

Country Assistance Policy for the Republic of Suriname

March, 2013

1. Relevance of Assistance

(1) Relevance of Assistance to CARICOM (the Caribbean Community¹)

Suriname is a member state of CARICOM, which is comprised of a number of Caribbean countries. These countries have commonalities with Japan, such as frequent natural disasters, like hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Another commonality the CARICOM has with Japan is its focus on promoting the sustainable use of living marine resources.

The CARICOM countries are vulnerable to climate change and the above-mentioned natural disasters; they have small populations and economies; and, their economies are based on industries which are susceptible to external factors, such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

To overcome common challenges faced in the Caribbean region, such as natural disasters, it is important that the CARICOM utilizes the experience and knowledge of Japan in overcoming natural disasters in order to promote socio-economic stability and sustainable growth across the region.

(2) Relevance of Assistance to the Republic of Suriname

Suriname, located in the northern part of South America, is a continental country with vast land area compared to the other CARICOM member states. Suriname has had continued economic development on the basis of abundant natural resources, such as gold, bauxite and timber. In recent years, Suriname has intensified the development of oil and gas and its economic growth is expected to continue.

On the other hand, the structure of the economy of Suriname is mineral-dependent and vulnerable to international market fluctuations. In addition, its social systems have not kept pace with rapid economic growth, and the negative aspects of the economic growth of the country, such as income inequality within the country and environmental pollution, is expanding.

So far, the relations between Japan and Suriname in the international arena have been good. In addition, Japanese companies have been advancing into Suriname in fields such as fish processing and oil and gas development and further strengthening of economic relations are expected in the future. It is expected that taking advantage of the knowledge of Japan, which will support the resolution of problems faced in

¹ CARICOM(Caribbean Community) was formed by dissolving developmentally CARIFTA (Caribbean Free Trade Association) for the purpose of economic integration of the Caribbean countries; coordination of foreign policy; the promotion of cooperation health-care and education, etc. in 1973. Secretariat is located in Georgetown, Guyana. Members are 14 States and 1 overseas territory.

Suriname, will lead to self-reliant and sustainable development in Suriname and to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

2. Basic Policy of Assistance : Overcoming Vulnerability (common to all CARICOM member countries)

On the basis of “Partnership for Peace, Development and Prosperity between Japan and the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)²”, which was adopted in the 2nd CARICOM foreign ministers’ meeting in September 2010, the Government of Japan supports its environment-friendly sustainable social development efforts and disaster risk management efforts, in order to overcome the vulnerability of CARICOM member countries to climate change.

3. Priority Areas: Environment and Disaster Risk Management

The Suriname "Development Plan 2012-2016" formulated by the Government of Suriname, indicates that the Government wishes to move away from a mineral resource dependent economy and aim for sustainable growth in areas such as waste management; renewable energy; and, sustainable management of water resources and natural resources. The Government of Japan provides appropriate support in the aforementioned areas while ensuring these are aligned with the needs of Suriname.

4. Points to be considered

(1) The Fisheries industry in Suriname, which has abundant fishery resources, plays an important role in terms of earning foreign exchange through exports and protein supply to the public. The Government of Japan continues to implement cooperation for the sustainable use of living marine resources, which is also a goal of Japan.

(2). There are frequent shortages in electricity in Suriname, particularly in areas outside of the capital; thus, there is a need for improvement of energy efficiency in Suriname. The Government of Japan considers cooperation in the energy sector in areas such as energy efficiency and energy conservation while being attentive to Japanese companies moving into the energy sector of Suriname.

Annex: Rolling Plan

² This partnership consists of six pillars which indicate the future direction of the Japan-CARICOM relationship i.e. "Overcoming Vulnerability and Promoting Human Security"; "Integration into the Global Economy"; "Environment and Climate Change"; "Assistance for the Reconstruction of Haiti"; "Cooperation in International Fora"; and "Dialogue and Exchange between Japan and the CARICOM".