a timely collection of fish from the outer island provide other alternative to people on the outer island to generate income. The primary purpose of the Fish Collection Vessel is to transport fish from all fishing centers and other related materials between Tarawa and outer islands under the MFMRD and CPPL's scheme.

The vessel will be used for the following purpose;

- To transport fish from the Outer Island fishing centers to the Capital (South Tarawa);
- Enhancing food security for people living on South Tarawa.
- Provide income generating options to people living in the outer islands
- To assist Coastal Fisheries Division in carrying trainings in Tarawa and Outer Islands and;
- To assist Coastal Fisheries Division to continuing implemented fisheries related activities in the Outer islands.

### **Economic Social Development Programme:**

Japan's grant aid, 'Economic Social Development Programme', is a type of assistance, which is intended to support the socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction, of developing countries mainly through procurement of equipment, machinery and other amenities (industrial materials such as petroleum and steel products etc.).

**END.**