
Speech by Mr. IKEDA Hirotugu, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Japan to the Republic of Kiribati, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony with Mr. Ieretita Bwataeru, Secretary, Kiribati Uniting Church Schools in Kiribati at 12.00p.m. on Wednesday, 13th March 2024, at William Goward Memorial College , Tarawa

Mr. Ieretita Bwataeru, Secretary, Kiribati Uniting Church Schools in Kiribati,
Students and Teachers,

Ko na Mauri, Ohayo Gozaimasu and a very Good Morning to you all,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Bwataeru and the school for your hospitality and the warm welcome extended to us today.

William Goward Memorial College has over 800 students and is located in South Tarawa, Kiribati. Over the past years, the school roll had increased drastically without the necessary school infrastructure expansion

and improvement. In addition, the deteriorating conditions of old classrooms has created an unsafe learning environment for the students. The crowded learning spaces made it difficult not only for students but also for teachers to conduct proper classes.

My government decided to provide assistance to this project more than one hundred and fifty thousand Australian dollars under Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme, which started in Kiribati in 1995 and assisted 68 projects, totaling 4.9 million US dollars, since then.

I shall assure that, with this assistance, the problems which this school is facing will be a thing of the past and, as a result, even school attendance will increase. I am grateful that my country contributes to reduction of these challenges and improvement of school environment in

Kiribati through this kind of assistance.

My country conducts assistance programmes in line with the intentions of the recipient country itself and also the international society. This project will help Kiribati to achieve its Kiribati 20 Year Vision 2016 – 2036 (KV 20) in terms of quality education.

I wish to urge the school representatives present here today to ensure the timely and successful completion of this project. I am sure the new facility and furniture will serve the students for many years to come through proper up keep and maintenance. I conclude with confidence that this project will further strengthen the friendship between the Governments and peoples of

Kiribati and Japan.

Kam Rabwa and Arigato Gozaimasu and Thank you
very much.

The End