

# Embassy of Japan Tonga

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*NPGA/2023/03*  
*September 12, 2023*

### **NPGA Handover to Tonga's National Emergency and Management Office**

H. E. Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga handed over the equipment for practical disaster management funded through Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid Assistance, NPGA, to Tonga's National Emergency and Management Office, NEMO on Monday 11 September 2023.

Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister and the acting Minister of MEIDECC, received the equipment during a handover ceremony at the NEMO's warehouse at Matatoa, in Nuku'alofa. Present at the ceremony were Mr. Sione 'Akau'ola, the new CEO for MEIDECC, Mr. Sione Taumoeofolau, Secretary General Tonga Red Cross Society, Mr. Mafua Maka, Director for NEMO and representatives from disaster management related ministries.

This NPGA for NEMO is the first batch of a \$1.5million US dollars assistance of equipment for practical disaster management signed in 2021. This first batch provided 170 protective gears, 199 loud-hailers, and 100 chainsaws.

"I strongly expect that the equipment will strengthen people's preparedness against disaster and reinforce that national early response measures during emergencies. Nobody knows when and how disasters will come to Tonga. What is needed and what we can do is to be well-prepared, well-equipped based on various scenarios," said H.E Mr. MUNENAGA. He hopes that with the first batch being deployed to district and town officers throughout Tonga, communities will be better prepared when disasters strikes.

In the remarks by Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga, he acknowledged Japan for the handover of NPGA "which is truly a reflection of Japan and their people's commitment towards building resilience of Pacific communities."

Japan's NPGA support developing countries by promoting its economic and social development efforts, and Tonga's NEMO alone have benefitted with NPGA in 2015, 2017, 2019 with multimillion worth of equipment, reinforcing national disaster response and management.

END

Attached: Photos



NPGA handover for NEMO of equipment for practical disaster management on Monday, 11 September 2023, Matatooa.



Sample of the 170 protective gears, 199 loud-hailers and 100 chainsaws handover over to NEMO.





NPGA handover to NEMO, 11 September 2023 at Matatoa.



First batch of NPGA for disaster management received for NEMO.