

## State Minister Sonoura visits Suriname

On 26 and 27 July, His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited the Republic of Suriname and met His Excellency Desiré Delano Bourterse, President of the Republic of Suriname, Her Excellency Yldiz D. Pollack-Beighle, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Soeresh Algoe, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. The State Minister's visit was especially noteworthy as it was the first ministerial-level visit from Japan to Suriname.

In the courtesy call to President Bourterse, State Minister Sonoura exchanged views on the bilateral relations including the promotion of development cooperation, such as human resources development in the areas of climate change, environment and disaster reduction, and the strengthening of cooperation in the international arena on issues like United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform and whaling. In response, President Bourterse expressed his appreciation for Japan's assistance in the fields of climate change and fisheries, his wish to strengthen economic ties, and his intention to continue collaboration on UNSC reform and whaling.

In the meeting with Foreign Minister Pollack-Beighle and Agriculture Minister Algoe, State Minister Sonoura stated his intention to continue cooperation in the fields of climate change, environment, disaster reduction and fisheries, and to enhance human resource development and personnel exchanges with Suriname. He also discussed with them strengthening collaboration between two countries on issues related to the UNSC reform and whaling. Minister Pollack-Beighle welcomed the visit of the State Minister as an opening for a reintegrated partnership between the two countries and expressed appreciation for Japan's development cooperation extended to Suriname. Minister Algoe expressed his wish for continued support from Japan on sustainable use of marine resources including whaling and fisheries.



Ambassador Okada (left),  
State Minister Sonoura (middle-left),  
President Bourterse (middle-right),  
Minister Pollack-Beighle (right)



Minister Algoe (left),  
Minister Pollack-Beighle (middle-left),  
State Minister Sonoura (middle-right),  
Ambassador Okada (right)