

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Handover ceremony of Sea Patrol HQ building and access roads

Date: December 6, 2025
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, the handover ceremony was held for “the Project for the Construction of Training and Operation Center of Maritime Security and Safety” under a grant of 450 million Japanese Yen (approximately USD 3 million) and “the Project for the Improvement of Access Roads to the Training and Operation Center of Maritime Security and Safety” under a grant of 200 million Japanese Yen (approximately USD 1.3 million). The ceremony was attended by H.E. SOMA Hirohisa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Honorable Brenson Wase, Speaker of the Nitijela, Honorable David Paul, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Honorable Wisely Zackhras, Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, Honorable Isaac Zackhras, Vice Speaker of the Nitijela, other members of the Nitijela, traditional leaders, landowners, Ms. Hemona Jack, Police Commissioner, LCDR Lachlan Somerville, Maritime Security Advisor from the Royal Australian Navy, government officials including members of the Sea Patrol Surveillance Division, Mr. Jerry Kramer, CEO of Pacific International Inc. (PII), representatives from Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) and NBK Corporation, and members of diplomatic corps.

In the ceremony, the newly completed three-story building and access roads were handed over. These facilities are expected to ensure stability and safety at sea, which is essential not only for people's daily transportation but also for the development of the fishing industry, a key sector of the Marshall Islands' economy.

During the ceremony, Ambassador SOMA stated that, since 1980, Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) have engaged in continued maritime cooperation based on our shared history and cultural ties as maritime nations. He also added that this is part of All-Japan's collective effort under the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" vision, combining Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), port calls and joint drills conducted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Japan Coast Guard, and the provision of two patrol boats by the Nippon Foundation, which have been in service for over 10 years. Moreover, this maritime cooperation initiative has also extended partnerships with like-minded nations, including Australia and the United States.

Minister Zackhras, on behalf of the Government of the RMI, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of Japan for their support and assistance to the RMI and assured them that the RMI will utilize and maintain this building well, as it plays a significant role in law enforcement to maintain peace in its lands, waters, and maritime security for the betterment of the country. Police Commissioner Jack seconded the minister's remarks stating that the new building represents their continuing commitment to strengthening law enforcement capabilities, enhancing maritime security, and ensuring the safety of every community within their coastal waters.

For more information, please contact:

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【photos】



Ambassador SOMA delivering remarks



Minister Zackhras delivering remarks



Police Commissioner Jack delivering remarks



Key handover from Ambassador SOMA to Minister Zackhras (left)



Ribbon cutting by Ambassador SOMA and Police Commissioner Jack (right)



Distinguished guests (President Heine, 2nd from left, and Ambassador SOMA, 3rd from left)



Kagamiwari (sake barrel breaking) ceremony, praying for prosperity of the newly opened facilities (President Heine, 3rd from left, and Ambassador SOMA, 1st from right, photo by Chewy Lin)