

GROUNDBREAKING PPP PROJECT CONTRACT SIGNED IN BOKSBURG

On the 2nd of February 2016, a signing ceremony was held between the Embassy of Japan in South Africa, St. Francis Care Centre and Kansai Plascon (Pty) Ltd. The ceremony was held for the signing of a grant contract for funding, which will be given to St. Francis Care Centre through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The ceremony took place at St. Francis Care Centre in Boksburg, and was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of South Africa, Mr Shigeyuki Hiroki, the CEO of Kansai Plascon, Mr Nauman Malik, the Managing Director of W. Voigt, Mr Peter Steele, the Chairman of St. Francis Care Centre, Mr Alberto Fogolin and the Centre Manager, Mrs Tilly Brouwer.

St. Francis Care Centre will receive \$137,627 as part of Japan's Official Development Assistance to South Africa.

This project is a public-private partnership (PPP) project and is for the upgrade of St. Francis Care Centre, which provides a haven for persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. For the first time in South Africa, Ales Shikkui paint from Kansai Plascon, which is an anti-virus and anti-bacterial paint that absorbs viruses and bacteria into a small hole on the surface of the paint, will be used to paint the inside of the Adult IPU and Rainbow Cottage in an attempt to reduce infection. "Shikkui" is a traditional and environmental friendly wall paint material that has a long history of over 1,300 years in Japan.



At the ceremony, Mr Fogolin, Mrs Brouwer and Mr Malik all spoke of their gratitude to the Embassy of Japan, as well as to the people of Japan. They all share a deep passion for these vulnerable adults, children and families and expressed the hope that this project will greatly contribute to the quality of life of all the patients and their families. The Grant Contract was signed by Ambassador Hiroki, Mrs Tilly Brouwer and Mr Malik. After the signing, Ambassador Hiroki said that it was a great honour for him and the people of Japan to be part of this groundbreaking public-private partnership project with Kansai Plascon to upgrade St. Francis Care Centre. He said that St. Francis Care Centre has a historical connection to Japan as a Japanese Franciscan Priest from JOMAS (Japan Overseas Missionary Activity Sponsorship), Father Nicholas Nemoto, assisted the Care Centre in the early 2000's. Finally, he thanked Kansai Plascon and W. Voigt for their kind assistance with this project.



The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme is intended to assist NGOs, schools and local authorities in addressing development needs in areas such as education, health, water supply and the environment. The GGP scheme was first introduced in 1989, and prioritizes human security for vulnerable and marginalised people within society. Since 1990, 587 GGP projects have been implemented in South Africa. In the Japanese Fiscal Year 2014 (April 2014 – March 2015), the Embassy of Japan extended GGP assistance to 14 projects, spending over thirteen million Rand (R13,000,000).

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