

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2016/09
September 27, 2016

**Japan GGP handover ceremony of the Upgraded Classroom Building for
Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten**

On Tuesday 27 of September 2016, the Government of Japan and the Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten celebrated the handover of a new classroom building, 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 handed over the new classroom building during the handover ceremony held at the school compound. Present at the ceremony were Hon. Poasi Tei, Minister for Public Enterprise, Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau, Vice-President of the Free Wesleyan Church Education, Mrs. Natalia Latu, Deputy Director Ministry of Finance and National Planning, the Parent's and Teachers Association of the Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten, family and friends of the young recipients of the Project.

The Ambassador in his keynote address highlighted that early childhood development is a necessary element in achieving inclusive and equitable quality education that will promote lifelong learning opportunity for all. "I hope that with each problem that we face, we shall always remember the faces of our children and never admit defeat, but continue to cooperate for their wellbeing," stated the Ambassador. He applauded the Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten and the Parents and Teachers Association's determination to attain the internationally agreed goal of "Education for All" by the teachers' attendance to also address the needs of children with disabilities.

Hon. Poasi Tei conveyed the Government of Tonga's gratitude for the ongoing and significant assistance from the people and Government of Japan. Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau on behalf of the FWC Church acknowledged that this project, which enabled the kindergarten to have access and deliver quality early childhood education, had been supported by the tax money of the People of Japan, and concluded his speech by saying "Doumo, Arigatou Gozaimasu (Thank you very much)" in Japanese together with the children of the kindergarten.

The Parent's and Teacher's Association, PTA for Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten sought for Japan's assistance prioritizing a safer and healthier educational environment for their young pupils. The additional classroom facility is equipped with a slope at the entrance so to ensure the accessibility of all children.

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects was introduced in 1989 to response to various development needs in developing countries. Japan's assistance epitomizes commitment to support efforts by the People and the Government of Tonga to achieve its National Strategic Planning Framework, and also hopes 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 Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten
Recipient	Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten PTA
Grant Amount	USD\$80,687.00 (TOP\$177,217.22)
Contractor	Kiwi (Tonga)Ltd

Project Outline

- 1x Classroom Building (2 classroom, 1 staff room, 1 storage room)
- 1x Water Tank (10,000 liter)

Photos;



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga officially opened the new classroom building for Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten on Tuesday, 27 September 2016.



Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau, H.E Mr. Yukio Numata with Hon. Poasi Tei at the handover ceremony.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, Hon. Poasi Tei, Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau with the PTA and Principal of Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten.



Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten item performed by the male pupil.



Gift of appreciation presented by Salote Misa, PTA Chairperson and Taufa Kioa, Principal of Maamaloa Vaololo to H.E Mr. Yukio Numata.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, Hon. Poasi Tei, Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau with the PTA and Principal of Maamaloa Vaololoa Kindergarten inside the new classroom.



The new classroom building funded under Japan's GGP on the right