

PRESS RELEASE

Japan Provides Grant Assistance of Rs. 3,165 million

The Government of Japan has provided a grant of 3,103 million Japanese Yen (approximately Rs. 3,165 million) for the implementation of two projects, under its Grant Aid Programme.

Out of this amount, 1,803 mn Japanese Yen is provided for improvement of curative healthcare facilities at Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital which is the main hospital in the region and the third largest hospital in Sri Lanka. It is expected to construct a new three storied building with a floor area of around 7,500 square meters to house the Obstetric Gynaecology Operation Theatre, Paediatric Unit (Intensive Care Unit) and Outdoor Patients Department (OPD) with all necessary equipment, under this project.

Improved facilities at the Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital will provide better access to specialized healthcare services to minimise difficulties faced by patients who travel long distances to obtain such services from other tertiary healthcare institutions. Over 1.3 million people who are residing in the Anuradhapura District and adjoining districts of Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee and Puttalam where the healthcare facilities are comparatively insufficient, will be benefited from this project. The Project will be implemented by the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition and is expected to be completed by early 2010.

The Government of Japan has already provided a grant of 104 million Japanese Yen in February this year to prepare detailed designs of the new building. The detailed design is scheduled to be completed by July 2008.

The balance grant of 1,300 mn Japanese Yen is provided under the General Non-Project Grant Aid Programme of Japan, which is for the purpose of facilitating the sustainable economic development initiatives of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Government of Japan has been providing assistance under this scheme annually to Sri Lanka since 2003 and this is the fourth such grant. The grant will be used to import goods and materials necessary for implementation of development projects.

Part of the value of the goods imported under this grant will be deposited as counterpart funds in a Special Account and will be utilized to finance small scale development projects in lagging regions, including the Eastern Region, falling within the Ten Year Development Framework announced by the Government thereby promoting socio economic development in Sri Lanka.

The signing of Exchange of Notes pertaining to the above grant took place today (13.05.2007) , at the Ministry of Finance and Planning. His Excellency Kiyoshi Araki, Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka signed the Exchange of Notes on behalf of the Government of Japan while Dr. P B Jayasundera, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning signed on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Ministry of Finance and Planning

Colombo 01.

13th May 2008