

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan grants a school bus to Queen of Peace Elementary School

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Majuro, Marshall Islands

Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. SOMA Hirohisa, and Ms. Jessica Calep-Jacklick, Principal of Queen of Peace Elementary School, signed the Grant Contract at the Embassy of Japan for 'The Project for the Procurement of School Bus for Queen of Peace Elementary School in Kwajalein Atoll' with a grant of US\$93,065.

It was funded through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) by the Government of Japan. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Gerald Zackios, Minister of Education, Sports, and Training, Father Tamati Sefo, Father Johanis Ohan, and alumni of the school.

The school has been facing difficulties in providing proper transportation for students residing in distant areas. With this project, students will secure safe and reliable transportation between school and their homes, which will help improve the educational environment for students and the school.

At the ceremony, Ambassador SOMA introduced the project and stated, "I believe that the project not only expands access to education for all but also enhances the quality of education, supporting valuable growth for the children on Ebeye." He added that "A close partnership between Japan and Queen of Peace Elementary School dates back to 1997, when we supported the rehabilitation of the school building following damage from Typhoon Paka," and wished that "the school bus to be provided through this project will also be used effectively and maintained appropriately for the years to come."

Ms. Calep-Jacklick expressed her sincere gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their generous assistance to the school, most especially to the students. She also stated that the support is framed as more than equipment, but an investment in students' future safety and well-being, and is committed to the successful execution of the project along with long-term care and maintenance of the bus to ensure sustained benefits.

The Government of Japan launched GGP for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 1996, for the purpose of responding to various development needs engaged in grassroots activities with schools and hospitals, as well as local government and NGOs in the RMI. With this GGP, the Embassy has granted 165 GGPs in the RMI to date.

For more information, please contact:

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