

15 January 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Signing ceremony for renovation of market hall in Suriname

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Renovation of the Fish and Meat Hall of the Kwatta Agricultural Market” was held at 10:00am on Friday 15 January 2021. The Signing Ceremony was held online with the parties participating from Port of Spain and Paramaribo, Suriname.

The S. Kisoensingh Kwatta Agricultural Market Foundation will receive a grant of US \$115,218 for the creation of a larger and overall improved space for the vending of meat and fish, which will be better aligned with internationally accepted norms for market design and sanitation. This Project is now the second time that the Embassy has collaborated with the Foundation through GGP, twenty years after a previous grant contract was signed in 2001.

The Grant Contract was signed by Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama on behalf of the Government of Japan as Donor, and Mr. Ewald Blankendal, Chairman of the Foundation’s Board, on behalf of the Recipient. Also in attendance were Mr. Jayant Padarath, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Suriname; Mr. Nobuaki Hanawa, First Secretary at the Embassy; Mr. Katsuya Sato, Second Secretary; and other board members of the Foundation.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hirayama recognized the excellent decades-old relationship between Suriname and Japan, based on many shared fundamental values. While noting the birth of a new Government in Suriname last year, the Ambassador spoke further on the drastic changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had forced the signing ceremony to be held virtually. He emphasized that the importance of food security, relevant to this project, had become even greater under the COVID-19 pandemic and added that he was pleased to realize this project this year for the benefit of people in Suriname. He stressed his wish for the project to be completed successfully and on time.

Mr. Vijay Jarbandhan, Secretary of the Market Foundation, delivered remarks on behalf of the Recipient, extending heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Japan for its contribution to the People of Suriname. He stated that both vendors and consumers were eagerly anticipating the renovations, which would make Kwatta the only market in Suriname with standardized chilled facilities for vending fish and meat. He gave the assurance that the Board would adhere to the Grant Contract in order to properly complete the project and expressed the hope that Embassy officials would be able to visit the facility soon after its renovation.

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 which exist between the two countries.

For further information, please contact:
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Ambassador Hirayama delivers remarks



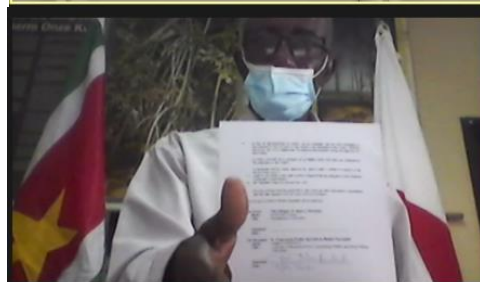
Mr. Ewald Blankendal thanks the Government of Japan for its support



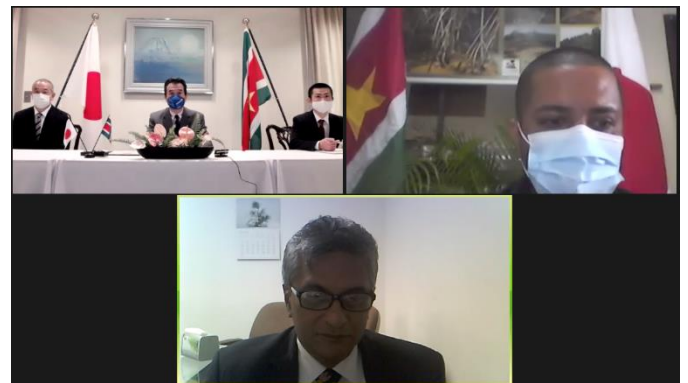
The Grant Contact is signed by Ambassador Hirayama



The Grant Contact is signed by Mr. Ewald Blankendal



Virtual handshake after the signing of the contract



Participants in the signing ceremony:
Embassy of Japan officials (top left); Mr. Vijay Jarbandhan, Kwatta (top right); and Mr. Jayant Padarath, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Suriname (bottom).

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