

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan handed over Vehicles and Medical Equipment to the Ministry of Health and Human Services

Date: December 12, 2024
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Thursday, December 12, 2024, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. TANAKA Kazunari, handed over Ambulances, Pick-up trucks and medical Equipment to the Ministry of Health and Human Services. The ceremony was attended by Honorable Ota Kisino, Minister of Health and Human Services (MOHHS), Mrs. Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Secretary of MOHHS, Dr. Abba Zakari Umar, Maternal and New-born Child Health and Immunization Specialist of UNICEF in Majuro, as well as medical officers and hospital staff in MOHHS.

The handover consisted of two Grant Aid projects of Japan, both were at their final provision, to improve the medical services in the RMI; one is the Economic and Social Development Programme (ESPD), a grant of 331 million Japanese Yen (approximately 2.07 million USD) to provide 4 ambulances (1 for Ebeye and 3 for Majuro), and 1 C-arm radiography system for Majuro. The other grant is for the Project for Strengthening Immunization Programs in the Pacific Island Countries, a grant total 769 million Japanese Yen (approximately 5.12 million USD) in collaboration with UNICEF 2 pickup trucks were handed over to support immunization logistics for Ebeye and Majuro.

At the ceremony, Ambassador TANAKA expressed his sincere gratitude to the people involved for their commitment and efforts towards completing the provision for the two projects both at UNICEF and the Marshallese authority. Ambassador further stated that “two projects started in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the feeling of COVID-19 pandemic is long gone in the RMI, there are still many other infectious disease outbreaks around the world, and there is no lessening of the need to prevent and prepare for infectious disease outbreaks.” Ambassador further stated that having started to support construction of Majuro Hospital in 2002, Japan has been continuously assisting in provision of needed medical facilities and equipment for Majuro and Ebeye hospital. He concluded his remarks hoping that the equipment handed over would contribute to further improving health and medical services in the RMI as the Medical Ship has been serving neighboring atolls and islands.

In his remarks, Dr. Umar of UNICEF, conveyed his thanks to the Government of Japan and Ministry of Health and Human Services for their cooperation with UNICEF and hope to move forward in the future of more collaborations to improve the lives of children in the Marshall Islands.

On behalf of the RMI Government, Minister Ota in his remarks expressed his appreciation towards the people and Government of Japan for their unwavering support and UNICEF for the dedication to improving the lives of children. He further emphasized that with these equipment, it will allow the RMI Government to better serve the community and save lives which is truly what matters most.

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