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the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalizes Grant Funding for Provision of New Workboats to Better Service Tuvalu's Large Marine Vessels

The Government of Japan will provide funding assistance worth AU\$242,214 (US\$191,579), to the Department of Marine and Port Service of Tuvalu for the provision of two new aluminium workboats for servicing its large inter island passenger/cargo vessels namely, MV Nivanga III and MV Manufolau. Japan will provide funding through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme.

On 16 March 2022, H.E. Mr. KAWAKAMI Fumihiko, Ambassador of Japan to Tuvalu, and H.E. Mr. Temate Melitiana, Tuvalu High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Energy and Tourism, signed the grant contract to formalize Japan's assistance.

1. Basic information

- (1) Project title: The Project for Installation of Workboats to Nivanga III and Manufolau
- (2) Donor: Government of Japan
- (3) Recipient: Department of Marine and Port Service, Ministry of Transport, Energy and Tourism
- (4) Grant amount: AU\$242,214 (US\$191,579)
- (5) Purpose: Installation of two aluminium workboats for MV Nivanga III and MV Manufolau.

2. Project outline

Securing stable and proper shipping services to the eight outer islands by using MV Nivanga III and MV Manufolau is crucial for the people of Tuvalu to be able to travel as well as receive and provide essential goods and services.

Given that there are no proper boat harbors or mooring facilities in most of the outer islands in Tuvalu for large vessels, workboats are the only medium for embarking/disembarking of passengers as well as for loading/unloading of cargo, goods and machinery etc from the MV Nivanga III and MV Manufolau. However, the workboats get damaged by operating in rough seas, battered by waves and reefs. .

Recognising the hardships faced by the people of Tuvalu, Japan decided to provide two aluminium workboats. This project will assist Tuvalu in improving marine transportation services, ensuring seafaring passenger safety and minimizing the risk in operation of workboats.

Since 1990, the Embassy of Japan has widely implemented 49 GGP Projects in the key sectors of Tuvalu, such as education, water supply, health and transportation. To date, these projects are collectively worth approximately US\$3.6 million.

The Embassy of Japan hopes that this assistance will help further strengthen friendship between the Governments and peoples of Japan and Tuvalu.

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