

Embassy of Japan

Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2017/03

June 27, 2017

Japan formalized GGP assistance for Waste Authority Limited

The Grant Contract formalizing the Government of Japan's funding five waste management vehicles for the Kingdom of Tonga through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Project, GGP was signed between H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, and Mr. Malakai Lomu Sika, CEO of Waste Authority Limited on Tuesday 27 June 2017, at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

Present at the signing ceremony were Hon. Tevita Lavemaau, Minister for Finance and National Planning, Hon. Poasi Tei, Minister for Public Enterprises, Hon. Saia Piukala, Minister for Health, Mr. Moale Finau, Governor of Ha'apai, along with Mr. Shinji Yoshiura, Resident Representative of JICA.

H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, in his keynote address highlighted that the project is a combined efforts of the Government of Tonga, Governors of Vava'u and Ha'apai, JICA-Tonga Office and also the close cooperation between the Society of Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy and the local governments of Japan, KOCHI-city, MINO-city, SHIMOTSUMA-city and HANNO SEISO CENTER who have donated the waste collection vehicles. He also emphasized that the project will "contribute to the efforts of the Government of Tonga in the Tonga Strategic Development Framework of 2015 – 2025, ensuring that there is cleaner environment and less pollution from household and business activities building on improved waste management, minimization and recycling, making conditions safer, healthier and more pleasant for residents and visitors."

"We see the development of the outer islands as of great importance, and it has been my greatest pleasure in being able to cooperate with all actors present today in taking a great step forward for Vava'u and Ha'apai's waste management service".

The Cabinet Ministers were grateful with Japan's ongoing assistance, Hon. Tevita Laveamaau on behalf of the Government of Tonga thanked the Ambassador for continuous assistance and support. Hon. Saia Piukala noted that the signing ceremony is in a limited space, but rather the effectiveness of Japan's assistance is illimitable. He expressed that the improved waste management also means a healthier environment and less health issues to be address by his Ministry.

Mr. Malakai Lomu Sika, highly acknowledged the Ambassador for the assistance and stated that "Waste Authority Limited can now extend and deliver their services in a most effective manner to the outer islands of Vava'u and Ha'apai." The Waste Authority Limited sought for Japan's assistance to enable a weekly waste collection service for Vava'u islands for the preservation of the environment, sanitation and for contributing to the tourism industry on the islands by applying for 5

waste management vehicles. The vehicles were used by the local governments and organizations of KOCHI-city, MINO-city, SHIMOTSUMA-city and HANNO SEISO CENTER, and then are now fully repaired and upgraded for Tonga. Mr Sika confirmed that one waste collection vehicle will be deployed for Ha'apai islands while the other four vehicles, will be for Vava'u islands

The project is in cooperation with the JICA's large scaled project in Vava'u for establishing a reliable waste management system in the outer islands, J-PRISM (phase II). The assistance epitomized Japan's commitment to support efforts by the people and Government of Tonga to ensure Human Security and continue to enrich the existing warm and close relations between the people, local organizations and the Government of Japan and the people of the Kingdom of Tonga.

END.

Attachment: Project Factsheet & Photos

Project Fact Sheet
Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

1) Project Title	The Project for Strengthening the Waste Management of outer islands through the deployment of Waste Collection Vehicles
Recipient	Waste Authority Limited
Grant Amount	USD\$107,491.00
Project Outline	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3x Waste Collection Truck - 1x Dump Truck - 1x Septic Truck 	

Photos



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata and Mr. Malakai Lomu Sika, CEO for Waste Authority Limited signing the grant contract for Japan funding waste management vehicles.



Formalizing Japan's assistance to Waste Authority Limited on Tuesday, 27 June 2017.



Japan and Tonga collaboration effort, H.E Ambassador Numata, Cabinet Ministers, JICA and WAL's Officials.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Hon. Poasi Tei and Moale Finau Governor of Ha'apai appreciating Japan's assistance.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, with JICA and WAL's official