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**Speech by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Japan to the Republic of Fiji  
at the Handover Ceremony for Sai Prema Foundation**

*22 March 2023, 3:00 pm, at the Sai Prema Foundation, Nasese Suva.*

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Dr. Krupali Tapoo, Director for Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital,  
Media Partners,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good afternoon, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Konnichiwa,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Director,  
and the Sai Prema team for hosting this Handover Ceremony.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor to handover to Dr Tappoo an ambulance provided for through the Japanese Government's Grant Assistance for "The Project for Provision of Medical Service vehicle for Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Medical Center, worth one hundred and thirty four thousand US dollars (US\$134,361).

This project was being implemented through Japan's "Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme" (GGP). I am proud to say that since its

inception in Fiji in 1990, Japan has implemented 421 GGP projects, which are collectively worth more than US\$31 million, to assist grassroots communities of Fiji.

The Sai Prema Foundation's efforts has actually created chances for Fijian communities of various ethnic and religious backgrounds to receive free medical treatment as well as specialized heart therapy. To perform its duties in Fiji's rural and distant locations, the Medical Center required transportation, mobile equipment, and mobility aids. We made the decision to provide this funding because we are strongly committed to enhancing the quality of healthcare in Fiji. It will not only benefit rural communities, but also about 2000 children annually who will be able to access heart scans and specialized heart disease diagnostics thanks to this mobile outreach. The Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Medical Center will be able to conduct its medical services remotely thanks to this project, and it will also improve its capacity to offer round-the-clock emergency services.

It brings me great joy to report that the project will effectively address one of the priority areas in one of Fiji's important sectors, namely expanding access to medical services and specialist heart disease diagnostics, especially for the benefit of Fijian children. It also aligns with the Fijian Government's 20-year and 5-year National Development Plans, which taken together are in accordance with achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing.

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

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh, and Arigato Kozaimasu.

**The End.**