

To the people of Japan: Thank you!

Republic of Guinea

The Tamara Health Center Project

Handover ceremony (May 1, 1997)

“Thanks to this health center, people no longer have to risk their lives to go all the way to Conakry to receive medical treatment at the hospital in the center of Conakry. We will take care of the center as our treasure.” (Joseph Wright, Mayor)

Situated some 25 km off the coast of Conakry, Guinea’s capital, the Loos Islands had been lacking in medical or healthcare facilities. For this reason, during the monsoon season from May to November, there had been repeated tragedies such that ferry boats were often cancelled and people had no choice but to cross the waters by small boats, but the boats wrecked and some of them were drowned in the course of the journey. There was a keen desire for a health center on the island. The happiness caused by the health center constructed through Japanese aid was reported as follows in the local papers.

“Horoya newspaper, dated May 6

There is no Longer a Need for people to Cross the Sea for Medical Care – all of residents engaged with farming and fishing in Tamara island attended the opening ceremony of the project and hailed the Japanese Ambassador with appreciation. Mayor Joseph Wright, the representative of the island’s people, gave a speech on behalf of the 2,500 citizens, expressing profound gratitude for the establishment of the health center and thanked the Government and People of Japan for provision of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects.”

Thanks to cooperation from Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects, a health center was constructed on Tamara, the most populous island of the Loos Islands which are composed of three islands, Tamara, Kassa, and Roume. The access to healthcare service for all the islanders has improved. The health center constructed with Japanese aid is now being used by the residents of two other islands, and benefits the approximately 7,600 people who live on the Loos Islands.