

## **The Government of Japan and UNOPS join efforts to strengthen public health systems and provide life-saving treatment to COVID-19 infected patients in Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago**

The Government of Japan will contribute USD 4.8 million towards a Project managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment in Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The agreement for this collaboration was signed today in a ceremony held at the UNOPS office in San José with the participation of Hon. KOMATSU Shinjiro, Ambassador of Japan in Costa Rica; Mr. Alejandro Rossi, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama and the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean; and Ms. Anesa Ali-Rodríguez, in representation of the Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago in San Jose.

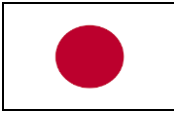
*San Jose, March 8th, 2021.* - The COVID-19 pandemic has hit every country differently, but it has equally showcased the importance of strengthening public health systems. In order to provide an efficient and effective COVID-19 response, governments focus a great part of their efforts towards ensuring solid healthcare systems to safeguard the population.

Through a grant from the Government of Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), UNOPS will support the procurement of 4.8 million US dollars of essential medical equipment, medical supplies and personal protective equipment to aid in the public health response to the current crisis. By providing support to the governments, the project will contribute to enhance the healthcare systems of Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago; **benefitting around 57,420 people.**

*“Japan hopes to continue strengthening relations of friendship and goodwill with the nations of Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and contribute to the global response against the new coronavirus. It is in the mutual interest of our countries to continue collaborating closely to face the enormous health, economic and social challenge that COVID-19 has posed for humanity”,* said **His Excellency Hon. Ambassador of Japan in Costa Rica, KOMATSU Shinjiro.**

*“Within the framework of our mandate as the central procurement resource of the United Nations System, UNOPS has been working with the Government of Japan on a global scale. It is an honor to once again be able to work alongside the Health authorities of Caribbean governments, and contribute from the United Nations System to the strategy for an effective response to the pandemic and an improvement of the national health systems; all while applying the highest standards in procurement within the approach of fair public management”,* stated **Mr. Alejandro Rossi, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama, and the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean**

*“The Government and people of Guyana wish to express profound gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for this generous donation which will aid in acquiring personal protective equipment and other medical supplies. This gesture is a great symbol of our solidarity and the value placed on our strategic partnership and robust diplomatic ties. With cases of COVID-19 spreading across the world and claiming thousands of lives and huge resources, doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers are on the frontlines of the pandemic as they care for critically ill patients. Facing enormous challenges, they are responding with courage, resolve and exemplary professionalism. Your donation is therefore extremely important to our cause and will definitely contribute to not only their*



*protection but also their patients well-being, as they continue to provide the highest standard of care. Thank you so much for this generous donation, and we look forward to the implementation of this project.”* stated **The Honourable Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health of Guyana.**

The project will be managed by UNOPS in a comprehensive manner, safeguarding the procurement and delivery process while strictly adhering to the requirements of the health authorities of the Caribbean countries; hence ensuring the highest quality, transparency and performance of the economic resources provided by the Government of Japan.

Honorable Ambassador Komatsu, Mr. Rossi, Ms. Ali-Rodriguez and other key government authorities from the Caribbean expressed their encouragement towards the project and gratitude for the joint collaboration towards ensuring an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean countries.



Ambassador Komatsu (Left) and Mr. Rossi (Right)



Signing between Ambassador Komatsu and Mr. Rossi



Virtual meeting between Honourable Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Left) and Ambassador Hirayama, Ambassador of Japan to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (Right)



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