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the People of Japan

Press Release

Handover Ceremony of Heavy Machinery for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery in Timor-Leste

Dili, 27th August 2024 – On 27 August, a handover ceremony of 26 heavy machinery for disaster risk reduction and recovery was held. H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and Mr. KIMURA Testuya Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste attended the ceremony. H.E. Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Rural Development and Community Housing, H.E. Mr. Samuel Marçal, Minister of Public Works, H. E. Rear Admiral Donaciano da Costa Gomes 'Pedro Klamar Fuik', PhD, Minister of Defense, H. E. Mr. Francisco da Costa Guterres, Minister of Interior, H. E. Mr. Gastão Francisco de Sousa, Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment, Members of Parliaments from Committee E for Infrastructure, Ms. Ana Paula da Cruz, President of Council of Administration of IGEADI-IP, and Dr. ITO Mimpei, Chief Representative of JICA Timor-Leste Office were also in attendance..

This project, with the grant of 8.01 billion Japanese Yen (approximately 5 million USD) from Japan, provides a total of 26 heavy machinery, including drainage pump vehicles, dump trucks, and hydraulic excavators, to IGE. The goal is to enhance the country's disaster preparedness and recovery capabilities by equipping Timor-Leste with construction machinery for road and river maintenance in Dili and throughout the nation.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Kimura reflected on the history of Japan's cooperation in the infrastructure sector, including the PKO mission and trainings provided by JDRAC, a Japanese NGO, and stated that “I believe that the enduring presence of the machineries, which were handed over 20 years ago from Japanese PKO mission, symbolizes the strong bond between Timor-Leste and Japan” and “I understand that some of you here today are alumni of the training course or got instruction from the alumni. It is my pleasure to provide these new heavy machines to those who have diligently honed their knowledge and skills.”

This year is the 25th anniversary of the first Development Partners Meeting, which was held in Tokyo in 1999. Japan remains committed to supporting Timor-Leste's development.

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