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**Speech by H.E. Mr. Masahiro OMURA, Ambassador of Japan, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Lautoka Delana Primary School and Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation**

Thursday, 25 January 2018, 10:00 am, Embassy of Japan

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Mr. Joeli Derenalagi (ジョエリ・デレナランギ) , Head Teacher, Lautoka Delana Primary School,

Mr. John Lewis, Board Chairman, Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

A warm welcome to you all. Today, we have gathered here to sign grant contracts and formalize Japan's assistance to the Lautoka Delana Primary School and Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation.

I am very pleased to say that the Government of Japan will be providing;

- ① Eighty-seven thousand US dollars (USD 86,894) to Lautoka Delana Primary School for "The Project for Upgrading of Lautoka Delana Primary School" and

② Fifty-four thousand US dollars (USD 54,067) to Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation for “The Project for Water Supply to Vuiyakana (ヴイヤカナ) Village and Kavika (カヴィカ) Settlement”,

These projects will be funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme or GGP in short.

The Project for Upgrading of Lautoka Delana Primary School and Project for Water Supply to Vuiyakana Village and Kavika Settlement are aimed at further developing the education sector as well as ensuring clean and regular water supply to the communities. Both these projects are consistent with the key objectives of Japan’s GGP Programme.

I wish to commend the recipient organisations by acknowledging your important roles in providing education and consistent and safe water supply to communities in Fiji. All your work in your specific areas reminds us of the goodness that exists within the human spirit. Upon implementation, I am confident that these projects will address the difficulties faced by your organizations and assist in the accomplishment of your respective goals.

I am pleased to inform you all that these projects are also in line with Fiji government’s national development objectives. Such harmonisation is the key to Japan’s development cooperation with this country.

At this juncture, I wish to highlight that the Government of Japan has been actively involved in supporting Fiji's recovery efforts post TC Winston in the Education Sector through the Government of Fiji's initiative, namely the "Adopt A School Programme". I am happy to update you all that the Government of Japan has supported nine (9) schools with a total funding of Eight Million and Four Hundred Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$8.4m) in 2016 and 2017.

Since 1990, Japan has been providing assistance to grassroots communities in Fiji through 353 GGP projects, with the total value exceeding Twenty Three Million US Dollars (US\$23.64 million).

May I also take this opportunity to kindly urge the distinguished recipient representatives to ensure the timely and successful completion of your respective projects. It is my honour to reaffirm Japan's commitment to providing continued assistance in the Education and Health Sector for the sustainable development of Fiji.

I conclude with confidence that these projects will further strengthen friendship between the people and governments of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

**The End.**