

Press Release

<u>The Government of Japan Celebrates the Inauguration of the Public Clinic in Uabubo Village, Ossu</u> <u>Post-administrative, Viqueque Municipality under Japan's Grant Scheme</u>

23rdNovember2017

On 23rd November 2017, the Embassy of Japan jointly held an inauguration ceremony of the Public Clinic in Uabubo Village, Ossu Post-administrative, Viqueque Municipality. The ceremony was co-organized by the communities of Viqueque together with the Enrichment of Talented Development in Timor-Leste (HADEZTA), a national NGO which implemented the project, and the Embassy of Japan. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Ambassador to Timor-Leste, H.E. Mr. Luis M.R.F. Lobato, Vice-Minister of Health, representatives from stakeholders, local government officials of relevant authorities, and local residents.

At the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Minami dearly stated that "The Government of Japan has been increasing its engagement in the health sector in Timor-Leste in varied forms such as construction of hospitals, provision of medical equipment, and dispatching JICA volunteers. The construction of public clinic was supported by the Government of Japan, on the other hand, the Ministry of Health supplied the medical equipment and medicines. This project is realized under cooperation between the two countries. I hope that the new public clinic will contribute to the improvement of medical environment in Uabubo Village."

The project has its primary purpose to improve access to health facilities in rural area by constructing a new public clinic in Uabubo Village through the Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP), since there was no public clinic in Uabubo Village. The Government of Japan, after very rigid scrutiny on its proposal, provided US\$83,299 for the project, which was signed on 3rd March 2017. The project was implemented by the HADEZTA in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health for technical advices. Also, medical equipment was arranged by the Ministry of Health. Through the project, people living in and around Uabubo Village will be benefitted.

The Government of Japan has been assisting Timor-Leste since the year of 2000, with 101 projects launched in all 13 municipalities through the GGP. The GGP mainly covers the infrastructure area such as construction and rehabilitation of water supply systems, irrigation channels, school facilities, and public clinics in order to meet various kinds of basic human needs at the grass-roots level. (End)