
**Speech by H.E. Mr. KAWAKAMI Fumihiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji,
at the Ground Breaking Ceremony with the Honourable Minister
Wednesday, 9th August 2023, at 14:00 at Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development**

イフエレイミ バス

Honorable Ifereimi Vasu, Minister for i-Taukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts,

ピタ タンニダキレワ

Mr. Pita Tagicakirewa, Permanent Secretary for i-Taukei Affairs,

アポロサ シラトル

Mr. Aporosa Silatolu, Director for the Centre for Appropriate Technology and

Development,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Very Good Morning to you all.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Honorable Minister and the Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs for the ground breaking ceremony as well as for the warm hospitality accorded to us today.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor to be part of this important event with Honorable Minister ^{バス} Vasu. This groundbreaking ceremony is symbolic of Japan's commitment to educational excellence for students in Fiji. This project will ensure that student learning is conducted in a highly conducive instructional space and as such, students will be able to learn and develop their

knowledge and skills and become contributors to the development of their own communities and the nation.

“The Project for Improvement of the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development” consists of the construction of 3 furnished classrooms as well as a 100 bed furnished dormitory to the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD), for which the Government of Japan provided a grant assistance of FJ\$1,040,876. This project is being implemented through Japan’s “Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme”, which since 1990, has funded 423 Grassroots Grant Assistance projects, collectively worth more than US\$32million, to assist grassroots communities in Fiji.

I am aware that the founding purpose of CATD was to raise the living standards of young people in rural Fiji by creating technical services and skills. Additionally, I am pleased that CATD fosters in students the leadership skills needed to promote and encourage community development.

The delivery of theoretically based classes and workshop-based learning will be significantly improved by the implementation of this project. Here, I-Taukei students

will develop the leadership skills needed to promote and encourage community growth. Additionally, students will be well-positioned to succeed in their own lives and to contribute to the growth of their local communities and Fiji. To achieve economic development in Fiji, I believe that education for young people, their capacity building, and upgrading of their skills are of the utmost importance. As such, it is important to invest in institutions such as the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development, which can provide another chance at education for young people, who for various reasons, did not complete their high school education or who, upon reaching employment age, have faced challenges in getting employment.

I wish to urge all the stakeholders of the project to ensure the timely and successful completion of this project. I am sure the new infrastructure, facilities and furniture will serve the students for many years to come through proper up keep and maintenance.

I conclude with confidence that this project will improve the economic position of the i-Taukei and lift living standards of villages and settlements as well as further strengthen the friendship between the Governments and peoples of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigatou Gozaimasu.

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