

Embassy of Japan

P.O. BOX 300, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960
PHONE: 652-3311

Press Release

Japan Supports Sea Transportation for Likiep Atoll Local Government

Date: December 1st, 2020
Majuro, Marshall Islands

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. Norio Saito and Mr. Nicholas deBrum, Mayor of Likiep Atoll Local Government, signed the Grant Contract for “The Project for Improvement of Sea Transportation in Likiep Atoll” on December 1st, 2020 at the Embassy of Japan in Majuro. The grant, amounting up to US\$80,500 is funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Wallace Peter, Secretary of Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, Mr. Christopher deBrum, Advisor of Mayor and Council of Likiep Atoll Local Government, Ms. Victoria Capelle, Councilwoman of Likiep Atoll Local Government; and Ms. Henriette Lani, Administrative Officer of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and officials of the Embassy of Japan.

Sea transportation is a lifeline in the Marshall Islands and so is it for the residents in Likiep Atoll. Reliable and reasonable transportation is needed for commodity supply, copra production/transfer, and for people to go to school, work and church. Under such circumstances, this project, proposed by the Likiep Atoll Local Government, is to secure means of transportation connecting many islands in Likiep Atoll by procuring two boats for the local government.

It is expected to fulfill basic living needs of the residents, and to improve their quality of life, accordingly. Not to mention, the boat will be utilized for production and transportation of copra, which is the main industry of Likiep Atoll.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Saito introduced that the leadership of Likiep Atoll has long-term vision to curb population outflow by vitalization of economy. Ambassador Saito encouraged leaders of Likiep by stating that betterment of quality of life and vitalization of industry will surely lead to attractive hometown for the people of Likiep. Ambassador Saito continued; it is, therefore, a great honor, on behalf of the people and government of Japan, to support “community vitalization” for the future of Likiep Atoll.

Mr.deBrum, Mayor of Likiep Atoll Local Government, expressed his gratitude, on behalf of Likiep people, to the people and government of Japan, and gave his word to perform proper operation and maintenance of the boats.

The Government of Japan launched GGP in 1996, for the purpose of responding to various development needs engaged in grassroots activities with schools and hospitals as well as local government and NGOs in the RMI. As of November 2020, the Embassy has granted 154 GGPs in the RMI.

For more information, please contact:

Embassy of Japan

Mariko Senda, (Email: mariko.senda@mofa.go.jp), Tel: 653-3311

Akiko Bobo Anuntak (Email: ejj-akiko@mj.mofa.go.jp), Tel: 625-3311



