

Embassy of Japan Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

EOJ/2020/04
October 13, 2020

“Now 3 years since this island nation has been our home” Farewell Reception for H.E. Mr. ISHII at his Residence

On the evening of October 8, a farewell reception for H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga was held at his residence in ‘Anana, who will conclude three years in the Kingdom soon.

Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onea, Prime Minister of Tonga attended the farewell reception along with Lord Fakafanua, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Ministers, H.E. Tiffany Babington, High Commissioner of New Zealand to Tonga, H.E. Adrian Morrison High Commissioner of Australia to Tonga and, H.E. Mr. Cao Xiaolin, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Tonga, His Eminence Cardinal Mafi. Present also at the reception were People’s Representatives to Tonga’s Legislative Assembly, Head of International Agencies in Nuku’alofa, and close friends of Ambassador ISHII and his wife, Mrs. ISHII Akiko.

H.E. Mr. ISHII expressed his sincere appreciation for all of guests’ cooperation for deepening bilateral relationship. He introduced some recollections during his three years term in his remarks, performance and contribution of Tongan players in Japanese national team in the 2019 Rugby World Cup, high-level mutual visit, especially the Royal Visit to Japan of Their Majesties to attend the Enthronement Ceremony in 2019, and COVID-19. Ambassador ISHII mentioned “with Japan’s new Prime Minister, Mr. Suga, and Tonga’s Prime Minister, the Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onea, leading our countries, I am certain that our bilateral relations will be further enhanced by their cordial and warm efforts for another half century that is brighter.”

Hon. Prime Minister Tu’i’onea in his remarks expressed that “H.E. Mr. ISHII had facilitated the engagements and decisions between our two Governments, for the mutual benefits of our two countries and people.” The Hon. PM took an inventory of Japan’s major assistances toward the Kingdom delivered during Ambassador ISHII’s term, including the Commissioning of the Taufua’ahau Domestic Wharf, the new Tonga Broadcasting Commission Building, and various emergency and disaster response projects. The Hon. PM reminded the guests of Ambassador ISHII’s enthusiasm to see the initiation of future commitments for new Ambassador under newly formed Prime Minister SUGA’s administration in Japan.

After the two remarks, Mrs. ISHII Akiko exhibited Japanese bamboo flute performance and entertained all of guests by playing Japanese and Tongan songs.

The successor of H.E. Mr. ISHII is Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador Designate of Japan to the Kingdom who is scheduled to arrive in Tonga next month.

END.

Attached: Photos



H.E. Mr. ISHII, Ambassador of Japan and Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga



H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga



Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga

*For further enquires please contact: Mr. Fujiwara Issei, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
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Mrs. ISHII Akiko's bamboo flute performance



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Guests and Mr. KAMADA Yasuhiko, Deputy Head of Mission



Guests and Mr. MATSUI Nobuaki, Resident Representative of JICA Tonga Office



Guests and H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga

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