

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Two Japan's Grant Aid Projects announced in the PALM9

Date: 22 July 2021

Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Thursday, 22 July 2021, His Excellency Norio Saito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Honorable 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), grant of 900 million Japanese Yen (approximately 8.2 million US dollars at the current exchange rate) to be utilized for procuring a cargo passenger ship.
2. The Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP), grant of 300 million Japanese Yen (approximately US 2.7 million US dollars at the current exchange rate) to be utilized for procuring diesel fuel.

The signing ceremony was held at the Cabinet Conference Room in Majuro, attended by His Excellency David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Honourable Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities, Mr. Phil Philippo, Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology, Mr. Jack Chong-Gum, CEO of Marshall Energy Company; and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Embassy of Japan.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Saito presented Japanese Prime Minister Suga's announcement of Japan's Pacific Bond (*KIZUNA*) Policy based on its Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision, on the occasion of the summit of the ninth Pacific Leaders Meeting (PALM9) held on July 2nd. Ambassador Saito also referred to the PALM leaders' commitment to further enhancing the PALM partnership, achieving their visions for the region and working together closely.

Ambassador Saito introduced that the grant of cargo passenger ship and diesel fuel was announced by Japanese Prime Minister Suga in the bilateral meeting of the PALM9, and spelled out that marine transportation is literally a lifeline in the Marshall Islands in terms of human security, improvement of connectivity and economic development. The Ambassador explained, "Grant of cargo passenger ship is to embody one of the PALM9 commitments, which is to contribute to form the foundation of economic development by supporting quality infrastructure.", and continued, "as Japanese Prime Minister Suga stated in the bilateral meeting, grant of diesel fuel is to assist stable supply of electricity in the hardship of COVID-19 pandemic situation."

Ambassador Saito concluded his remarks by appreciating all the cooperation extended to the PALM9, and expressed his hope that the partnership between the Marshall Islands and Japan be further enhanced based on the Pacific Bond, Kizuna Policy.

Hon. Casten Nemra, on behalf of H.E. President David Kabua and the government of the RMI, tendered his appreciation to the people and government of Japan for those support in provision of essential services to address sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation. Hon. Nemra congratulated on successful PALM9, and wished to reiterate the Marshall Islands' commitment in maintaining *KIZUNA* and cordial relationship between two countries and peoples.

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.

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(Photos)



