
Speech by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro, Counsellor, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for The
Project for Improvement of Water Supply and Sanitary Environment in Lumiboso Village
On Tuesday, 14th March 2023, at 12:00pm, at the Embassy of Japan, Suva

Mr. Glenn Brewerton, Interim National Director, Habitat for
Humanity Fiji,

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

Media partners,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Konnichiwa.

I welcome you all to the Embassy of Japan in Fiji. Today, we
have gathered here to sign the grant contract and formalize
Japan's assistance towards the water 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 three hundred and twenty

seven thousand Fijian Dollars ((FJ\$ 327,099) (US\$ 145,662)) for Habitat for Humanity Fiji.

This project was made possible through Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGP). Since 1990, we have funded 421 Grassroots Grant projects for the sustainable development of Fiji, which is collectively worth more than 31 million US dollars. In addition, we have done over 30 projects in the water section.

This project was considered significant in the following ways;

1. Firstly, Lumiboso village is located on Vanua Levu, 85km East of SavuSavu. The village has, for years, lacked basic proper water supply and have had a poor sanitary system. The villagers are forced to use the river nearby which was not recommended by the nearest Health Centre. With poor sanitation and unhygienic facilities, community members are prone to contracting

diseases. Hence, Japan decided to provide new water supply system and 9 community toilet facilities to the village. The implementation of this project, will allow the villagers to access clean water as well as have more hygienic toilet facilities.

2. Secondly, to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Fiji. Fiji is historically and geographically important to the Pacific countries and to Japan as it is a major influential state in the region. In May of 2022, Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Hayashi visited Fiji to further strengthen relations between our two countries. Although this project is aimed at the grassroots community and away for the national level, I am convinced that through this type of cooperation, the relationship between our two countries has become multi-layered and is continually being strengthened.

3. Finally, this project contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which is “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all”. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Therefore, we are extremely pleased to be able to provide this meaningful support to Lumiboso village.

Habitat and Embassy have been collaborating since 2010 with the signing of 9 projects. We appreciate the contributions you have made to numerous villages who did not access to clean water. You have never failed to demonstrate the skills required to meet our goals, and I have received excellent feedback on your performances from villagers. I have noticed how well you and your team manage your workload among yourselves and support

each other along the way, and hope that others can learn from work ethics.

I wish to urge the distinguished recipient present here today to ensure the timely and successful completion of the project.

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