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Press Release

Japan's Grant Aid for Improvement of Medical Services in Marshall Islands

Date: June 11th, 2020
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Thursday, 11 June 2020, His Excellency Mr. Norio Saito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Honorable Mr. Casten Ned Nemra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, signed the Exchange of Notes for Japan's Grant Aid, the Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP), a grant of 331 million Japanese Yen (approximately USD 3.08 million at the current exchange rate) to procure medical equipment.

The signing ceremony was held at the Cabinet Conference Room in Majuro, attended by His Excellency Mr. David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Honorable Mr. Christopher J. Loeak, Minister In-Assistance to the President and Environment, Cabinet Ministers, and staff members of the Chief Secretary's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Embassy of Japan

Under pandemic outbreak of COVID-19, the entire world eye-witnessed this infectious disease poses a serious threat to our life, society and economy. Considering present circumstances that people and goods are being circulated globally, it is crucial that international community as a whole commits itself to the threat to go forward.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Norio Saito stated that pandemic situation of COVID-19 infection is by far bigger threat, socially and economically, than any other infectious diseases in the history. He continued, "We will support improvement of fundamental medical capacity of Marshall Islands in the long-run, which I believe is to contribute to strengthen overall medical responsiveness in future." He added that Radiography system, Fluoroscopy, CT scanner, C-Arm and other major equipment will be procured for Majuro Hospital and Ebeye Hospital; and basic medical equipment such as Stethoscope and Blood-pressure manometer will be granted to all the public clinics in the Marshall Islands.

Hon. Casten Nemra on behalf of His Excellency, President David Kabua and the Government of the RMI, expressed his sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of Japan for the continued assistance and for the procurement of much needed medical equipment that is timely during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have deepened cooperative relationship for more than 30 years, since the establishment of diplomatic relation between the two countries in 1988 under the reign of late President Amata Kabua, First President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Government of Japan hopes that the grant aid projects will help foster the over 100-year historical ties between the two countries.

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