

Signing Ceremony of Japan's Grant for the Economic and Social Development Aid Programme for the Cook Islands Wellington, NEW ZEALAND

On 17 June 2020, the signing ceremony of Japan's grant for the Economic and social development aid program took place at the Embassy of Japan, and Ambassador KOBAYASHI Hiroyasu and HE Elizabeth Wright-Koteka, Cook Islands High Commissioner to New Zealand signed and exchanged notes. With the aid program, Japan provided a grant aid of one hundred million (¥100,000,000) Japanese Yen, approximately \$1,300,000 NZ dollars for the procurement of health and medical equipment such as portable ultrasound sound scanners, central monitors made by Japanese companies in order to respond COVID-19, to strengthen health and medical capacity in the Cook Islands.

In the ceremony, Ms Piakura Passfield, First Secretary of Cook Islands High Commission and other staff also attended. High Commissioner Wright-Koteka said that Cook Islands government and people were concerned by the risk of COVID-19 and its serious potential to weaken the local medical system, and therefore by implemented border restrictions at a high cost to tourism and the economy. She added that Japan's assistance met the Cook Islands' request, and this was extremely important in view of the Japan-Cook Islands relationship. She added that she was grateful to the Government and people of Japan.



1. Signing and exchanging notes



2. Group Photo

(end)