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## **Japan Formalises Assistance to Fusi Alofa Special School and Funafuti Kaupule**

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth up to AU\$145,309 to the Fusi Alofa Special School and Funafuti Kaupule through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. Genta Yamada, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Tuvalu, will sign two grant contracts with Mr. Melton Paka Tauetia, the General Manager of Fusi Alofa Special School and Mr. Semi Vine, the President of Funafuti Kaupule to formalize Japan's assistance at a signing ceremony at the National Coordination Centre, Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu, at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 March, 2018.

For further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and phone number: 3304633.

### **Details of the Two Projects**

#### **1. The Project for Provision of School Bus to Fusi Alofa Special School**

- a) Recipient: Fusi Alofa Special School
- b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Melton Paka Tauetia, General Manager of Fusi Alofa Special School
- c) Details: Fusi Alofa Special School will receive AU\$81,266 for the purchase of a 9-seater school bus for School. Since 2011, Fusi Alofa has operated a special school for children with special needs. Fusi Alofa Special School is the only special school in Tuvalu aiming to improving the lives of children living with disabilities through education. In the past, the School experienced high rates of student absence as most of these children come from economically disadvantaged communities in Funafuti. In 2017, nine out of forty students had their classes conducted at homes due to non-availability of special vehicle to transport students using wheelchairs to school depriving students from interactive teaching and learning sessions that affected their personal and academic development. Most of students also depend on friends and relatives who have scooters and motorcycles for transport which compromises the safety of students with special needs. Parents were reluctant to send their children to school due to lack of proper transport. This led to decrease in literacy rate among students with special needs in Tuvalu. Through this project, the Embassy aims to reduce the absence rate and improve student's attendance by providing a new bus with good seating capacity and high safety standards.

#### **2. The Project for Provision of Water Distribution Truck in Funafuti**

- a) Recipient: Funafuti Kaupule
- b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Semi Vine, President of Funafuti Kaupule
- c) Details: Funafuti Kaupule will receive AU\$64,043 for the provision of a new water distribution truck in Funafuti. The Funafuti Kaupule is required by local government laws to provide, erect and maintain a public water supply and impose water rates in accordance to water supply Act. Although, the Kaupule has water cisterns built at the local level to cater for high demand of water, it does not have a water truck to deliver water to households. Since 2017, only one water truck, which is owned by the Government, is available in the Island to transport water to households who require their water on a daily basis. Since there is only one water truck in the Island, it takes a lot of time for the current water truck to meet water requests since the existing truck has limited capacity and the demand of water was high from commercial entities including hotels and supermarkets. Residents in Funafuti had to carry water in scooters and trailers to their homes during severe water shortages. Through this project, the Embassy aims to assist the Kaupule in providing clean water to households in Funafuti during severe water shortages and reduce

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water vulnerability in Funafuti.

3. Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme

Japan's assistance to these projects indicates its commitment to contribute to the improvement of the living standards and welfare of people in Tuvalu and is in line with its Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy of promoting development at the grassroots level. The GGP Programme is specifically designed to address basic human needs, which include water supply, health, basic education, vocational training and rural infrastructure since 1992. To date, 43 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of US\$ 2.91 million. The Embassy of Japan hopes that this assistance will help further strengthen friendly ties between the governments and the people of Tuvalu and Japan.

**END.**