

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan handed-over boats and radio communication system to MNRC

Date: May 25, 2021
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, His Excellency Norio Saito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, handed over 18 boats and radio communication system to the Honorable Sandy Alfred, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce. The ceremony was witnessed by H.E. David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Reverend Palukne Johnny, President of United Church of Christ, Honorable Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities, Honorable Bruce Bilimon, Minister of Health and Human Services, Mr. Glen Joseph, Director of MIMRA, and other officials.

The boats and radio communication system are part of the equipment granted through the Economic and Social Development Programme of Japanese Grant Aid, signed on March 10, 2016; and total value of the equipment handed over on this day is approximately 920 thousand US dollars at the current exchange rate.

Of 18 boats, 2 of 38 feet boats will be anchored at Majuro and Ebeye for transporting goods and services between Majuro and nearby islands such as Rongrong, Arno and Mili; and between Ebeye and nearby communities such as Lib, Namu and Ujae, while safety of those 2 boats will be watched over through radio communication from the terminal at Uliga fish market. Remaining 16 smaller boats, on the other hand, will be distributed to 16 atolls for intra-atoll transportation of residents and goods, which is expected to meet basic needs of the residents and vitalize industry in the neighboring islands.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Norio Saito stated that Japan has been committed to the vision as “Strengthening the Basis for Resilient and Sustainable Development” of the Marshall Islands since it was affirmed in the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Japan in 2018. Ambassador Saito continued, “It is our pleasure, therefore, on behalf of the people and government of Japan, to assist in Marshall Islands’ efforts in betterment of living conditions of the islands’ residents and promotion of local industry.” Ambassador Saito added, “As the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) coming up next month on line, I sincerely hope that cooperative relationships between the Marshall Islands and Japan be further enhanced in future.

Honorable Sandy Alfred stated that boat is truly needed in the remote community as a means of transportation, and expressed his deepest gratitude on behalf of all the people and government of the Marshall Islands.

For more information, please contact:

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