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the People of Japan

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Formalization of Japan's Grant Aid for Construction of Multi-Purpose Vessel for the Government of Tuvalu**

The Government of Japan will provide funding to the Government of Tuvalu for "The Project for the Construction of the Multi-Purpose Vessel for Outer Islands Development" worth 463 million Japanese Yen (approximately AU\$5.6m) under its Grant Aid Programme.

Honourable Dr. Puakena Boreham, Minister for Natural Resources of Tuvalu and H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan will formalize Japan's assistance to Tuvalu, at an Exchange of Notes signing ceremony hosted by the **Tuvalu High Commission in Suva, at 5:00 PM, on Wednesday, 19 December 2018.**

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](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and telephone number: (+679)3304633.

### **Details for the Project for the Construction of the Multi-Purpose Vessel for Outer Islands Development**

#### 1. Basis for Implementing the Project

As a country with a small domestic market that is geographically distant from the international market, Tuvalu faces numerous development challenges as a small island state. Its economy, livelihoods, food security and dietary health depend largely on marine resources, and most of its population are engaged in the fisheries industry in some way. Because of this, the Government of Tuvalu established fisheries centres on each island. Japan donated RV Manau in 1989 and provided technical and management guidance to support the fisheries sector. Nowadays, this vessel has also become a lifeline for outer island residents who need transportation during times of illness, injury or other emergency situations. However, this vessel is not designed to transport passengers and after 29 years of service, it is nearing end of its serviceable life. Because of this, the replacement of the vessel became an urgent need.

In order to address such difficulties faced by the people of Tuvalu, the Government of Japan decided to fund the construction of a multi-purpose vessel for outer islands development, which will be suitable for both fisheries research and passenger transportation. This project is expected to contribute to the promotion of fisheries in Tuvalu as well as strengthen its maritime transportation capacity.

#### 2. Basic Information

- (a) Donor: The Government of Japan  
Implementing Agency: JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)
- (b) Recipient: The Government of Tuvalu  
Implementing Organization: Ministry of Natural Resources
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: JPY 463 million (app. AU\$5.6 million)

**END.**