

2 February 2023

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Signing Ceremony for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects in Suriname**

A Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation in Paramaribo, Suriname. Two recipient organisations signed the Grant Contracts.

- “The Project for Enhancing Nutritious Conditions of Children and Vulnerable People” (US \$162,950) will be carried out by Agricultural Cooperative, Wi! Uma Fu Sranan. Through this project, they will automate the processing of cassava products and install food quality assurance equipment. The Cooperative will therefore be able to distribute cassava porridges to improve the nutrition of infants and other vulnerable populations in the interior.
- “The Project for the Renovation of the Training Facility for Women” (US \$67,196), will be carried out by Foundation National Women’s Movement (Nationale Vrouwen Beweging: NVB). The organisation will renovate a training facility for women which will allow them to provide short and long-term skills-based trainings in a safe and comfortable environment to women who are trying to rebuild their lives.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador MATSUBARA Yutaka, Embassy of Japan; Ms. Elizabeth Bradley, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation; Mr. Jayant Anilkumar Padarath, Honorary-Consul General of Japan; Ms. Tania Lieuw-a-Soe, Chair, Wi! Uma Fu Sranan; Ms. Elina Graanoogst, Chairperson, NVB; and other stakeholders.

In his remarks, Ambassador Matsubara stated that Japan has been working with the Government and people of Suriname aiming at Suriname's economic and social development through several assistances for many years. The Ambassador highlighted that the projects by Wi! Uma Fu Sranan and Nationale Vrouwen Beweging are both well-aligned with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and both projects are important for ensuring that “No-one is left behind”.

Ms. Lieuw-a-Soe explained that Wi! Uma Fu Sranan, guided by their core values of self-development and self-reliance, developed a home-made solution to a food security issue. She ensured that the assistance from the Government and people of Japan will increase access to nutritious foods for children in underserved areas.

Ms. Graanoogst thanked the Government and people of Japan and emphasised that the assistance will contribute the well-being of socially deprived women, women in distress and women who have experienced domestic and other forms of violence.

The Government of Japan will continue to offer its support in various areas, such as disaster prevention, environment, energy, waste management and fisheries, in order to promote resilience and prosperity in Caribbean countries, thereby further enhancing the cooperative and friendly relations between our countries.

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From left to right: Mr. Padarath, Honorary-Consul General of Japan; Ms. Graanoogst, Chairperson, National Vrouwen Beweging; Ambassador Matsubara, Embassy of Japan; Ms. Lieuw-a-Soe, Chair, Wi! Uma Fu Sranan



Members of Nationale Vrouwen Beweging, Wi! Uma Fu Sranan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Embassy of Japan.



Ambassador Matsubara delivers remarks

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