
Speech by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro, Counsellor, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for
Nabaitavo District School, Namuka District School, Navurevure Primary School and Naceva District
School

On Tuesday, 14th February 2023, at 15:00, at the Embassy of Japan, Suva

Mr. Edwin Kumar, Head of Corporate Services from Ministry of
Education

Mr. Apenisa Vakacereivalu, Head Teacher of Nabaitavo District
School

Mr. Tevita Masiwini, Head Teacher of Namuka District School

Mr. Kameli Tilalati, Head Teacher of Navurevure Primary School

Ms. Camari Waqa, Head Teacher of Naceva District School

Representatives from Ministry of Public Works, Communications,
Transport and Meteorological Services

Media partners

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

I welcome you all to the Embassy of Japan in Fiji. Today, we have gathered here to sign the grant contracts and formalize Japan's assistance towards the education sector in Fiji.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am honoured to announce that the People and Government of Japan will provide the approximate funding of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$ 1,205,500 (US\$ 529,470)) for the following 4 schools;

- ① New 2 classrooms school building and classroom furniture, worth approximately Two Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$ 217,610 (US\$ 95,577)) for “*The Project for Construction of Nabaitavo District School Building*”;
- ② New 3 classrooms school building and classroom furniture, worth approximately Two Hundred and Ninety Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$ 292,808 (US\$ 128,605)) for “*The Project for Construction of Namuka District School Building*”;

- ③ New 3 classrooms school building and classroom furniture, worth approximately Three Hundred and Five Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$ 304,512 (US\$ 133,745)) for “*The Project for Construction of Navurevure Primary School Building*”;
- ④ New 3 classrooms school building and classroom furniture, worth approximately Three Hundred and Ninety Thousand Fijian Dollars (FJ\$ 390,570 (US\$ 171,543)) for “*The Project for Rehabilitation of Naceva District School*”;

These projects were made possible through Japan’s Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGP). Since 1990, we have funded 416 Grassroots Grant projects for the sustainable development of Fiji, which are collectively worth more than 31 million US dollars.

These projects were considered significant in the following ways;

1. Firstly, due to the increasing school roll without school expansion, the deteriorating conditions of classrooms over the years has affected the learning space for students especially when schools are congested and the old facilities are inadequate and made it difficult for teachers to conduct classes. These projects will not only provide the students with an opportunity to study in a conducive learning environment, but also ensure that there is a reliable evacuation center for the surrounding communities in the near future
2. Secondly, to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Fiji. Fiji is historically and geographically important to the Pacific countries and to Japan. Fiji is also a major influential state in this region. Therefore, in May of last year, Foreign Minister Hayashi visited Fiji to strengthen relations between the two countries. Although

these projects are aimed at the grassroots communities and away from the national level, I am convinced that through this type of cooperation, the relationship between the two countries has become multi-layered and is becoming stronger and stronger

3. Finally, these projects contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which is “Quality education for all”. Education is the most important component of nation building, which helps reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Therefore, we are extremely pleased to be able to provide this meaningful support to the education sector of Fiji.

On another note, I must commend the work carried out by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services on the monitoring of the education sector projects. Completion of the recent projects in

Kadavu and Tailevu would not have been possible through our collaborative works. We wish to continue this in the future.

I wish to urge the distinguished recipient and school representatives present here today to ensure the timely and successful completion of your respective projects.

I conclude with confidence that this project will further strengthen the friendship between the Governments and peoples of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

END