

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2019/06

May 29, 2019

“Nation Building starting from Growth of Pupils”

Japan GGP handover for the Upgraded Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten

The Government of Japan and the Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten celebrated the completion of their upgraded kindergarten building funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, known as the GGP, on Wednesday 29 May 2019. His Excellency Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan handed over the completed facility and was witnessed by Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni, People’s Representative for Tongatapu Constituency # 3 and Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau, Vice-President of the Free Wesleyan Church Education. Present also at the ceremony were Mr. Tevita Lavemaau, People’s Representative for ‘Eua Island, Representative from the Ministry of Finance along with the Parents, Principal, Teachers and the young students of Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten.

His Excellency Tetsuya Ishii emphasized in his keynote address that early childhood education recognized by the Sustainable Development Goals, “provides the important first step for the children to grow into strong and responsible individuals that would uphold Tonga and the International Society.” He anticipated that the upgraded facility presents a brighter, comfortable and open school environment that would nourish many children to grow into happy and healthy adults of Tonga.

Rev. Dr. Tevita Palefau, thanked the Ambassador for the assistance from the people and the Government of Japan. He said that the PTA of Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten sought for Japan’s assistance prioritizing a much safer educational environment for their pupils after the building was partially damaged by the Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018. Japan formalized the assistance with a grant amount of USD\$86,457, which upgraded the two-story building that contains the kindergarten since 1980s.

Japan introduced the GGP scheme in 1990 to respond directly to the basic human needs at the grass-roots level, and so far over 280 projects have been implemented in the Kingdom. The assistance also epitomized Japan’s commitment to support efforts by the people and the Government of Tonga to ensure Human Security and continue to enrich the existing 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 (GPP)

Project Fact Sheet

1) Project Title	The Project for Upgrading Fakatouato Community Hall, Ngele'ia
Recipient	Parents and Teachers Association of Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarden
Grant Amount	USD\$86,457
Project Outline	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upgrade work to 2nd Floor- Upgrade work to kitchen & toilet facilities, 1st Floor	

Photos;



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii with guests and pupils of the Maamaloa Fakatouato at the handover ceremony for their upgraded kindergarden facility on Wednesday, 29 May 2019.



Commissioning ceremony for the upgraded facility for Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten.



Akena Sinipata, Principal of Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten with her pupils performing an action song on Wednesday 29 May.



Extensive and bright classroom for Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten.



Handover of the Japan's GGP project for Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten, at Ngele'ia village Tongatapu.



Maamaloa Fakatouato Kindergarten.