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PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalizes Assistance to Nauru's Able Disable Centre through the Department of Education

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth AU\$87,300 to Nauru's Department of Education for the procurement of a wheelchair accessible school bus for the Able Disable Centre under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. Mr. HADA Tsuguyoshi, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan, will sign the grant contract with Hon. Richard-Hyde Menke, MP Deputy Minister for Education, **at 11:00am on Thursday, 20 February 2020.**

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Details for the Project

The Project for Provision of Wheelchair Accessible Bus to Able Disable Centre

Nauru's Department of Education will receive up to US\$66,554 (AU\$87,300) for the purchase of a wheelchair accessible school bus for the Able Disable Centre (ADC). ADC has been established in 2002 and is the only school in Nauru that caters for students with disabilities. The centre currently has 48 students aged 4 to more than 30 years old. The centre has a school bus but because it has been in use for more than 15 years, it frequently breaks down. In October 2017, it needed extensive repairs and went out of service until the end of the school year. Because of the difficulty of accessing transportation that caters to the needs of the disabled, the attendance rate dropped sharply. Even after the bus was repaired, the wheelchair access door and air-conditioning are not working.

The new wheelchair accessible school bus, to be procured under Japan's Grant Aid for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), will help ADC and the Department of Education reach their goal of increasing the attendance rates of students with disabilities so they can access quality education that will prepare them for their future.

The GGP Programme is one of Japan's ODA schemes implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the grassroots communities. The GGP Programme in Nauru has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health and transportation since 2006. To date, 19 projects have been funded under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 1.8 million.

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