

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Press Release No: 25/2023**

**Date: 31 August 2023**

## **Japan Hand-Over Generator Parts and Two Work Boats to Tuvalu**

The Government of Japan will hand-over generators parts and two workboats worth 131.7 million Japanese Yen (approximately AU\$1.94million) to the Government of Tuvalu through its Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP) and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP).

H.E KAWAKAMI Fumihiro Ambassador of Japan to Tuvalu, will hand-over these equipment to Hon. Mr. Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu at a handing over ceremony hosted by the Government of Tuvalu, at **2:05PM, on Thursday, 31 August 2023, in the VIP Lounge at the Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre, Funafuti, Tuvalu.**

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and telephone number: (+679) 3304633.

### **Details of the Projects**

- 1) **Projects: (1)** Procurement of two Generators and **(2)** Two Works Boats for MV Manufolau and Nivaga III
- 2) **Grant Aid Scheme:** The generators parts were procured under the Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP) while the work boats were procured under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)
- 3) **Recipient:** Ministry of Transport, Energy and Tourism
- 4) **Project Details: Project (1)** - Tuvalu's electricity generation is managed by Tuvalu's Electricity Corporation (TEC). In September 2018, one generator managed by TEC started to developed problems resulting from a burnt stator. In August 2019, a second generator faced mechanical issues with the gear terrains. In order to provide power to the general population, TEC did not have any option but to take the risk of running the generator at a lower loading capacity.

In late 2019, TEC received an expert opinion to shut down the generators to avoid further mechanical problems that could cause a major catastrophe. The remaining generators had to share load, and electricity supply was rationed causing power shut down for 3 – 4 hours in a day. The shutdown has affected the general population including schools, hospitals, government Ministries and businesses. Recently, TEC has noted a significant increase in demand for electricity hence it is therefore important for Tuvalu's socio-economic to continue to improve energy service delivery to the general population

The Government of Japan understands the importance of electricity supply to the people and the Government of Tuvalu. The provision of generators will greatly support TEC in providing consistent supply of power to the general population and Tuvalu's domestic economy.

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Project (2) - The Project for Installation of Workboats to Nivaga III and Manufolau**

The 2 workboats will assist the two large vessels, MV Manufolau and MV Nivaga III in improving services throughout the 8 islands in Tuvalu by ensuring safe transportation services to and from the large vessels, assist in transportation of large goods and services to and from the islands to the vessels.

Japan understands that there were no proper boat harbours or mooring facilities in most of the outer islands in Tuvalu for large vessels; hence workboats are the only medium for embarking/disembarking of passengers as well as for loading/unloading of cargo, goods and machinery etc. from the two large vessels. In addition, recently when MV Manufolau was undergoing large-scale repair works in New Zealand and MV Nivaga III was currently operating with only one aluminium workboat, as the second workboat is repaired in Fiji after being battered by the waves and elements of nature.

Since 1992, Japan has been consistently supporting grassroots communities of Tuvalu by implementing a total of 51 GGP projects. To date the collective value of these projects is worth approximately 3.7 million USD.

### **Background of the Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP)**

ESDP is a type of assistance which is intended to support the socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction, of developing countries. The ESDP has a facility for providing foreign currency for import of goods, machinery and other amenities (industrial materials such as petroleum and steel products etc.) necessary to promote economic and social development efforts of recipient countries.

Since 2005, the Government of Japan has provided a total of 13 ESDP projects worth 1.6Billion Japanese Yen (Approximately AUD17.2 Million)

**END.**