
**Speech by H.E. Mr. Masahiro OMURA, Ambassador of Japan, at the Grant Contract
Signing Ceremony for the Lautoka City Council**

Monday, 05 February 2018, 12:30 pm, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

The Honourable Praveen Kumar Bala, Minister for Local Government,
Housing and Environment, Infrastructure and Transport

Mr. Jone Nakauvadra (ジョン・ナカウヴァンドラ) , Chief Executive Officer,
Lautoka City Council,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Konnichiwa.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your warm hospitality accorded to me and my colleagues. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment for hosting this ceremony. Today, we have gathered here to sign the grant contract formalizing Japan's assistance to Lautoka City Council.

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

Eighty-four thousand US dollars (USD 84,337) for "The Project for Provision of Garbage Truck to Lautoka City".

This project will be funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme or GGP in short.

The Project is part of our continued commitment in assisting municipal councils in Fiji to create cleaner and healthier environment for its communities.

Upon implementation, I am confident that this project will help address the difficulties faced by Lautoka City Council and assist in the accomplishment of its respective goals.

I am pleased to inform you that this project is in line with Fiji government's national development objectives. Such development harmonisation is the key to Japan's development cooperation with this country.

At this juncture, I wish to highlight how Japan has been assisting the Pacific region in improving its waste management on the basis of three pillars namely,

- (1) The first pillar is to strengthen the capacity of human resources through conducting a variety of workshops and training sessions with various participants to enhance waste management in the Pacific.
- (2) The second pillar is to develop institutional systems through developing strategies or plans for institutions efficiently improve their waste management.
- (3) The third pillar is to share Japan's advanced technology and experience such as landfill methods and 3R practices which are reduce, reuse and recycle.

It gives me great pleasure to say that since 2011, Japan implemented a regional technical cooperation project titled, "Promotion of Regional Institute on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries" or "J-PRISM" in short. This project is currently ongoing. Furthermore, I am equally happy to mention that from 2008 to 2012, Japan specifically implemented a project for Fiji, focusing on promoting the 3Rs concept in Lautoka and Nadi.

May I also add that over the years a number of JICA Volunteers have served in Fiji and the region, contributing to the development of the waste management sector.

Since 1990, Japan has been providing assistance to grassroots communities in Fiji through 358 GGP projects, with the total value exceeding Twenty-Four Million US Dollars (US\$24 million).

I wish to kindly urge Lautoka City Council that upon receiving the compactor, it should exercise timely maintenance. This will ensure its longevity in serving the people of Lautoka.

It is my honour to reaffirm Japan's commitment to providing continued assistance for the sustainable development of Fiji.

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

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

The End.