

February 15, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

**Exchange of Notes (E/N) for Japan’s Grant Assistance to the UNDP’s “Project for Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica”**

The Exchange of Notes (E/N) concerning a grant amounting to five million US Dollars (US \$5,000,000) in aid for the “Project for Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica” was signed on February 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Guyana, between Mr. Yoshinori Yakabe, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative accredited to the Republic of Guyana. The project aims to develop the capacities of vulnerable groups reliant on agriculture, namely women and indigenous groups, in disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Focus will be placed on pertinent areas such as strengthening community and women’s capacities in applying mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce livelihood vulnerability, strengthening accessibility and availability of preparedness measures (community-based and national Early Warning System (EWS)), enhancing opportunities to micro-grant mechanisms, and enhancing the adoption of best practices through knowledge exchange between communities and women’s groups. Through the synergistic effect of these measures, the project aims to provide the Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica with a solid foundation for improved disaster management capacities, and, as a result, sustain livelihoods. Furthermore, knowledge sharing on approaches and lessons learned will be actively pursued as the project progresses, including inter-country women’s exchange visits.

In his speech, Counsellor Yakabe spoke about the importance of this project for the two countries as they are constantly affected by disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, and droughts, which have a negative impact on their primary industry, agriculture. He stated that “due to the importance of the agriculture sector to national development, food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, and livelihood opportunities, it is imperative that these nations are equipped with knowledge to ensure the security of their primary sector”. He remarked that the focus on addressing vulnerabilities specific to women and indigenous people would serve to enhance the ability of the two nations to address climate risk due to an improved understanding of the important role of these vulnerable groups in disaster mitigation and recovery.

The Honourable Winston Jordan, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Guyana, was in attendance. Also in attendance were the Honourable Jaipaul Sharma, Minister within the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Steven O’Malley, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Barbados and the OECS, via VDO link, and other invited guests.

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The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities which support the Caribbean region in addressing climate change, in order to establish a fair and effective international framework in which all major economies participate.

**END**



**Ms. Mikiko Tanaka and Counsellor Yakabe Exchanging Notes**



**From left: The Honourable Winston Jordan, Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, and Counsellor Yakabe**