

# *Embassy of Japan*

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## *Press Release*

### *Japan granted Diesel Fuel to MEC*

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Date: February 1, 2021  
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On February 1, 2021, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. Norio Saito, paid a visit to MEC and congratulated on completion of the procurement of Diesel Fuel for Marshall Energy Company through the Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP) of Japan's Grant Aid. Exchange of Notes of the Project was signed on March 19, 2020 by H.E. Ambassador Saito and by Honorable Casten Nemra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the grant of 371 million Japanese Yen (approximately 3.5 million US dollars at the exchange rate in March, 2020).

The visit was received by Honorable Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities; and Chairman of MEC Board, Honorable Hiroshi Yamamura, Senator from Utolik Atoll and Vice Chairman of MEC Board, Honorable Mike Halferty, Senator from Arno Atoll and MEC Board, Mr. Jejwarik Anton, MEC Board, Mr. Wally Milne, MEC Board, Ms. Zoya Tayag, MEC Board, Mr. Jack Chong-Gum CEO of Marshall Energy Company, Mr. Steve Wakefield, Chief Technical Officer of MEC and Mr. Shem Livai and Chief Commercial Officer of MEC.

Through this Japanese grant project, as much as 2.8 million gallon of diesel was procured, which corresponded to nearly 90 days' diesel consumption in Majuro. Ensuring stability and safety of the Marshall Islands is crucial in terms of Japan's concept on the region as "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)", according to Ambassador Saito, especially under the current unpredictable circumstances while influence by COVID-19 on society, economy and on everyday-life of citizens has enlarged. Ambassador Saito stated that it was honored to be able to procure diesel fuel, which was of absolute needs for people. Ambassador Saito paid respect and extended his appreciation to all those involved in and cooperated for this project.

Honorable Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the RMI government, for generosity of the people and government of Japan.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

##### **Embassy of Japan**

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**Thank You / Kommoool Tata**



*The Marshalls Energy Company Board of Directors,  
Management and Staff wish to extend our thanks and  
appreciation to the Government and People of Japan  
for their generous and ongoing support. We appreciate  
our ongoing partnership.*