

PRESS RELEASE

**Signing Ceremony for Improving Childhood Cancer Patients' Treatment System in Suriname**

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled "The Project for Improving Childhood Cancer Patients' Treatment System in Suriname" was held online at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 29th March, 2022.

Academisch Ziekenhuis Paramaribo will receive a grant of US \$255,923 for the construction of isolation and treatment rooms specifically for paediatric cancer patients. This addition will improve the quality of care that childhood cancer patients receive at the hospital and will hopefully lead to better outcomes for these patients.

The grant contract was signed by Counsellor KAMADA Yasuhiko on behalf of the Government of Japan as Donor; Mrs. MaricaMarica Redan, CEO of Academisch Ziekenhuis Paramaribo (AZP), on behalf of the Recipient; and Mr. Humphrey Bergraaf, President of Lions Club Paramaribo West (LCPW), as Witness. Also in attendance were Mr. Jerry Hoffman, Districts Governor; Mr. Jayant Padarath, Honorary Consul General for Japan; Ms. Lalieta Somwaru, Programme Manager, Lions Club Paramaribo West; and other stakeholders.

In his remarks, Counsellor Kamada emphasised the importance of the project for the children of Suriname and applauded the efforts of all parties involved in the project. He also spoke about Suriname and Japan's shared fundamental values and referred to the project as another milestone in the two countries' enduring partnership.

Remarks were also delivered by Mrs. Redan, CEO of AZP, who explained the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer with the goal of reaching at least a 60% survival rate for children with cancer by 2030, which announced by WHO in 2018. She noted that the Embassy of Japan's contribution helps Suriname to move forward to achieve this goal and stated that a simple thank you is not enough for this level of support.

Mr. Bergraaf, President of LCPW and Mr. Hoffman, Districts Governor, highlighted the importance to address Childhood Cancer and congratulated all the partners involved with the project. They also thanked the Embassy of Japan for its contribution.

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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Marica Redan, CEO of Academisch Ziekenhuis Paramaribo delivers remarks



Humphrey Bergraaf, President of Lions Club Paramaribo West, delivers remarks



Jerry Hoffman, Districts Governor, delivers remarks



Counsellor KAMADA Yasuhiko signs the grant contract on behalf of the Government of Japan as Donor



Lalieta Somwaru, Programme Manager, Lions Club Paramaribo West, gives a presentation on the project



Winston Lieveld, Master of Ceremony



Implementation team



Audience members

**END**

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