

January 30, 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Signing Ceremony for Japan's Development Assistance to Suriname**

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Economic and Social Development Programme" took place at 10:30 a.m. on January 30, 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname.

This aid is provided in order to support the promotion of the economic and social development of the Republic of Suriname and is valued at two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), or approximately one million, eight hundred thousand US dollars (US\$1,800,000). It will be used to purchase equipment, such as generators, water tanks and ambulances, which will help to enhance the command and logistical capability of the Republic of Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Management (NCCR) and provide the Center with the ability for better coordination in disaster areas.

His Excellency Mitsuhiko Okada, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Suriname and Her Excellency Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes. Also in attendance were His Excellency Mohamed Noersalim, Minister of Internal Affairs, Colonel Jerry Slijngard, National Disaster Coordinator, National Coordination, and other invited guests.

In his speech, Ambassador Okada noted, "this Grant Aid for disaster reduction equipment was the tangible result of last July's fruitful visit by His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, who met with His Excellency Desiré Bouterse, President of the Republic of Suriname, Her Excellency Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Soeresh Algoe, Minister of Agriculture".

Ambassador Okada also remarked on the strength of the relations between Japan and the Republic of Suriname, commenting on last year's conferment of the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" to Mr. Hugo Bromet, the former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Paramaribo, who became the first-ever Surinamese national to receive a national decoration from the Government of Japan for his years of work towards strengthening the ties between the two countries.

*For further information, please contact:*

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The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Republic of Suriname, all with a view to advancing sustainable development through continued cooperation.

**END**



**Ambassador Okada and H.E. Pollack-Beighle signing Exchange of Notes**



**With signed Exchange of Notes**