February 02, 2015

<u>PRESS RELEASE</u>

<u>Japanese Government Funds Procurement of Ambulance for Diakonessenhuis Foundation</u>

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) "The Project for the Procurement of an Ambulance for Diakonessenhuis Foundation" took place at 9:00am on January 30, 2015, at the Chapel of the Diakonessenhuis Foundation, Zinniastraat 64, Paramaribo. The Diakonessenhuis Foundation received a grant of US$45,158 from the Government of Japan for the procurement of an ambulance, which will be used for first aid services.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and Mr. Melvyn Rapprecht, General Manager at the Diakonessenhuis. Also in attendance were Mrs. Imgard Verwey, Chairman of the Diakonessenhuis, Mrs. Astrid Pavion, Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Meryll Zeefuik, Disaster Coordinator, Ministry of Health, along with the invited guests and media.
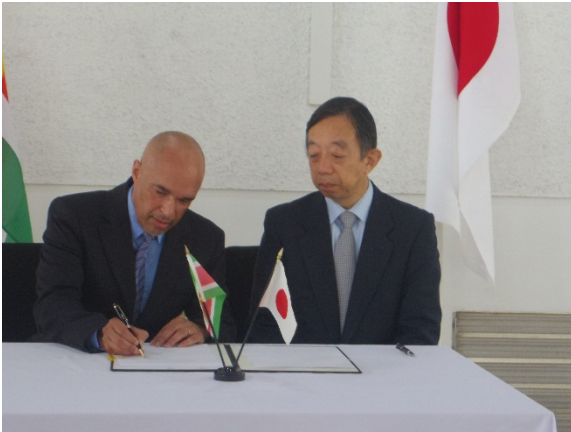
In his speech, Mr. Sato emphasized that the project will help improve and enhance the medical services and emergency response of the Diakonessenhuis Foundation. He also stated that the ambulance being funded will also contribute towards ensuring sustainability and universality in emergency ambulance services within Suriname.

The Government of Japan is committed to exploring new opportunities between Japan and the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname with the aim of strengthening relations and encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding between the two countries.

Attached are pictures of the ceremony which may be resized and distributed.

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