

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2020/06
October 9, 2020

“Serving as a beacon of hope for the people of ‘Eua”
Japan’s GGP handover for Upgrading Malau Community Hall, ‘Eua

On October 9, His Excellency Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga, and Mrs. ISHII attended the commissioning ceremony for the Malau Community Hall in ‘Eua Island, partially funded by Japan’s Grant Assistance for Human Security Project.

The Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa was the guest of honor at the ceremony, attended also by eight Cabinet Ministers, Government CEOs, Church Representatives, ‘Eua Government Representative, District Officer, Town Officers and the people of ‘Eua Island.

His Excellency Mr. ISHII congratulated the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan’s Grant Assistance for Human Security Project, or GGP, the Government of Tonga, the International Funds for Agricultural Development and the ‘Eua Community. “This hall will serve as a beacon of hope for the people of ‘Eua Island, through various training programs and outreach activities. It will also serve as a steady shelter during times of disaster as well as a place for the distribution of basic needs after a disaster,” stated H.E. Mr. ISHII.

The old community hall was originally built in 1986, and Cyclone Gita in 2018 left an extensive damage to the building. The ‘Eua District Committee sought for Japan’s assistance to reinstall a resilient and cyclone proof roof and ceiling, for the new hall.

Hon. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga, applauded and acknowledged the collection of many efforts from donors and partners, proven in the successful of the project. “We are not just rededicating a multi-purpose hall, we are rededicating lives of the past and the lives to come,” said the Prime Minister. He added that the hall will become a hub for community gathering in times of celebration, or times of trouble or times that call for change and reinvention, and asked the people of ‘Eua for their guardianship to keep the hall resilient over the years to come.

The Malau Community Hall is named after the bird *malau*, the only remaining species of megapode out of the four or five species that were found in Niuafu’ou island, in the Kingdom.

END.

Attached; Project Factsheet & Photos

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1) Project Title	The Project for Upgrading Malau Community Hall in 'Eua Island
Recipient	'Eua District Committee
Grant Amount	USD \$89,139.

Project Outline:

- Renovation (Roof & Ceiling)
- External Audit

Photo;



The commissioning of the new Malau Community Hall in 'Eua island by H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Japanese Ambassador to Tonga and Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga on Friday, 9 October.

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H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Japanese Ambassador to Tonga along with Mrs, ISHII and Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga together with Cabinet Ministers present at the commissioning ceremony for Malau Hall.



The 'Eua Fo'ou District Officer, Tuifio Finau with H.E. Mr. ISHII.

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Keynote address by Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga for the commissioning of the Malau Community Hall in 'Eua.



Malau Community Hall commissioning ceremony on Friday, 9 October 2020

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The new Malau Community Hall – resilient and cyclone proof.