

# Embassy of Japan

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## **Press Release**

## ***Japan's Grant Aid: Improvement of Water Reservoir at Majuro Atoll***

**Date: September 17, 2020**  
**Majuro, Marshall Islands**

On Thursday, September 17, 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 Japan's Grant Aid, a grant of 1.757 billion Japanese Yen (approximately USD 16.7 million at the current exchange rate) for 'the Project for Improvement of Water Reservoir at Majuro Atoll'. The Project will be implemented by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) together with the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities; and Majuro Water and Sewer Company.

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. Loeak, 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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Embassy of Japan

Enhancing resilience to the climate change and natural disaster is highly prioritized in Marshall Islands due to serious threat posed by climate change. Under the current circumstances that rainfall amount and its pattern has been changing, it is crucial for public water service to secure sufficient amount of water in terms of water security.

This project will construct rainwater reservoir beside Majuro International Airport with storage capacity of about 15 mega gallon. Total capacity of rainwater reservoir will be increased to 51 mega gallon from current amount of 36.5 mega gallon.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Norio Saito stated that it is absolutely honor and pleasure to contribute to water security of Marshall Islands. Ambassador Saito referred to that Japan had made a commitment to strengthen the basis for resilient and sustainable development of this region at the 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Japan in 2018. Ambassador Saito continued that he is more than grateful, on behalf of people and government of Japan, in keeping our words declared at the last meeting, at the time of anticipating the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Leaders Meeting next year. Ambassador Saito added his special thanks to Honorable Jiba Kabua, Mr. Catalino Kijiner, Mr. Joseph Batol and Mr. Shumon Yoshiara for their dedication to preparation works, and concluded his remarks by hoping to strengthen ties between the two countries on the occasion of the inauguration of the new Cabinet in Japan one day prior on September 16.

Hon. Casten Nemra on behalf of His Excellency, President David Kabua and the Government of the RMI, expressed his sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of Japan for this long-awaited project. Honorable Casten Nemra congratulated on the new cabinet's inauguration in Japan and wished to continue cordial relationship between the RMI and Japan.

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. The Government of Japan hopes that the grant aid projects will help foster the over 100-year historical ties between the two countries.

**For more information, please contact:**

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