
Address by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan,
at the Handover Ceremony for The Project for Improving Sanitation Environment of Toga District School
at 12:30pm on 16 of June 2023, Vunisei Village, Rewa

アセリ ラドゥロロ
Mr. Aseri Radrodro, the Minister for Education

チョネ コロイソヴァウ
Mr. Jone Koroisovau, Head of School,
トゥラガ ナ トゥイトンガ
Turaga na Tui Toga,

Government Officials,

Parents, Teachers and Students,

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Konichiwa Bula vinaka and Namaste

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Toga District School for the hospitality and warm traditional welcome extended to me and my colleagues today. In addition, I extend my warm

greetings to the Minister for Education, Hon. Aseri Radrodro for accepting our invitation despite your busy schedule.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor to handover a new 7 cubicle toilet facility, worth One hundred and thirty four Fijian Dollars (FJ\$134,540) to Toga District School.

This project was made possible through one of Japan's Official Development Assistance initiatives - Grant for Grass Roots Scheme or GGP in short. Since 1990, the Embassy of Japan has funded 421 projects through its Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme, with the total value exceeding \$32 million US dollars. Out of that 421 projects, 83 projects were for the education sector, in the last 10 years, amounting to \$12 million USD (approx. \$26million FJD).

As one of the oldest schools in this locality, the main challenge over the years is maintaining proper hygiene and sanitation standard for its toilet facilities and recently, the toilet facility had become non-compliant with the OHS standard in Fiji. Since 1987, the school has been utilizing

this old ablution facility and it has become inadequate due to the increase in the school roll over the years.

In recognizing the difficulties faced by the School, the Government of Japan decided to provide this Grassroots Grant Assistance. I am pleased to say that this project is important as Japan believes that having access to water and sanitation and hygiene is a human right and an important necessity to ensuring good health and well-being of children. It will help solve the issues faced by the school – hygiene wise, promote good sanitation, health, and education. Moreover, this is in line with the Fiji Government’s development objectives in leaving no one behind and complements SDG 3, “*Good Health and Wellbeing*”, SDG 4, “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*”, as well as SDG 6 ‘*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*’.

I would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the Minister, Hon. ^{ラドゥロロ} Radrodoro for his leading role on the various

developments and improvement carried out through the Education sector in Fiji so far. Such initiatives by the Fiji Government empowers all children and even those from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds to access quality education. I am sure that with the leadership of the Minister and the Ministry of Education in the years to come, Fiji will be able to foster a much brighter future for all Fijians.

Dear Students and Teachers, Education has become even more important now than before. The world needs new thinkers, new ideas, better solutions and innovations as humanity is facing increasing challenges. Through the guidance of teachers and delivery of quality education, students will become future leaders and professionals of Fiji who will help tackle these increasing challenges. Apart from your own success, your country will need your leadership and your skills to strive ahead. A famous educator in Japan, Yukichi Fukizawa once said, *“Learning without application is no learning at all”*

Therefore, I encourage you all to work hard and do your best to utilize what you have learnt for the benefit of your families, your

classmates, your villages, your communities, your country and the world and maybe for the universe.

Finally, I urge all stakeholders to please look after the new facility and carry out the necessary maintenance when needed so that it serves future students of Toga District School.

I once again reaffirm that Japan is committed to assisting Fiji through development initiatives such as this and I conclude with confidence that this project will further strengthen friendship between the people and Government of Japan and Fiji.

Vinaka Vakalevu ,Thank You and Arigato Gozaimasu.

The End.