

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,
IS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO R. VENETIAAN, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY THE NON-RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN, HIS EXCELLENCY YASUO MATSUI,
ON MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2005**

Mr. Ambassador,

It is my pleasure to accept your Letters of Credence. On behalf of the Government and people of Suriname, I extend a warm welcome to you as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Suriname.

I thank you for the good wishes you have conveyed on behalf of His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Akihito. The presentation of your Letters of Credence is a reaffirmation of the excellent and friendly relations that exist between the Republic of Suriname and Japan.

My Government is aware of the political and economic developments in your country and of the efforts your Government has made towards raising the level of prosperity of its citizens. Japan also helps to augment stability on the Asian continent and in the rest of the world as well.

On the bilateral level, my Government highly values the relationship of cooperation between Suriname and Japan, and is grateful to the Government of Japan for the efforts it has put into contributions to the furthering of the realization the national goals of Suriname, more in particular in the social sphere.

In this connection, the Project for Improvement of Basic Medical Equipment for Mother and Child Health Care Facilities may be mentioned.

Suriname is actively engaged in the process of integrating into the region as a member of CARICOM and by means of the CARICOM-Japan consultation mechanism, among other things, seeks to closely cooperate on issues of common interest and on the basis of mutual benefit.

Also on the multilateral level, Suriname highly values cooperation with your country, which enables us to make a joint contribution to solving the many issues confronting us at the global level.

Suriname advocates reforms within the United Nations, especially in the Security Council which can add a significant dimension in addressing international issues against the background of the current geopolitical and geo-economic reality.

Mr. Ambassador,

I have every confidence that you, with your knowledge and experience, will certainly succeed in meeting the challenge of giving further shape to the existing relations between our two countries and you may thereby rest assured of the support of the Government of the Republic of Suriname. I wish you every success in the performance of your mission.

In concluding I seize this opportunity to offer my best wishes to His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Akihito, to the Government and people of Japan.

Thank you.
