

Embassy of Japan

P.O. BOX 300, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960 PHONE: 625-3311

Press Release

Two Japan's Grant Aid in Response to State Health Emergency and Maritime Security

Date: 19 March 2020

Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Thursday, 19 March 2020, His Excellency Mr. Norio Saito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Honorable Mr. Casten Ned Nemra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, signed the Exchange of Notes for the following Japan's Grant Aid;

1. The Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP) with grant aid of 371 million Japanese Yen (approximately USD 3.5 million at the current exchange rate) to be utilized for purchasing diesel fuel for more stable and reliable power generation and;
2. The Project for the Construction of Training and Operation Center of Maritime Security and Safety with grant aid of 450 million Japanese Yen (approximately USD 4.2 million at the current exchange rate) for the construction of a new Sea Patrol office building and the provision of relevant equipment.

The signing ceremony was held at the Cabinet Conference Room in Majuro, attended by His Excellency Mr. David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Honorable Mr. Christopher J. Loek, Minister In-Assistance to the President and Environment, Honorable Mr. Jiba B. Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities, Cabinet Ministers, and staff members of the Chief Secretary's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Embassy of Japan.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Saito stated that under the Japan's vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" both of grant assistances are significant in order to ensure the stability and the safety of the region; more specifically, to contribute to maritime safety, stable growth and development of the RMI. Considering current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global outbreak and the efforts by the Government of the RMI, Ambassador Saito also highlighted, "securing essential commodities such as diesel fuel becomes more and more important for the long term because these items are indispensable for the people's everyday lives."

Hon. Casten Nemra on behalf of the Government of the RMI, expressed his appreciation to the people and the Government of Japan for the support in maritime security and the contribution of diesel fuel, especially at this needed time in response to the COVID-19 global outbreak, underlining that providing diesel fuel would be beneficial for the people in Majuro as well as the communities in outer islands.

Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have deepened cooperative relationship for more than 30 years, since the establishment of diplomatic relation between the two countries in 1988 under the reign of late President Amata Kabua, First President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Furthermore, the Government of Japan hopes that the two grant aid projects will help foster the over 100-year historical ties between the two countries.

–End–

For more information, please contact:

Embassy of Japan (Email: mariko.senda@mofa.go.jp)

Mariko Senda, First Secretary, Tel: 625-3311

(Photos)

