PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Hands Over Medium Wave Radio Transmission Facilities
worth FJ$15m to Fiji

The Government of Japan is pleased to announce the completion of the Project for Rehabilitation of Medium Wave Radio Transmission which includes the installation of a 60m antenna system, 2 AM radio transmitters and related buildings. Funded through Japan’s Grant Aid Programme, this project is worth approximately 865 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to 15 million Fijian dollars.

H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, the new Ambassador of Japan, will officially hand over the new facilities to Hon. Rear Admiral (Retired) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, at a ceremony hosted by the Government of Republic of Fiji, at the radio facility project site, Naulu, Nakasi at 8:40am on 11 August 2017.

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp and telephone number: 3304633.

Details for the Rehabilitation of Medium Wave Radio Transmission

1. Background of the Project
   The current Medium Wave Radio (AM) broadcast is provided by Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) through the transmitter it had acquired in 2000. However, the transmitter has faced continuous breakdown due to aging infrastructure leading to deterioration and once resulted into broadcast interruption, in July 2013. FBC broadcasts medium wave radio and the platform is important for emergencies and warnings on a national scale but unfortunately such functionality has become unstable.
   On 31 August 2015, H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, and Hon. Rear Admiral (Retired) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji signed the Exchange of Notes for this Grant Aid Project.
   The rehabilitation of the AM Wave transmission will provide vastly improved coverage to whole of Fiji ensuring that people in maritime islands will have access to basic radio services. Since radio communication is the fastest and easiest mode of communication to a mass audience especially to the rural and maritime areas, the importance of this project cannot be understated. Given Fiji’s geographical location and its vulnerability to natural disasters, the opening of this new and modern radio system will help people be better informed and prepared for disaster resilience and risk management.

2. Basic Information
   (a) Donor: The Government of Japan
   (b) Recipient: The Government of the Republic of Fiji
   (c) Implementing agency: (Fiji) Ministry of Public Enterprises (Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC))
   (Japan) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
   (d) Total Value: App. FJ$15 million (865 million Japanese Yen)

3. History of Japan’s Assistance for Disaster Risk Management
   Japan’s assistance for disaster risk management in Fiji dates back to 1995 starting with the project for construction of the Fiji Meteorological Services Head Office. Since then, such cooperation also includes upgrading of meteorological observation and forecasting system as well as enhancing capacity development for disaster risk management implemented through various projects under JICA’s Technical Cooperation.

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