

March 25, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

**Japanese Government Funds Project for Improving Resilience against Disasters in Vulnerable Communities and Schools in Republic of Suriname**

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled the “Project for Improving Resilience against Disasters in Vulnerable Communities and Schools” took place at 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 2015, at the Suriname Red Cross Society, Grevenberchstraat 2-6, Paramaribo. The Suriname Red Cross Society received a grant of up to US\$37,147 from the Government of Japan for training and development schemes tailored towards disaster preparedness within communities and schools.

Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and Mrs. Marja Naarendorp, President, Suriname Red Cross Society, were in attendance for the ceremony. Mr. Hugo Bromet, Honorary Consul of Japan and Mrs. Meryll Zeefuik, Disaster Coordinator, Ministry of Health also attended the signing ceremony.

In his speech, Mr. Sato highlighted that “this project will allow the Suriname Red Cross Society to enhance the quality of their disaster risk management services, which in turn will help them to save lives. The Suriname Red Cross can help mitigate disaster risks at the community level and achieve awareness through school disaster plan strategies and training methods tailored to the needs of the students and teachers.”

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

**END**

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