

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Japan's Sport for Tomorrow : Handover of Volleyballs for Tonga**

More than 200 volleyballs were donated to Tonga's Ministry of Education and Training and Ministry of Internal Affairs. H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga handed over the volleyballs to Hon. Penisimani Epenisa Fifita, Minister for Education and Training and Mr. Onetoto Anisi, acting CEO Ministry of Internal Affairs on Friday, 20 April 2018 at the 'Atele Indoor Stadium, Ha'ateiho village. Present at the ceremony were Mr. Tevita Siale, President of the Tonga Volleyball Association, Coachers of school's volleyball teams and volleyball players.

Ambassador Ishii was pleased to handover the volleyballs which will be coordinated for 21 schools in Tongatapu and the Tonga Volleyball Association. "It is our greatest pleasure to help the people of the Kingdom with upgrading the country's sports capability, as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle for the people of Tonga in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty and the Government of Tonga," sated the Ambassador.

The donation of volleyballs was implemented by Japan Sports Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan under Sports for Tomorrow initiative, promoting sports throughout the world. Several associations in Japan donated the volleyballs, including the Japan Volleyball Association, the Nagasaki Prefectural Government, the Sapporo Health and Sports Foundation, the Takushoku University and the Nippon Sports Science University.

Hon. Penisimani Fifita acknowledged the donation from Japan which he stated that will greatly assist the Ministry's plan, to include volleyball in the annual Intercollege Sports Competition of schools. Mr. Tevita Siale, President of the Tonga Volleyball Association also expressed that the volleyballs will help with schools and local volleyball tournament and significantly the national squad in preparation for the South Pacific Games 2019.

The donation epitomized the warm and close relations between the people and the Government of Japan and the people of the Kingdom of Tonga.

END.

Attached; photos

Photos:



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii handing over the Volleyballs to Hon. Penisimani Fifita, Minister of Education and Training on Friday, 20 April 2018.



Mr. 'Onetoto' Anisi receiving the volleyballs for MIA.

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H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii with his remarks at the handover ceremony at the 'Atele Indoor Stadium.



Handover ceremony of volleyballs for 21 Schools in the Kingdom of Tonga.



A demonstration by local volleyball team at the handover ceremony on Friday, 20 April 2018.