

# ***Embassy of Japan***

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## ***Press Release***

## ***Japan handed over cold – chain equipment to the Marshall Islands***

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**Date: August 31, 2022**  
**Majuro, Marshall Islands**

On Wednesday, August 31, 2022, Ambassador TANAKA Kazunari handed over cold –chain equipment, namely twenty-four (24) Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators to the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS). The handover ceremony was attended by Honorable Joe Bejang, Minister of Health and Human Services of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Secretary of MOHHS Jack Niedenthal, Chief of UNICEF Field Office in FSM Cromwell Bacareza, and health and medical officials and staff at the MOHHS.

The cold - chain equipment handed over today is a part of Japan's approximately USD 7.3 M assistance to the Project for Strengthening Immunization Programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and other four Pacific Island Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati and Palau) in partnership with UNICEF. The Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators will be delivered and utilized mainly in Health Centers in the neighboring Islands in order to promote COVID-19 vaccination as well as regular immunization programs.

At the ceremony, Ambassador TANAKA stated that in relation to the situation of the COVID-19 infection in RMI, Japan has provided a number of assistance to the Marshall Islands in the field of Health and Medical care, including the response to COVID-19, through bilateral and international organizations.

Ambassador added: "Japan will continue to provide assistance from a medium- to long-term perspective in order to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Human Services and other agencies to protect people's lives and health in the Marshall Islands."

Secretary Jack Niedenthal extended his appreciation for Japan' continued and tremendous support over the years referring to the medical ship and the construction of the Majuro Hospital, adding that "these refrigerators will help greatly with our team for their immunization work as it was a problem for them to ensure refrigeration."

UNICEF Chief in FSM Cromwell Bacareza emphasized that immunization is one of the most successful public health programs and has averted millions of cases and deaths from vaccine preventable diseases and "we must not ignore the devastating impact of other diseases on children, while we struggle to address the current pandemic."

**For more information, please contact:**

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