

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Date: 24 September 2024**

## **Japan formalizes Grant Funding for the Procurement of Fishery Research Vessel and Ice Making Machines**

The Government of Japan will formalise grant funding with the Government of the Republic of Fiji for the procurement of fishery research vessel and ice making machines. The new fishery vessel and ice making machines will be procured under the Government of Japan's Economic Social Development Programme (ESDP) with a total funding of **700 Million Japanese Yen or approximately FJ\$10.6m.**

H.E. Mr. Rokuichiro MICHII, Ambassador of Japan to Fiji and Minister for Fisheries and Forest, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu will formalise Japan's assistance to Fiji at an Exchange of Notes Signing ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, at the **Holiday Inn Hotel, at 03:30PM on 25 September 2024.**

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: 3304633.

### **Details for the Procurement of Fishery Research Vessel and Ice Making Machines**

#### **1. Background**

Fiji is a maritime country and places great value to its aquatic and marine resources. Achieving sustainable management, development and protection of Fiji's fisheries resources is one of the key pillars of Fiji's new National Development Plan (NDS) and this is aligned to Japan's Free and Open Indo Pacific policy which will support seamless implementation of this project.

There are three main components of the project;

#### **1. Fishery Research Vessel**

The new proposed research vessel will be a 16m vessel equipped with 500kv inboard engine, a 3 tonne fish storage capacity and passenger capacity of 10 people. The new vessel will support research, regulating and monitoring fisheries activities along Fiji's Barrier Reef System. The vessel will have other diverse capabilities such as fish stock assessment, marine environment evaluation, training and capacity building and monitoring for IUU activities. The proposed vessel will be based in Lautoka.

#### **2. Ice Machines**

The Ministry has noted a high demand for cooling ice in Labasa. The project will support the procurement of three 3-tonne ice machines which will be based in Labasa and the machines have a combine output of 9 tonnes of ice per day. The three ice machines will not only meet the demand for ice in the Labasa area but most importantly allow for servicing and maintenance intervals to reduce operational challenges and costs.

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## **3. Resource for Fish Wardens**

The Warden Program for Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management is one of the key programs that supports the Ministry's vision in safeguarding Fiji's maritime resources. The project will provide essential resources to selected fish wardens across 52 villages. The project will support the procurement of 43 units of 25 foot fiberglass boats each equipped with a 75 horsepower engine and a comprehensive safety kit. The new boats will be specifically designed for coastal fisheries monitoring, ensuring efficient and reliable operation with high powered engines, safety kits will include life jackets, first aid kits, communication devices and navigation tools.

### **Basic Information**

(a) **Donor:** Government of Japan

(b) **Recipient:** Ministry of Fisheries and Forest

(c) **Amount:** 700 million Japanese Yen or approximately FJ\$10.6M

**END**