

Embassy of Japan  
Tonga

**PRESS RELEASE**

*EOJ/2020/01  
July 22, 2020*

**Another Impressive Symbol of Tonga - Japan relations  
- Construction of the new TBC building finished -**

On July 22, His Excellency Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga along with Hon. Poasi Tei, Minister for MEIDECC visited the new Tonga Broadcasting Commission Headquarter building completed under the Project for Introduction of Nationwide Early Warning System and Strengthening Disaster Communications, or the NEWS Project.

The visit was in conjunction with the handover of the keys and maintenance manual of the building from Mr. NAGAI Keiji, Construction Manager of the Dai Nippon Construction to Mr. Paula Ma'u, CEO for MEIDECC. The Headquarter building for Tonga Broadcasting Commission is one of the significant facility of the NEWS Project, funded by the Government of Japan with a grant aid assistance equivalent to \$56million pa'anga.

H.E. Mr. ISHII was pleased to witness the completion of the construction work for the building and to allocate it to its assigned purpose. He said that the building is expected to contribute to three important roles of strengthening disaster risk reduction, improving domestic telecommunication quality and protecting cultural heritages such as video archives. As this year marks the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between Tonga and Japan, he looks forward to the completion of the whole NEWS Project as another impressive and unique symbol of Tonga and Japan's friendship.

Mr. Paula Ma'u thanked the Government and the people of Japan and the joint venture of the engineers, consulting service and contractors in the successful completion of the building. He said that with COVID 19 related difficulties the completion of the NEWS Project is deferred, however the building is a remarkable mitigation measures to be completed in a very short time, at the middle of COVID response. The new headquarter building incorporates features to safeguard major communication equipment at times of disasters as flooding, and a flat roof top that can be utilized as an evacuation area.

END

Attached: Photos

Photos;



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