

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*JGA/2016/02  
September 30, 2016*

### **Press Tour held for “Project for Upgrading of Wharf for Domestic Transportation ”**

H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga together with Hon. Poasi Tei, Minister for Public Enterprises lead a press tour into the construction site of the Project for Upgrading of Wharf for Domestic Transportation on Thursday, 22 September 2016.

More than 20 officials from the local media were provided updates of the project progress prior to the press tour, attended by Mr. Sione Puloto ‘Akau’ola, CEO for Ministry of Public Enterprises, Ms Mendie Finau Acting CEO for Ministry of Infrastructure, Mr. Stephen Edwards, Chairperson of Ports Authority Tonga, Mr. Mosese Lavemai, CEO of Ports Authority, and Officials from Ministry of Environment, JICA-Tonga Office, TOA Corporation, Oriental Consultants Global Co, Ltd.

The Ambassador in his remarks appreciated the collaborative work amongst the project’s stakeholders and informed media officials that the project has yet to report any delay on its schedule since the groundbreaking in April. Ambassador also offered prayers for the safety of construction work, which continues until January 2018.

Meanwhile Hon. Poasi Tei highly acknowledged the progress and thanked the People and Government of Japan for the significant assistance in upgrading the domestic transportation to benefit especially people from the outer islands of the Kingdom.

After the event, public were well informed simultaneously of the Project’s progress through the wide range of news coverage broadcasted through Radio and Television Tonga, Broadcom 87.5FM, and the publication made by online media including Ministry of Information Communication, Matangi Tonga Online, and the local weekly newspapers.

The Project for Upgrading the Wharf for Domestic Transport for the Kingdom of Tonga is funded by the Government of Japan under Japanese Grant Aid at a cost of \$3,320,000,000. Japanese Yen, equivalent to over \$66 million Tongan pa’anga, expected to be completed by January 2018.

END.

Attached: photos

Photos:



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata with Hon. Poasi Tei at the Press Tour to the Project site of the Project for Upgrading the Wharf for Domestic Transport for the Kingdom of Tonga on September 22.



Press Tour, Thursday 22 September 2016

*For further enquires please contact: Ms. Hitomi Obata, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Tonga.  
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Reclamation works at the site, 22 September 2016



Reclamation works at the site, 22 September 2016



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata at the project briefing session of the Press Tour.



Project briefing session of the Press Tour at the Embassy's conference room, NRBT.

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