



From
the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Provides Assistance to Ba Women's Forum

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth FJ\$492,900 to Ba Women's Forum through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, will sign the grant contract with Dr. Maria Doton, President of Ba Women's Forum, to formalize Japan's assistance at a signing ceremony that will be hosted by the Embassy of Japan at Level 2, BSP Life Centre, Suva, at 2:30pm on Wednesday, 18 February 2015. The Honourable Rosy Akbar, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and her predecessor, the Honourable Dr. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of Parliament, will also be present to witness this occasion.

You are most welcome to the ceremony. For further queries, please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp and phone number: 3304633.

Details for the Project for Construction of Ba Women's Training Centre

1. Recipient: Ba Women's Forum
2. Grant Contract Signatory: Dr. Maria Doton, President
3. Details of the Project: Ba Women's Forum (BWF) will receive FJ\$492,900 for the construction of a Women's Training Centre in Ba Town. The two-storey training centre will have an office, a hall, a sewing room, a kitchen and two other training rooms. The project also includes the first workshop to be held at the centre, which will be a two-month training programme facilitated by experts in handicrafts and food preservation. BWF is an umbrella organisation composed of 79 women's clubs in Ba District and since its establishment in 2011, it has aimed to teach women at the grassroots level to make a living upon improving their skills with the resources that are readily available to them. Its most successful training programme taught impoverished women to create mother of pearl accessories, which were showcased at the 2014 Fiji Fashion Week. BWF holds women's livelihood workshops in Ba Town and in villages across the district, but the lack of its own training facility has limited its impact and hindered its plans to expand its programmes to other areas like dried fruit processing, native handicrafts and bee-keeping. Based on the rise of domestic violence against women and the increase of single mothers in the country, the BWF, through the establishment of this training centre intends to help address the growing need for ways to support women provide for their own families, which is expected to benefit up to 2500 women yearly. The Government of Japan recognises the value of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Since December 2014, the newly seated government of Japan, led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, has reinvigorated empowerment of women with the motto, "Creating a society in which women shine".
4. The GGP Programme is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people and the community from the grassroots level. The GGP Programme in Fiji has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health and education, transportation and IT, agriculture and fisheries since 1990. To date, more than 300 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 18 million.

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