

# ***Embassy of Japan***

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

## ***Press Release***

### ***Japan Grants School Buses to Ajeltake Elementary School, Majuro Cooperative School, and Laura High School***

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**Date: March 16, 2022**  
**Majuro, Marshall Islands**

Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. TANAKA Kazunari and principals signed the Grant Contract at the Embassy of Japan for “The Project for Procurement of School Bus” as follows:

- Ajeltake Elementary School signed by Ms. Amity Jarom, Principal of Ajeltake Elementary School (amounting up to US\$83,968)
- Laura High School signed by Mr. Jimmy Kemem, Principal of Laura High School (amounting up to US\$83,968), and
- Majuro Cooperative School signed by Mr. Kenneth Fernando, High School Principal of Majuro Cooperative School (amounting up to US\$85,168)

They were funded through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) by the Government of Japan. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Junior Paul, Associate Commissioner for Secondary and Career Education, Mr. Cassiano Jetnil, Associate Commissioner for Property & Maintenance, and Mr. Fritz Phillip, acting associate Commissioner Public School System of the Ministry of Education, Sports & Training, and other representatives from the Ministry and three schools.

These three schools have been facing difficulties in providing proper transportation for students residing in distant areas. With this project, students will secure a safe and proper transportation between school and their homes, which will contribute to improving educational environment for students as well as for school.

At the ceremony, Ambassador TANAKA stated that the government and people of Japan are pleased that the provision of the bus will contribute to safe commuting for students. He further stated that Japan has been continuously supporting the

education sector in the RMI, providing about 20 buses, and that “Education and Training” is placed as one of the strategic areas under “Social and Culture” pillar under the National Strategic Plan 2020-2030” of the RMI. Attaching importance to education is also associated with the emphasis on human resource development that the Leaders of Japan and the Pacific Island countries reaffirmed in their declaration at the Ninth Pacific Leaders Meeting last year.

Mr. Paul from the Ministry of Education thanked, “Without any reservations, on behalf of the Honorable Minister Kitlang Kabua, the National Board of Education members and the Commissioner of the PSS, we thank you for such an incredible and unthinkable support from the Embassy, Government of Japan and its people”. Also, each principal emphasized their great appreciation and reiterated that buses are something they earnestly need and it will invaluablely provide students an educational opportunities.

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. With these GGPs as of March 2022, the Embassy has granted 158 GGPs in the RMI.

**For more information, please contact:**

ARAI Ryoya, (Email: [ryoya.arai@mj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:ryoya.arai@mj.mofa.go.jp)), Tel : 625-3311  
Akiko Bobo Anuntak (Email: [ejj-akiko@mj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:ejj-akiko@mj.mofa.go.jp)), Tel: 625-3311

