

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan's first batch of Emergency Relief Assistance arrived at the Kingdom

On January 22, the first Japan Air Self-Defense Force C-130 aircraft landed at the Fua'amotu International Airport with three tonnage of water, as the first batch of Japan's emergency relief assistance to the people and the Government of the kingdom of Tonga after the disaster of the Hunga-Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption.

H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga and Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga welcomed arrival of the aircraft at the airport. Also Hon. Poasi Tei, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for MEIDECC along with Hon. Fekitamoealoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism, Hon. Tatafu Moeaki, Minister for Finance and Minister for Revenue and Customs, and Hon. Viliami Uasike Latu, Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Hon. Saia Piukala, Minister for Health, and Brigadier Lord Fielakepa, Chief of the Defence Staff of HIS MAJESTY ARMED FORCES were in the present at the Airport.

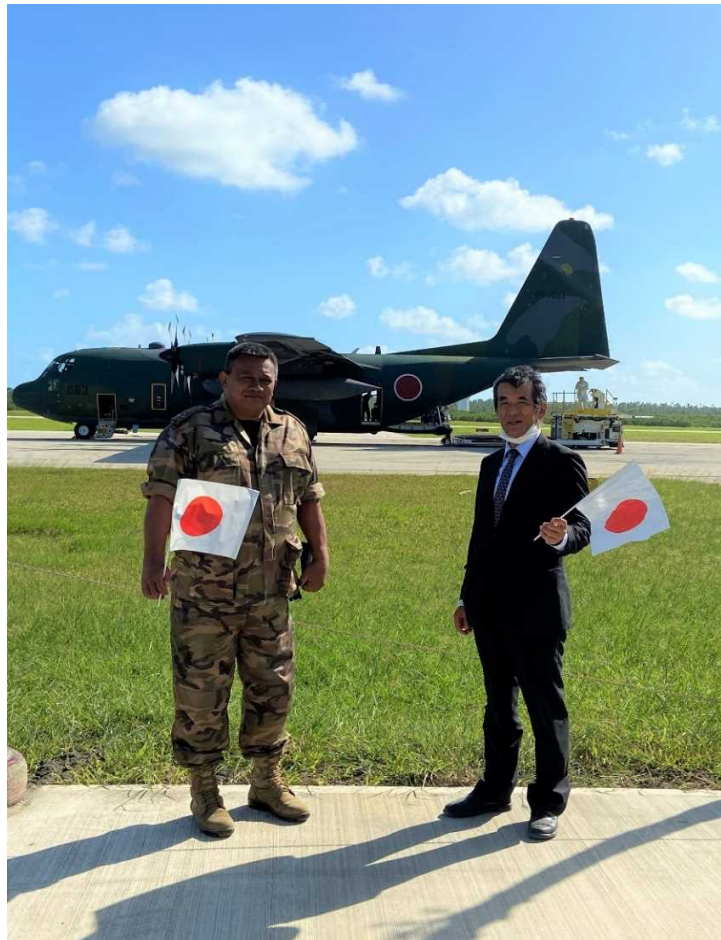
This was the historical moment when the Japan Air Self-Defense Force was dispatched and completed a mission to the Kingdom of Tonga for the first time. This water assistance was provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA.

The Government of Japan will continue to dispatch necessary assistance to aid the people and the Government of Tonga's restoration effort after this devastating disaster.

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