
**Speech by H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, at the NPGA
Handing Over Ceremony for Two New Sea Mules & Aquaculture Technology
to the Republic of Nauru**

Tuesday, 21 February 2017, 11.00 am, Nauru

His Excellency Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru,

Hon. Shadlog Bernicke, Minister for Fisheries,

Hon. Lyn-Wanan Tawaki Kam, Minister for Nauru Port Authority,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Omo Yoran, Good Morning and Ohayo Gozaimasu,

May I firstly express my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to me since my arrival in Nauru.

Today, it is my honour to hand over two new sea mules and aquaculture equipment to the Republic of Nauru. I am pleased to say that the government of Japan provided Three Hundred Million Japanese Yen (¥300m), approximately Three Million Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Australian Dollars (AUD3.75m), to the Government of Nauru for the purchase of sea mules and aquaculture equipment.

For island nations, harbours and ports are like gateways to

the rest of world. The bulk of the country's international trade and tourism flows through the ports. On the other hand, ships are the largest manmade moving objects in the world. As such ports are responsible for catering, loading and unloading ships which require skill, labour and effective machinery. This is why the importance of Aiwo Harbour to Nauru cannot be exaggerated. As mules are called 'beasts of burden', I am sure that the addition of two new sea mules to the existing one, will not only lighten Aiwo Harbour's burden, but also enhance its cargo and vessel handling capability.

As agriculture is not abundant in Nauru due to natural conditions, fisheries provides an economical and healthier food source for the people here. The aquaculture equipment being handed over today will help the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority to acquire biological data on important fish species, research water quality and culture milkfish production. This initiative will contribute towards sustainable fisheries management in Nauru.

This NPGA is in line with the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), which is a key component of Japan's Development Cooperation with this country.

In September 2016, Japan and Nauru formalized Japan's assistance for providing medical equipment to the Republic of Nauru Hospital under its Economic and Social Development Programme. Worth Two Hundred Million Yen (¥200m), approximately Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Australian Dollars (AUD2.5m), we look forward to the timely and successful completion of this project which will significantly enhance healthcare in Nauru.

Even though Nauru is the world's smallest sovereign island nation, it stands as an equal partner and close friend of Japan. I wish to reaffirm Japan's commitment for providing continued assistance for the sustainable development of Nauru.

It is my sincere hope that with timely and proper maintenance and care, the sea mules and aquaculture equipment will be able to serve Nauru for many years to come.

I conclude with confidence that this NPGA further strengthens friendship between the people and governments of Japan and Nauru.

Tubwa Kor (Tooba Karr), Thank You and Arigato Gozaimsu.

The End.