
Speech by Mr. TAZAWA Hiroki, First Secretary, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Nui
Kaupule

Wednesday, 8th March 2023, at 15:00, at the Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre, Funafuti

Mr. Fakasoa Tealei, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Local
Government and Agriculture

Mrs. Galivaka Tekafa, Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of
Local Government and Agriculture

Government Representatives

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Talofa, Konnichiwa and a Very Good Afternoon to you all.

I convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of
Tuvalu and the staff of Nui Kaupule for hosting me and my staff
on this Grant Contract Signing Ceremony.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am
honoured to formalize with Nui Kaupule, the Japanese
Government's Grant Assistance for "The Project for Procurement

of Backhoe loader in Nui Island”. The People and Government of Japan will provide the approximate funding of One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Australian Dollars (AU\$ 170,950 (US\$ 117,945)) for the backhoe loader heavy machinery.

This project was made possible through Japan’s Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGP). Since 1992, we have funded 49 Grassroots Grant projects for the sustainable development of Tuvalu, which are collectively worth more than 3 million US dollars.

This project is considered to be significant in the following ways;

1. Firstly, to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Tuvalu. Tuvalu is one of the smallest countries in the world but it is at the forefront of facing the full brunt of climate change. Due to the harmful impacts of the past two cyclones (Pam and Tino), Nui island has

been experiencing severe food shortage. I am very pleased to say that this funding will greatly boost the food security and will assist the clearance of past cyclones' debris. Although this project is aimed at impacting the grassroots communities, 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. Hon. Kofe's concept of a Metaverse state at COP27 shocked the world, but we in Japan intend to focus more on both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to avoid such a situation. This support is one of the adaptation measures,

2. Secondly, the project is aligned with the Tuvalu Government's National-Development-Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 and the Priority Area of Cooperation 3: Climate Change and Disaster

Resilience. Such harmonization of our project objectives with Tuvalu's National Development aspirations is key to Japan's Development Cooperation with Tuvalu. Therefore, we are extremely pleased to be able to provide this meaningful support to the development sector of Tuvalu.

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

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

Fakafetai lasi, Thank You and Arigato Gozaimasu.

END