

21 August 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Handover Ceremony for Drainage Equipment procured under Japanese Grant Aid
‘Economic and Social Development Programme’

The handover ceremony for the installation of new drainage pumps procured under Japanese Grant Aid ‘Economic and Social Development Programme’ took place on Friday August 21, 2026, at the pumping station near the Sommelsdijks kreek in Paramaribo, Suriname. Under this programme, the Ministry of Public Works and Spatial Planning (OWRO) procured and installed three new pumps at the pumping station to enhance drainage capacity and reduce flooding in Paramaribo.

In attendance were His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Suriname; His Excellency Stephen Tsang, Minister of Public Works and Spatial Planning; Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname, and other distinguished officials and representatives.

The Government of Japan’s Grant Aid ‘Economic and Social Development Programme’ was formalised through an Exchange of Notes between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Suriname on October 20, 2022. The grant, valued at 400 million Japanese Yen (approximately US\$3.5 million), supported Suriname’s efforts to strengthen critical public infrastructure and promote sustainable socio-economic development.

This initiative underscores the Government of Japan’s continued commitment to supporting Suriname in addressing key environmental and development challenges, particularly in the area of disaster risk reduction and management.

Japan remains committed to strengthening resilience and advancing sustainable development across the Caribbean through close partnership and cooperation with countries in the region.



His Excellency Stephen Tsang, Minister of Public Works and Spatial Planning (left), and His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Suriname, being shown a demonstration of the new drainage pumps.



Group Photo: His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Suriname (second from left); His Excellency Stephen Tsang, Minister of Public Works and Spatial Planning; and Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname, on a guided tour of the installation.



His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan, delivering his special address to the attendees.



His Excellency Stephen Tsang, Minister of Public Works and Spatial Planning, giving remarks.



Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname, delivering remarks to the audience.



Display of the newly installed drainage pumps.



Water being discharged from the drainage pump station.

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For further information, please contact

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