

# *Embassy of Japan*

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## *Press Release*

### ***Japan hands over Border Management and Health Control Equipment through IOM***

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Date: September 4, 2025  
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ambassador SOMA Hirohisa, handed over border management and health control equipment to key partners, including the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS), the RMI Ports Authority, and the Division of Immigration. The ceremony was also attended by Ms. Hilary Vanderwey, Head of IOM Majuro Office, Ms. Edlen Anzures, Deputy Secretary of the MOHHS, Ms. Mercyba Balos, Director of Immigration, Ms. Zoya Tayag, Deputy Director of the RMI Ports Authority, and executive members of partner organizations, as well as IOM officials and staff.

The handover is part of Japan's assistance to the Project for "Strengthening Capacity of Border Control for Responding to Infectious Diseases in Pacific Island Countries" for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and other 6 Pacific Island Countries in collaboration with the IOM. The equipment and facilities handed over today are essential tools to improve border management and health control capacity at entry points, namely: 1 two-room modular office unit (for health screening and immigration procedures in AKIA), 25 CCTV cameras (for trace-tracking communicable diseases in AKIA), 6 handwash stations (for Uliga/Delap/Ebeye Docs), and 1 mobile toilet station (for Delap Doc).

At the ceremony, Ambassador SOMA reaffirmed Japan's commitment to developing resilient health systems for the Universal Health Coverage, as announced with the PIF countries at the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting (PALM10) in July last year. He also commended the unwavering efforts of IOM staff to deliver the friendship from the Japanese people to the Marshallese people in a most timely and effective manner to strengthen the socio-economic resilience of the RMI to potential pandemic threats.

The Head of IOM Majuro Office, Ms. Hilary Vanderwey, noted that effective monitoring and rapid response at our borders remain critical steps in protecting our communities, and the equipment donated today will play a central role in that effort. She also reaffirmed the IOM's commitment to improving border governance and safeguard the well-being of all our people.

Representatives of the MOHHS, the Division of Immigration, and the RMI Ports Authority respectively expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Japan as well as IOM for their support for the well-being of the RMI people.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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Ambassador SOMA's Speech



(From left) Director of Immigration, Head of IOM Majuro Office, Ambassador SOMA, Deputy Director of the RMI Ports Authority, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Human Services



Ambassador SOMA and Head of IOM Majuro Office (in the donated Modular Office Unit)



Ribbon cutting (in front of the donated Modular Office Unit) (From left) Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Human Services, Deputy Director of the RMI Parts Authority, Director of Immigration, Head of IOM Majuro Office, Ambassador SOMA,