

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan handed over medical ship to MOHHS

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Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Friday, July 8, 2022, Ambassador TANAKA Kazunari, handed over to the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) “LIWĀTOON-MOUR “, a newly constructed medical ship equipped with various medical and dental facilities such as a mobile X-ray machine, a portable dental unit, a dental unit set, a stretcher, a portable ventilator, a biological microscope, a low-speed centrifuge, three medicine cabinets, two medical refrigerators and a surgical bed under Japan’s Economic and Social Development Programme grant signed on March 18, 2019. The ceremony was attended by H.E. President David Kabua and First Lady Ginger Kabua, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Hon. Kitlang Kabua, Honorable Ministers and Senators, Mayors of Local Government, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Human Services Mr. Jack Niedenthal, diplomatic corps and health and medical staff at the MOHHS.

The 31-meter (103 feet) long LIWĀTOON-MOUR was built by Shinozaki Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. in Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan with a total value of approximately USD 4 million. With the meaning of “the mother of all the clans”, the medical ship is expected to improve primary healthcare services, enhance health management and further accelerate the vaccination campaigns for people in neighboring atolls by improving access to medical services. Following the handover ceremony, a series of training sessions on the operation and maintenance of the ship as well as the medical equipment will be conducted by the end of July.

At the 9th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) held in July 2021, the Leaders of Japan and the Pacific Island Countries announced KIZUNA (Pacific Bond) Policy, with “COVID-19 Response and Recovery” as one of its priority areas of cooperation. The handover of the medical ship is an embodiment of Japan’s commitment in promoting this policy. In addition to the medical ship, Japan’s development cooperation in the field of health and medical care extends to supporting the renovation of the Majuro Hospital, which was originally built in 2005 under Japan’s grant assistance, as well as the provision of medical equipment such as radiography system, C-arm and CT scanner, which will be delivered once they are ready.

For more information, please contact:

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