

Mr. Uale Sinapati, Chief Executive Officer of Tuvalu Maritime
Training Institute,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Talofa, Ohayo Gozaimasu and a Very Good Morning to you all.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute for hosting this ceremony as well as for your warm welcome accorded to us today. Due to Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions, unfortunately we were unable to organize the formal handing over of this project when it was completed. Nevertheless, I am happy to be here, my first time in Tuvalu, with the esteemed presence of you all.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor to hand over the new water cistern worth One Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Australian Dollars (AU\$132,408). This project was made possible through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects or GGP in

short. Since 1992, we have funded 50 Grassroots Grant projects for the sustainable development of Tuvalu, which are collectively worth more than 3 million US dollars.

Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute is earnestly required by the government to provide its trainees high-quality maritime training that fully meets international standards, which will create further employment opportunities with high income as domestic or overseas seafarers. However, due to the lack of capacity for water storage, the Institute regularly faces difficulties with its unstable water supply, which affects the proper running of its facility. This adversely affects not only the daily lives but also the educational environment of the trainees.

I hope that this new One Hundred Thousand (100,000) liter water cistern for the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute will ensure the improvement of its training environment, and alleviate water vulnerability caused by climate change. I commend the Institute for your continued efforts in carrying out a critical role in delivering maritime training courses to the youth who will shape the future of Tuvalu.

I am pleased that this project is aligned with the Tuvalu Government's National-Development-Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, in line with the Strategic Priority Area 5 Infrastructure Development: *Access to Clean Water and Sanitation*. Such harmonization of our project objectives with Tuvalu's national development aspirations is key to Japan's Development Cooperation with Tuvalu.

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

Fakafetai lasi, Thank You and Arigato Gozaimasu.

END