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PRESS RELEASE

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Japan formalizes provision of Solar powered freezers for Fisheries

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth up to FJ\$186,400 (US\$93,499) to Ministry of Fisheries for provision of Solar powered freezers through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

H.E. Mr. KAWAKAMI Fumihiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, and Hon. Semi Tuleca KOROLAVESAU, Minister for Fisheries, will sign the grant contract to formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony to be held at 11:00 am, 16th March 2021 at the Ambassador's official residence, Tamavua Suva.

1. Basic information

- (1) Project title: The Project for Installation of Solar powered freezers in Yasawa Island
- (2) Donor: Embassy of Japan in Fiji
- (3) Recipient: Ministry of Fisheries
- (4) Grant amount: FJ\$186,400 (US\$93,499)
- (5) Purpose: Provision of eight units of solar powered freezer

2. Project outline

Yasawa group consists of six main islands and numerous small islets in the western division of Fiji. By the influence of COVID-19, all of the resorts and hotels in Yasawa have been closed to date, which drastically aggravated economic situation and caused a great loss of employment opportunity in the region. As a result, in eight villages targeted by the project (Dalomo, Bukama, Yasawa-i-rara, Naisisiri, Gunu, Wayalevu, Natawa and Kese), people started to be more dependent on marine resources for their basic livelihood and self-sufficiency.

In order to secure food security and effective use of marine resources in the targeted region, Ministry of Fisheries has planned to install solar powered freezers in the region. The Ministry expects that the project will bring a significant benefit to the region which enables the people to not only store fresh fish for a longer period but also increase their income by reducing the operation cost of fishing.

Recognizing the difficulties faced by the people in Yasawa, the Government of Japan has decided to provide eight newly solar powered freezers in order to improve regional food security situation and contribute to income generating activity in Yasawa group.

Since 1990, the Embassy of Japan in Fiji has widely implemented GGP Projects in areas such as education, water supply, health and transportation. To date, the Embassy has formalized 396 GGP projects, which amount to an approximate value of US\$29 million.

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Ms. Mele Raturaga on email address: mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp and telephone number: (+679) 3304633.

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