

**Speech by H. E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, At the  
Signing and Exchange of Notes Ceremony for The Project for  
Rehabilitation of the Medium Wave Radio Transmission**

Monday, 31 August 2015, 10:00 a.m. at Conference Room, Level 4, Office of the Prime  
Minister, Government Buildings, Suva

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The Honourable Rear Admiral (Retired) Josaia Voreqe  
Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji,

Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister  
for Public Enterprises,

Permanent Secretaries of Government Ministries,

Mr. Sashi Singh, Board Chairman, FBC,

Mr. Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Chief Executive Officer, FBC,

Officials of FBC and the Fiji Government,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Assalam-Alaikum, Namaste and  
Ohayō Gozaimasu.

On behalf of the people and Government of Japan, it is my great  
honour to participate in this auspicious occasion today. I wish to  
extend my appreciation to the Honourable Prime Minister for your  
commitment to renew the long-lasting cooperation between Fiji  
and Japan towards elevating this partnership to a higher level.

I also wish to congratulate the Honourable Prime Minister for achieving the massive turnaround at FBC. We Japanese are fond of working hard. It has become part of our identity. As such, we can easily relate to the long hours and hard work that must have gone behind FBC's success. Today, FBC has truly carved its own place, as a public broadcaster operating in a commercial world.

I am pleased to say that upon formalization of the 'Project for Rehabilitation of the Medium Wave Radio Transmission', Japan will be providing medium wave radio equipment worth approximately Fifteen Million Fiji Dollars. This project will be implemented under Japan's Grant Aid Scheme by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). This project entails the construction of a New Transmission Antenna, Transmission House, supply of new two 558kHz and 990kHz transmitters with other related maintenance equipment and tools.

Last year, the Honourable Prime Minister expressed his great hope during FBC's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, that in cooperation with Japan, he was looking forward to the establishment of this project which will be 'indispensable' for disaster risk Management in Fiji.

Today, I am extremely pleased that in line with the aspirations articulated by the Honourable Prime Minister one year ago as well as through the commitments made by the Honourable Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, at the bilateral meeting in May this year, we are able to accomplish practical results. I emphasize 'practical' because for Fiji, this is practical delivery of government policy. For Japan, this is our practical contribution aligned with Fiji's development framework priorities, arising from the spirit of our cooperation.

Fiji and the Pacific Island countries are always vulnerable to unpredictable climatic changes resulting in flooding, cyclones and hurricanes, vulnerable to sudden disasters caused by geological activity, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. This is where the reach of the AM medium wave radio frequency becomes indispensable. Having countrywide coverage far greater than FM frequency, especially to remote maritime areas, AM medium wave radio can save countless number of Fijian lives, in times of emergencies and natural disasters.

This project will provide improved radio service to the people in remote maritime areas. Radio is the most convenient and effective means of communication for such regions. Apart from

warnings and weather forecasts, this project will also enable the Fiji Government to reach out to its people right across the nation without any difficulties. Other forms of communications technology or media find it hard to match the medium wave radio in this aspect.

At this juncture, I would like to highlight that Japan has a long standing relationship with Fiji and the region in the area of Disaster Risk Management. The Government of Japan almost 20 years ago provided funding for construction of the Fiji Meteorological Services Headquarters in Nadi. Since then, over the years, we have been providing continued assistance in this area, through various projects as well as capacity building and community based disaster risk management training programmes.

In delivering excellence on a national scale, the enhanced AM service will be able to cover all of Fiji from one site. I am not exaggerating when I say that Japan has one of the best medium wave radio technologies. I am sure JICA will be able to channel such expertise in implementing this project.

I look forward to the successful implementation of this project and I hope it contributes towards taking disaster risk management to newer heights in Fiji. Japan remains committed towards providing continued support for the new phase of nation building in Fiji.

Before I conclude, Honourable Prime Minister, as we set foot in the month of September from tomorrow, I would like to take this opportunity to convey, a little in advance, my warmest compliments to you and the Government of Fiji, as September marks your first year in office, since the return to parliamentary democracy in Fiji.

I am confident that this project will further strengthen the friendship between the people and governments of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Shukryia, Dhanyavaadh, and Arigato Gozaimasu.

**The End.**