

## Signing of Grant Agreement for Additional Grant Aid for The Project for the Construction of Royal Centre for Infectious Diseases:

### JOINT PRESS RELEASE

16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Thimphu: The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Grant Agreement (G/A) for additional grant for the project, Construction of Royal Centre for Infectious Diseases (RCID). The project aims to establish a specialized hospital in Gidakom, Thimphu focusing on infectious disease treatment and equipped with State-of-the-Art medical facilities.

This project has been supported by the Government of Japan through JICA, and it aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)).

The total project cost is three billion seven hundred and fifty-two million Japanese Yen (JPY 3,752,000,000) which is approximately 2 billion Ngultrum. In addition to the initial project cost, seven hundred fifty-eight million Japanese Yen (JPY 758,000,000), which is approximately 413 million Ngultrum, is granted additionally by the Government of Japan for covering cost escalations of the construction. The initial G/A for the project was signed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for two billion nine hundred and ninety-four million Japanese Yen (JPY 2,994,000,000) / 1.6 billion Ngultrum.

The G/A was signed between Mr. Tshering Dorji, Director of the Department of Macro Fiscal and Development Finance (DMDF), Ministry of Finance and Mr. Tomoyuki Yamada, Chief Representative of JICA Bhutan Office. The signing of G/A is preceded by the exchange of Note Verbale between the Royal Bhutanese Embassy and the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, on the same day.

The RCID will be equipped with state-of-art facilities, comprehensive clinical and public health capabilities in infectious diseases prevention, control, and management. RCID will be a center for excellence in providing high-quality services focused on preventing and managing infectious diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and unforeseen pandemics like COVID-19. It is envisaged to play a lead role in protecting the health of Bhutanese people.

Mr. Tshering Dorji, Director of DMDF highlighted that the RCID will be a crucial addition to Bhutan's healthcare infrastructure, enhancing the nation's capacity to prevent, control, and manage infectious diseases. The RGoB expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan and for JICA's support in this endeavor.

Mr. Tomoyuki Yamada, Chief Representative of JICA Bhutan Office highlighted RCID's strategic importance of high-quality medical services and capacity development for controlling infectious diseases. With the establishment of RCID, JICA believes that Bhutan's health system will become remarkably resilient against pandemic and health emergencies. Mr. Tomoyuki Yamada also expressed that JICA is very proud of and pleased with having a very great opportunity to work with the RGoB on such a historical and flagship project in Bhutan.

MoF and JICA are pleased to invite media houses to the handing over ceremony at 2:30pm on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at DMDF Director's office, MoF, in Tashichhodzong, Thimphu.

We are able to arrange time of interviews with representatives from each organization.

**Please kindly note that this news should not be released externally before the actual signing ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

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[Project Outline]

<b>Project Title</b>	The Project for the Construction of Royal Centre for Infectious Diseases
<b>Grant Aid (Total Amount)</b>	JPY3,752,000,000 - (Approximately 2 billion Ngultrum )
<b>Project Implementation Period</b>	45 months <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction of the facility is expected to be completed in 36 months.</li> <li>2. The maintenance contract for medical equipment will last for 1 year after delivery of the equipment.</li> </ol>
<b>Executing Agency</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>Project Site</b>	Gidakom, Thimphu Dzongkhag
<b>Specific Project Details (Outline)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facility Construction/Equipment Procurement                      [Facility Construction]                      Wards, Outpatient Department, Diagnosis Department, Training Department, Administration Department                      [Equipment Procurement]                      Equipment required for infectious disease diagnosis and treatment.</li> <li>2. Consulting Services                      Detailed design work, bidding assistance, construction/procurement supervision, technical assistance for operation and maintenance of the facility and medical equipment to prevent healthcare-acquired infection (as guidance in managing the facilities.</li> </ol>

[Completion Image of RCID]

