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| EMBASSY OF JAPAN09 February 2017MEDIA RELEASE |

**Members of the press are welcome to attend the event which will take place at the Namibia Institute of Pathology Board Room, Windhoek, Namibia, at 10:00 on Friday 10th February 2017.**

**PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT LAUNCHED**

**BY THE SYSMEX COOPERATION AND NIP**

On the 10th of February 2017, a Public Private Partnership Project of Laboratory Quality Control Support, which utilises Japanese technologies offered by the Sysmex Cooperation (HQ: Kobe, Japan), with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will be launched at the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP), under the presence of H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoato, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia and Mr. Augustinus Katiti, Chief Executive Officer of NIP.

The project aims to improve the quality management of key clinical laboratories in Namibia, which is essential to accurate disease diagnosis and hence appropriate treatment, in order to support the Namibian Government’s efforts for improving the quality of public medical institutions.

Under the project, the Sysmex Cooperation will work with NIP, and equipment of a blood analyser and on-line monitoring system of the analyser operation status together with on-site training of the staff in charge of clinical laboratory work, in worth of approximately 2.4million ND, will be provided. The project targets at three major laboratories in Namibia, namely the Windhoek Central Reference Laboratory in the Khomas region, Oshakati Laboratory in the Oshana region and Rundu Laboratory in the Kavango East region for the period of two years.

The launch of the project is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by NIP, Sysmex and JICA in November 2016 as part of the MOUs officially announced by the Government of Japan during the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) VI held in Nairobi in August 2016. Under the TICAD VI, 73 MOUs between 22 Japanese private companies and agencies and 26 African countries & agencies, and international organsations were signed in support of economic diversification and industrizlisation of Africa.

For further information, contact Ms Kaoru Yokotani, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. Email: kaoru.yokotani@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061-426-700/ FAX: 061-426-749.

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