

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2016/08

July 6, 2016

Japan GGP handover ceremony of the Multipurpose Training Center for Lofanga Island

On Wednesday, 6 of July 2016, the Government of Japan and the people of Lofanga Island in Ha'apai, celebrated the handover ceremony of an Upgraded Multipurpose Training Center funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, GGP.

His Excellency Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga visited Lofanga for the first time to attend the handover ceremony, and received warm welcome from Hon. Mo'ale Finau, Governor of Ha'apai and Mr. Viliami Manuopangai Hingano, People's Representatives for Ha'apai Constituency # 12 and the people of Lofanga.

The Ambassador congratulated the completion of the Project which had been implemented to rebuild the community hall that was damaged but had successively served as a shelter through the Tropical Cyclone Ian in 2014 that resulted in Japan's assistance to the Island. "The multipurpose center will not only provide shelter in times of natural disasters, but will also be a space for awareness programs to empower your community, and providing ample areas for activities enriching your everyday lives," stated the Ambassador.

Hon. Moale Finau, Governor of Ha'apai on behalf of the people of Lofanga and the Government of Tonga acknowledge the generous assistance from the people and Government of Japan. He also asked the people of Lofanga to take good care of the new facility for the benefit of more generations to come. The Lofanga Community Committee sought for assistance in 2014 prioritizing a safe and stable gathering space for almost 120 population, in times of disasters.

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects was introduced in 1989, and the last GGP for Lofanga Island was in 2008, upgrading the villages water supply system. Japans assistance epitomize commitment to support efforts by the People and the Government of Tonga to achieve its National Strategic Planning Framework, and also hope to strengthen the warm and close relations between the people and the Government of Japan and the people of the Kingdom of Tonga.

END.

Attachment: Project Factsheet & Photos

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

Project Fact Sheet

Project Name	The Project for Upgrading of Multipurpose Training Center for Lofanga Island Community
Recipient	Lofanga Community Committee (Molitoni Paongo/Chairperson)
Grant Amount	USD\$89,970.00 (TOP\$183, 914.00)
Contractor	Kiwi (Tonga)Ltd (Mr. Viliami Sisifa)

Project Outline

- 1x New Multipurpose Training Center

Photos;



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata handover the new Multipurpose Training Center for Lofanga Island in Ha'apai on Wednesday, 6 July 2016.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata with Hon. Mo'ale Finau, Governor of Ha'apai, Viliami Manuopangai Hingano, People's Representative for Ha'apai Constituency #12, and Mr. Molitoni Paongo Town Office and Chairperson of Lofanga's Community Committee at the new Multi-purpose Training Centre.



A gift of appreciation presented by Mr. Viliami Manuopangai Hingano.



Inside the Multipurpose Training Center for Lofanga Island, funded under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.



Multipurpose Training Center for Lofanga Island of Ha'apai.



H. E Mr. Yukio Numata with officials at Lofanga Island in Ha'apai.



Community of Lofanga Island at the handover ceremony, 6 July 2016.