

As H.E. President Lionel Rouwen Aingimea was graciously sworn into Office two years ago today, on 27 August 2019, I wish to convey my heartfelt congratulations to President Aingimea on this special day, for his distinguished leadership of Nauru as well as for continuing to build stronger friendship with Japan.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I have the honour to submit this statement before to you all, at the occasion of the Signing and Exchange of Notes for the Project for Sustainable Waste Management and Soil production project in Nauru.

The Signing and Exchange of Notes today formalizes Japan's funding assistance to the Government of Nauru worth Two Hundred Million Japanese Yen or approximately Two point Five Million Australian Dollars. The funding will be mainly utilized for the procurement of equipment and machinery for waste management. The project is under Japan's development assistance scheme called Economic Social Development Programme or ESDP. The pledge for this project was made at the bilateral meeting held between Japanese

Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide and President Lionel Rouwen Aingimea at the margins of the PALM 9, held virtually on 1 July. I am pleased that after this formalization we are now able to start implementing the project.

Through the project Japan hopes to address, one of Nauru's core development priorities of enhancing sustainable waste management and soil production through the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation. The project will facilitate the procurement of necessary heavy equipment, accessories and provision of required training. The procured equipment will be utilized to collect, sort and separate waste before it is dumped in the landfill. The annual volume of Nauru's waste dumped in the landfill is estimated to be around nine thousand metric tons (9,000mt). Out of this, approximately fifty three percent (53 %) or four thousand seven hundred metric tons (4,770mt) of waste matter is green, cardboard and wood composites. Such materials can be processed and composted to produce organic soil for agriculture purposes. The soil of Nauru, that lacks essential nutrients, is highly alkaline and sandy, which means that water is not retained well. This project not only aims to address Nauru's waste

management priorities but also provides a tangible opportunity to promote composting in large quantities for the nutrient enrichment of Nauru's soil, which will effectively raise its agricultural potential.

Nauru's Sustainable Waste Management and Soil production project is aligned with Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 as well as Japan's action under the Japan-Pacific Bond Policy or KIZUNA Policy, which was announced by Japanese Prime Minister SUGA at the PALM9 for further strengthening the cooperation between Japan and the Pacific Island Countries through "All Japan" efforts based on Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision.

Over the years, Japan has been providing continued support to priority areas of the Government of Nauru. We are pleased that we are strengthening our friendship through cooperation for enhancement of public utilities and infrastructure such as water supply systems, ports related equipment, tug boat, community boat harbor and heavy machinery. A recent example, directly linked to the formalized project today, is the Japan funded Waste Segregation Building inaugurated in June, 2020. We have also implemented

various training programs and awarded scholarships to the people of Nauru for human resource exchange and capacity building. In addition to our bilateral engagement with the Government of Nauru, we are further enhancing our cooperation through multilateral partners such as UNICEF to provide support to Pacific Island Countries including Nauru. Last month, Japan and UNICEF formalized a regional project worth Twenty Point Eight Million US Dollars (US\$20.8M), to enhance COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts. The measures to facilitate vaccination in Nauru to be implemented under this regional project will be based on consultation between UNICEF and Nauru.

At this juncture, I would like to convey my warm congratulations to Team Nauru for its participation in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. I hope that all members of the Team enjoyed their experience in Japan, despite the strict COVID protocols.

The Embassy looks forward to working together with the Government of Nauru and the procurement agency namely, Japan International Cooperation System (JICS), for the successful implementation of this important project.

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

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