

Embassy of Japan

Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

March 22, 2019

Japan's 2019 MEXT Scholarship Recipients, congratulated

H. E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga congratulated the successful winners of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Scholarship for 2019, Mr. Colin Langilangi and Ms. Marilyn Maka, with a reception at his residence on Wednesday, 20 March. Present at the event was Hon. Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training along with Representatives of the Tonga-Japan Alumni Association, Ship for World Youth Alumni - Tonga, and the JICA Training Alumni.

At the event, His Excellency congratulated the scholarship winners and encouraged them to make remarkable contributions to the development of their home country. He reiterated that Tonga and Japan share many bonds of friendship and the MEXT Scholarship is a part of the cultural and people to people exchanges between them. The MEXT also offers Tongan students the opportunity to play an important role in the bridge between Tonga and Japan.

Hon. Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training of the Kingdom of Tonga, in his address further encouraged them to "...study hard, learn their language, adapt well to their culture and enjoy your time in Japan. It is important also that you complete your programme on time and return to contribute to the development of Tonga." He concluded his remarks by stating "I am very proud to be here this evening to witness and celebrate your success story. Your patience, hard work and dedication have been rewarded."

The scholarship recipients were both awarded Research Scholarships for a Master's Degree to study at a University in Japan. Mr. Colin Langilangi will pursue a Master's Degree in Naval Architecture at the Osaka University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Technology from New Zealand and had been working at the Marine & Ports Division, Ministry of Infrastructure. Ms. Marilyn Maka will pursue her Master's Degree in Economic and Business, at the Hokkaido University. She graduated with a Bachelor in Commerce, from Fiji.

The MEXT scholarship of the Government of Japan offers various scholarships annually, and students from Tonga are eligible to apply for Undergraduate, Research, Specialized Training College Students and Teacher Training Programs. Applicants from Tonga have been successfully awarded the scholarships, since 1995.

The scholarship awardees for 2019, are expected to depart for Japan early next month.

END

Attached: Photo

Photos:



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga, Hon Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training of the kingdom of Tonga with the 2019 MEXT Awardees, together with the members of Tonga-Japan Alumni Association at the reception on Wednesday 20 March 2019.



Winners of the MEXT scholarship(Mr. Langilangi and Ms. Maka)H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Mrs. Akiko Ishii, and Hon Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training of the Kingdom of Tonga.



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Hon Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training of the Kingdom of Tonga at the reception.



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga in his address at the reception.



Hon Penisimani Fifita, Minister for Education and Training of the Kingdom of Tonga in his address and a toast at the reception.



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Mrs. Akiko Ishii with the 2019 MEXT Awardees, along with members of the Tonga-Japan Alumni.