

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

EOJ/2019/
November 18, 2019

Forming persons to persons relationships through projects
-Press Tour in Nuku'alofa on Japan's economic assistance-

On Tuesday, 12 November 2019 the Embassy of Japan in Nuku'alofa hosted local media to the Press Tour, updating on the current and the latest on Japan's economic assistance to the Kingdom of Tonga.

Media representatives were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and H.E. were emphasized that the press tour is to deepen understanding on Japan's economic assistance based on the policy of "Seeing is Believing." The Ambassador further explained the main three values of Japan's assistance, which are long lasting, safe, and technologically advanced. The Ambassador also focused on the importance of persons to persons relationships in each project.

The tour began at the broadcasting building which is currently under construction for the Project for Introduction of Nationwide Early Warning System and Strengthening Disaster Communications, the "NEWS" Project, at the Tonga Broadcasting Commission, Fasi mo e Afi. Media met Mr. Keiji Nagai, Construction Project Manager who led the project briefing on the site, with the attendance of Hon. Poasi Tei, Tonga's Minister for MEIDECC.

This project is a Grant Aid from Japan with an approximate worth of 56 million Tongan Pa'anga. The "fundamental goal of this project is to alleviate damages caused by natural disasters through the improvement of facilities and equipment for disaster early warning information system, which will operate at the all-embracing national level.

Its three main components are the Early Warning Sound Alert System with 75 outdoor sirens and 514 indoor Remote Activated Receivers (RARs); Emergency Radio Communication System strengthening network to distribute messages interactively; and upgrading TBC headquarter broadcasting building and the Public Radio Broadcasting Network to expand coverage of the AM radio throughout the country including remote islands of Niuafo'ou and Niuatoputapu.

Hon. Poasi Tei, while expressing his appreciations to the people of Japan, pointed out that this project will further promote Tonga's preparations for tsunami and cyclone and save lives of the people as well as contributing to the employment opportunities in Tonga.

Japan's GGP assistance on building a classroom for the Free Wesleyan Church Fasi moe Afi Kindergarten and JICA's volunteer scheme, teaching soroban was also included in the press tour.

The GGP assistance for Fasi moe Afi Kindergarten, with a grant amount of USD\$84,745, is to fund construction of the new kindergarten building, with two classrooms, one office room and a bathroom facility.

Japan's GGP was introduced in 1990 to respond directly to the basic human needs at the grass-roots level, and by 2019, 293 projects have been implemented. The assistance 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. Demonstration and learning firsthand basic of using soroban abacus inspired media representatives. JICA's volunteer program to Tonga started in 1973 and to date over 500 volunteer from Japan have assisted Tonga in various fields.

Also, the media had an opportunity to meet one of JICA volunteers who is teaching soroban at various primary schools

Media acknowledged the Press Tour, highlighting that it is vital to better understand Japan's economic assistance to better inform the people through their news coverage.

The Embassy of Japan appreciated and thanked stakeholders that assisted in arranging this Press Tour.

END

Photos:



Hon. Poasi Tei with Deputy Head Mr. Yasuhiko Kamada and the local media participants to inspect the NEWS Project site at TBC.



Mr. Keiji Nagai, Construction Project Manager leading the NEWS project briefing on the site

*For further enquires please contact: The Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
Level 5, National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building / Telephone: 22-221 / Fax 27-025*



H.E. Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, Ambassador Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga emphasizing “Forming persons to persons relationships through projects” in the briefing session.



Inspection of Fasi moe Afi Kindergarten