

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan, at
the Exchange of Notes Signing Ceremony for Japan's Grant Aid
Assistance (ESDP) to Tuvalu**

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, Tuvalu High Commission, Suva

The Right Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of
Tuvalu and Madam Salilo Enele Sopoaga,

Honourable Isaia Taape, Member of Parliament, and Mrs. Melali
Isaia Taape,

Dr. Nese Ituaso Conway, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister,

His Excellency Mr. Temate Melitiana, Tuvalu High Commissioner
to Fiji,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Talofa and Good Morning

I would like to thank the Tuvalu High Commission for hosting
this signing ceremony. The Right Honourable Prime Minister is
on his way from Japan to Tuvalu. He attended PALM8. We are
really grateful to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for joining
us in this occasion. I hope he enjoyed the stay in Japan.

We are truly grateful to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for
his contribution to the success of PALM8. In line with the
objectives of this project, the Leaders of PALM8 in their
Declaration agreed to reduce emission of greenhouse gases, to
heighten energy efficiency, and promote efficient use of renewable
energy.

Last week Prime Minister Abe of Japan, announced to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Grant Aid Assistance in the amount of 200 Million Yen or 2.4 Million Australian Dollars. This exchange of notes formalizes this commitment. It is called Economic Social Development Project (ESDP) for Tuvalu and aims to support procurement of diesel oil used at the power plant operated by Tuvalu Electricity Corporation (TEC).

Japan has been extending cooperation to the energy sector in Tuvalu for many years. The diesel power plant of TEC was established by Japan's grant aid assistance in 2005. Since then, Japan has been extending support to the procurement of diesel oil for 10 times including this occasion.

We understand that Tuvalu is aiming at 100 per cent utilization of renewable energy in its national development plan, TE-KAKEEGA III. The Japanese Government is supporting utilization of renewable energy in Tuvalu through technical cooperation by JICA called 'The Project for Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System'. At the same time this JICA technical cooperation project intends to make operation of diesel power as efficient as possible and reduce emission of carbon dioxide and consumption of fossil fuel.

Based upon the outcome of the PALM8, we would like to promote development cooperation with Tuvalu in line with 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy' and conduct close consultation with counterparts in Tuvalu. Lastly, I would like to express utmost respect and gratitude towards excellent leadership of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Sopoaga for making the bilateral relationship between Japan and Tuvalu as strong as ever.

Faka Fetai Lasi and Thank You Very Much.

The End.