

6 February 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Organic Farms Project in Suriname

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GHP) entitled “The Project for the Construction of Organic Farms in Primary Schools” was held at 2:00 pm. on Tuesday 30 January 2018, at Queen’s Hotel in Paramaribo, Suriname.

According to the grant contract signed, the Suriname Waste Management (Suwama) Foundation will receive a grant totaling US\$ 87,890 from the Government of Japan for the construction of organic farms for 3 primary schools: De Hulp School in the district of Commewijne; Kampong Baroe School in the district of Saramacca; and Penny en Jon School in the district of Wanica. The introduction of these farms is expected to add value to the schools’ curriculum by allowing students the opportunity to learn about organic farming and aquaponics technologies in a hands-on manner. It is hoped that the farms can also encourage entrepreneurship amongst young people, demonstrate the value of healthy eating and contribute to the food security of the schools’ respective communities.

In his speech, His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan, lauded the work of the Suwama Foundation, while acknowledging the importance of fostering environmental conservation and managing energy, water and biodiversity resources in a sustainable way. Mrs. Djina Bergraaf–Sanchit, Chairwoman of the Suwama Foundation, expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for allowing the Suwama Foundation, through the grant, to encourage greater youth involvement in the agricultural sector and promote a culture of enhanced nutrition and sustainability in Suriname. Ambassador Okada and Mrs. Bergraaf–Sanchit also signed the grant contracts on behalf of the two signatory parties.

The Honourable Patrick Pengel, Minister of Education, Science and Culture (Ag.), also delivered brief remarks at the ceremony. Others in attendance included Mr. Jayant Padarath, Honorary Consul-General of Japan at Paramaribo; Ms. Miyuki Shinoe, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan; and Ms. Lalieta Somwaru, Project Coordinator for the Suwama Foundation.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of Suriname, with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

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Ambassador Mitsuhiro Okada delivers remarks



Mrs. Djina Bergraaf-Sanchit, Chairwoman of the Suwama Foundation, delivers remarks



Ms. Laleita Somwaru, Suwama Foundation Project Coordinator, provides a project overview



Minister Patrick Pengel, Minister of Education, Science and Culture, addresses attendees at the ceremony



Handshake between Ambassador Okada and Mrs. Bergraaf-Sanchit following the signing of the Grant Contract

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