

Press Release

22 May 2009

The Government of Japan Extends Assistance to Health Education Project in Ermera District

The Government of Japan held a signing ceremony on 22 May 2009 at the Embassy of Japan to provide US\$142,319 to Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions (SHARE), Japanese NGO, for School Health Project in Ermera District. This project is funded under Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Project. This fund is a scheme intended to financially support Japanese NGOs engaging in economic and social development projects, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance in developing countries and localities.

To meet the needs of community people in Timor-Leste, SHARE changed its priority area to focus on expanding health education programs. Where medical facilities are few and access is poor, many lives are lost by preventable infectious diseases. In this context, SHARE launched the project which enabled local residents to gain knowledge on disease prevention.

To date, SHARE has been providing trainings for primary school teachers to enable them to provide health education to primary school students in Ermera District. In this project, SHARE will not only conduct the health education training for teachers, but also hold workshops for principals and train selected health education teachers as trainers. Consequently, it is expected for children studying in primary schools to prevent themselves from infectious diseases such as diarrhea, parasitism and malaria.

At the Signing Ceremony, the Grant Contract was signed by H.E. Mr. Iwao Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, and Dr. Toru Honda, Representative of SHARE.

Ambassador Kitahara stated that he was honored to be able to support this project for children in Ermera and he sincerely hoped this project would serve to further strengthen the good relationship between people of Timor-Leste and people of Japan.

Dr. Honda stated that SHARE would continue their efforts in Timor-Leste so that teachers can regularly provide health education to children and that primary school children eventually can protect themselves from infectious diseases.

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** SHARE is a Japanese health care NGO that started its project in Timor-Leste in 1999 with the delivery of emergency services. In addition to Timor-Leste, SHARE is also involved in projects in Japan, Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa. Their mission is to realize the aim of "Health for ALL" in all of project areas.*