
Speech by H.E. Mr. Masahiro OMURA, Ambassador of Japan, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Gospel School for the Deaf, Labasa Divisional Hospital and the Nausori Special School

Monday, 22 January 2018, 10:00 am, Embassy of Japan

Mr. Howard Politini (ハワード・ポリティニ), Board Chairman, Gospel School for the Deaf,

Mr. Jaoji Vulibeci (ジャオジ・ヴリンベジー), Medical Superintendent, Labasa Divisional Hospital,

Mr. Jitendra Bhan (ジテンドラ・バン), School Manager, Nausori Special School,

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 Gospel School for the Deaf, Labasa Divisional Hospital and the Nausori Special School.

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

- ① Fifty thousand US dollars (USD 50,112) for “the Project for Provision of School Bus to Gospel School for the Deaf”,
- ② Eighty one thousand US dollars (USD 80,681) for “the Project for Provision of Ambulance to Labasa Divisional Hospital”, and
- ③ Eighty-eight thousand US dollars (USD 87,936) for “Project for Upgrading Nausori Special School”.

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

The Project for provision of school bus to Gospel School for the Deaf and the upgrading of Nausori Special School are our ongoing support to the education sector targeting students with special needs. The Project for provision for Ambulance to Labasa Divisional Hospital is our continued contribution to the health sector in Fiji and all three projects are united in their service to humanity.

I wish to commend the recipient organizations by acknowledging your important role in saving lives, providing education and transport facilities to the physically disadvantaged students with special needs. 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 your organizations are facing and assist in the accomplishment of your respective goals.

I am pleased to inform you all that these projects are in line with Fiji government's national development objectives. Such harmonisation is 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).

I wish to urge the distinguished recipients present here today 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.