

Embassy of Japan

Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2020/02
April 23, 2020

“Importance of this project never affected by the pandemic ” **Japan’s GGP handover of new two classrooms for Ha’alalo GPS**

His Excellency Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga handed over new two classrooms for Ha’alalo Government Primary School on Thursday, 23 April 2020 funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Human Security Project, or GGP. In line with Tonga’s COVID-19 National Restrictions, the handover was observed in a simple manner.

Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Minister of Education and Training attended the handover along with the representatives of Ha’alalo GPS.

In the message from H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, he expressed his hope that the new facility would contribute to educational growth of individual students. “I do hope boys and girls studying in this school will acquire basic knowledge and wisdom to be a person who has the capability to tackle not only domestic issues but also global issues such as the current situation. Primary education will also become a driving force for the country’s development.” He added that the meaning and importance of the project will never be affected by the pandemic, and acknowledged the combined efforts in its completion before challenged by Cyclone Harold.

“We sincerely hope that this world wide situation caused by COVID-19 will end as soon as possible and the children will be able to study with peace of mind in the classrooms,” said Ambassador ISHII.

Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni acknowledged the timely assistance from the people and the Government of Japan especially supporting the ministry’s vision to combat COVID-19 by installing wash basins to each of the new classrooms. He thanked the Government of Japan for the ongoing assistance in upgrading many classroom buildings, throughout the Kingdom.

Ha’alalo GPS was first granted Japan’s GGP assistance in 2003, and due to the growing number of students the Parents and Teachers Association, PTA, sought for Japan’s assistance prioritizing a healthier and safer education environment for their young students. The new facility will benefit 170 students of the school.

Japan’s GGP have now benefited almost 300 projects in the Kingdom of Tonga.

END.

Attached; Project Factsheet & Photos

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| 1) Project Title | The Project for Upgrading Ha'alalo Government Primary School |
| Recipient | PTA Ha'alalo Government Primary School |
| Grant Amount | USD \$90,625.00 |
| Project Outline: - 1x New Classroom Building (2rooms) - 1x Toilet Block (6rooms - 3male/3female) | |

Photos;



The commissioning of the new classroom building.

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H.E. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador of Japan with Hon. Siaso Sovaleni, Minister of Education and Training along with Principal and Teachers of GPS Ha'alalo at the handover of their new classroom building funded by Japan's GGP, 23 April 2020.



H.E. ISHII Tetsuya with 'Ema Selu Principal of Ha'alalo GPS in the new classroom building with petition walls.

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H.E. ISHII Tetsuya at the handover of GPS Ha'alalo new classroom building.



New classroom building with two rooms for Ha'alalo Government Primary School, 23 April 2020.

*For further enquires please contact: Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
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The new toilet block funded under Japan's GGP for Ha'alalo GPS.