

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan handed over Ebeye Emergency Operation Center and Equipment to the Office of the Chief Secretary

Date: March 30th, 2024

Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll Marshall Islands

On Saturday, March 30th, 2024, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. TANAKA Kazunari, handed over Ebeye Emergency Operation Center with furniture, electrical appliances and IT equipment, 1 water truck, 1 pick-up truck, 2 storage containers (40ft and 20ft), 2 sets of drones (1-aeria, and 1-submersible) and safety equipment (20 helmets, 50 fire retardant suits, 10 flashlights and 5 personal locator beacons).

The ceremony was attended by IroiJlapi Michael Kabua and traditional leaders in Kwajalein Atoll, on behalf of RMI Government, Hon. Bremity Lakjohn, Minister in Assistance to the President and Environment, Hon. Wiseley Zackhras, Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, Hon. Tony Muller, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Hon. Brenson Wase, Speaker and Senators of Nitijela, Hon. Terry Rolok Jr. representing Hon. Hirata Kabua, Mayor and Council members and officials of the Kwajalein Atoll Local Government, Mr. Catalino Kijiner, Acting Chief Secretary and officials of RMI Government, Command Sergeant Major Ernest E. Miller, Major Daekwang Choi, representatives of U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll (USAG-KA), Mr. Kevin Petrini, Country Manager and Deputy Resident Representative for the UNDP Pacific Office and other UNDP staff.

The Ebeye EOC, under Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience (EDCR) Project in partnership with UNDP (total project amount: 740 million Japanese Yen with FY 2018 Japan's supplementary budget) is expected to serve as a hub for the Office of the Chief Secretary and relevant agencies in Ebeye to collect necessary information, review and coordinate for the effective disaster response for the Kwajalein Atoll and neighboring atolls and islands.

At the ceremony, Ambassador TANAKA expressed his sincere gratitude to to all those involved for their long-time commitment, dedications and all the hard work not only in the construction of the Ebeye EOC but also in other activities of this project which will successfully complete at the end of March, and further stated that "in view of the various damages caused by the recent unusual weather in RMI, the completion of this building, along with the Solar Power Generation system, which is funded by Japan and scheduled to be completed in July this year, is indeed timely and important in order to deter and mitigate future damages."

The Honorable Minister Lakjohn stated that “the EOC has been a dream for six years since the project was launched and had to be delayed by a lot of challenges including COVID-19, however the assistance of USD7.4 million from the Government and people of Japan made our dream come true today, and would like to pray and bless the achievement, a beautiful and monumental building.”

For more information, please contact:

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