

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan Hands Over 3 School Buses

Date: August 6, 2021
Majuro, Marshall Islands

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. Norio Saito, attended the handover ceremony of “The Project for Procurement of School Bus for Rairok Raibow Elementary School in Majuro Atoll”, “The Project for Procurement of School Bus for Laura Elementary School in Majuro Atoll”, and “The Project for Procurement of School Bus for Delap Public Elementary School in Majuro Atoll” on August 6, 2021 held at Delap Public Elementary School. US\$81,985 was funded to each school to procure a school bus through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP), which brings the total grant for 3 buses to US\$ 245,955.

The ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Kanchi Hosia, Commissioner, Public School System (PSS), Ministry of Education, Sports and Training, Assistant Pastor Hanty Kaisha, Rita Christ Church, Mr. Baron Bigler on behalf of Lerooj Esther Zedkaia, Mr. Cassiano Jetnil, Associate Commissioner for Property & Maintenance, PSS, Mrs. Tanya Terry, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Salazer Bilimon, Principal of Rairok Rainbow Elementary School, Mrs. Lanta Elbon, Principal of Laura Elementary School, Mr. David Robert, Principal of Delap Public Elementary School, teachers and students of the schools.

All of 3 schools have been facing difficulties in providing proper transportation for students residing in distant areas. Safe and reliable transportation for students between school and their homes will be secured through the GGP project, which is expected to improve students' motivation and performance at school.

At the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Saito stated that education is important for each individual and also for the society, country and human being as well. Ambassador Saito added that “Education may change our fate.” Ambassador Saito introduced that leaders of Japan have been giving priority on education in any era throughout its history. According to the Ambassador, education is one of the major contributors that brought Japan as it is now and therefore, Japan has been supporting education in many countries including the Republic of the Marshall Islands based on its own experience. Ambassador Saito presented that as many as 70 education projects were implemented through GGP in the past 25 years in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The Ambassador spoke to the students; “Education is a necessary tool for your future, like passport. Attend school every day, study hard, and let your dreams come true. Future is all yours.” The Ambassador addressed to the guests that the ninth Pacific Leaders Meeting (PALM9) was held on July 2nd, and the PALM leaders expressed their commitment to further enhancing the PALM partnership, achieving the visions for the region and working together closely. The Ambassador stated, “Japan is always here to cooperate with you so that all the Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives for generations to come.”

Ambassador Saito concluded his remarks by wishing attendees all the best in their future endeavors in education for the sake of their children and also for the future of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Hosia, Commissioner of PSS, expressed his sincere appreciation to the people and government of Japan for their continued support in various fields of education. He added that Japan's contribution of 3 school buses is most grateful especially under the current circumstances of economic stagnation.

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 October 2020, the Embassy has granted 155 GGPs in the RMI.

For more information, please contact:

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