Embassy of Japan

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## Press Release Groundbreaking ceremony of Sea Patrol Building (Economic and Social Development Program)

Date: April 10, 2023 Majuro, Marshall Islands

On April 6, 2023, the groundbreaking ceremony for "the Project for the Construction of Training and Operation Center of Maritime Security and Safety" was held under FY 2019 Japan's Grant Aid Economic and Social Development Program (ESDP).

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador TANAKA, Honorable David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Honorable Christopher Loeak, Minister in Assistance to the President and Environment, Honorable Jack Ading, Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, Honorable Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructures and Utilities and other Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Toru Takagi, Representative of JICS, a procurement agent, Mr. Akihiko Sato, Director of the main contractor NBK Cooperation of Japan, Mr. Jerry Kramer, CEO of PII, a local contractor, Mr. Hikoyuki Ukai, Representative of JICA, Majuro, Mr. George R. Lanwi, Police Commissioner, as well as official form RMI Government.

At the ceremony, Ambassador TANAKA commended everyone involved in this program for their effort, touching the program coincided with the global outbreak of COVID-19 which caused difficulties in coordination and consultations due to travel restrictions and global price hike in materials, oil ocean freight, etc. Ambassador TANAKA highlighted that this program will contribute to the realization of "Sustainable Oceans Based on the Rule of Law," which is one of the priority areas of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) in July 2021, and it is also consistent with "Ensuring peace and stability (maritime security)," one of the three pillars of Japan's vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Honorable Jack Ading, Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor expressed his appreciation to the people and the Government of Japan for the effort and support in construction of the building, whose objective is to modernize the maritime operations with equipment to enhance the sea patrol division ability to perform timely and accurate response time to any emergency or incidents.

Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have deepened cooperative relationship for nearly 35 years, and the Embassy hopes that this grant aid project will help foster the over 100-year historical ties between the two countries.

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## Photos















