

Embassy of Japan  
Tonga

**PRESS RELEASE**

*NPGA/2024/03*  
*August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Japan's NPGA signing ceremony for Tonga Fire & Emergency Services**

His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, together with Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga, signed on the Exchange of Notes on Japan's Non Project Grant Aid for the provision of emergency response vehicles for Tonga Fire & Emergency Services on Monday, 12 August 2024 in Nuku'alofa.

This Non Project Grant Aid from Japan is valued at \$1.9million US dollars and will provide fire-fighting vehicles including two fire trucks, two water tanker trucks and three pickup trucks for more effective disaster preparedness and emergency response by Tonga Fire and Emergency Services.

His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI in addressing the signing event emphasized the significance of equipping Tonga Fire and Emergency Services with sufficient technical equipment. "I am sure that this provision of equipment will help the Tonga Fire and Emergency Services strengthen their disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacity," the Ambassador said.

"This provision was announced by Prime Minister Kishida when the Honorable Prime Minister had a summit meeting with him on the sidelines of the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Leaders Meeting or PALM10 held in Tokyo last month," the Ambassador said. "I am very grateful to the Tonga Fire and Emergency Services for this swift arrangement of the signing ceremony today. I believe that this assistance will contribute to the economic development of the Kingdom of Tonga because a disaster resilient society is the foundation for a steady social and economic development."

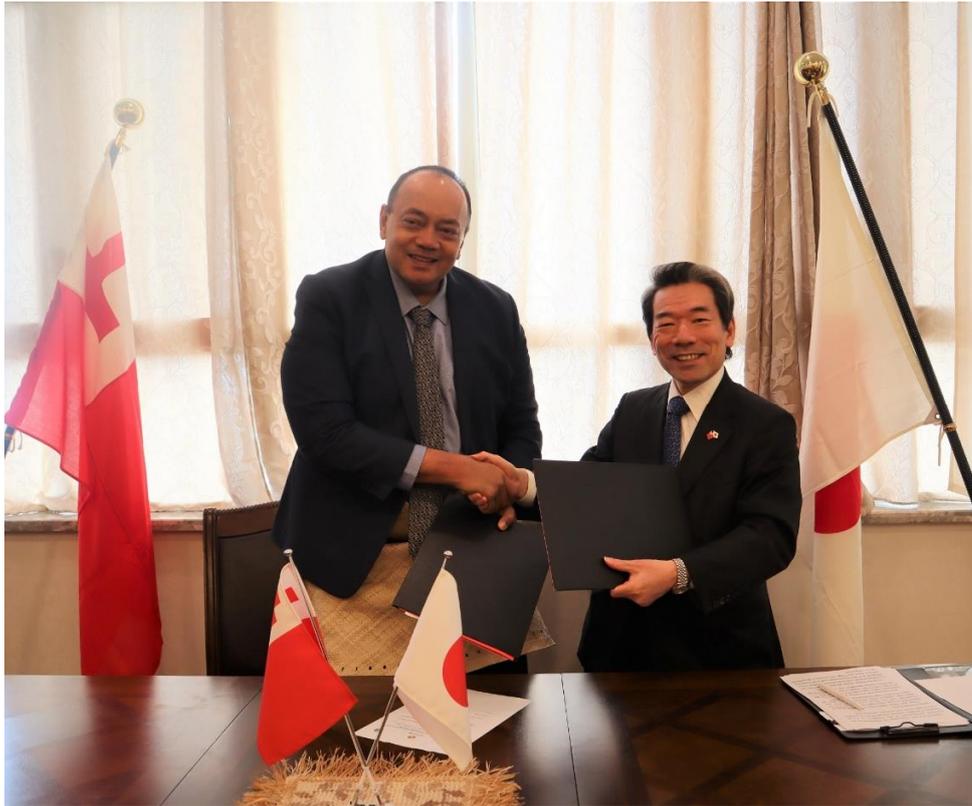
Tonga Fire and Emergency Services highly dependent on its vehicle fleet to effectively execute its duties, however, they lack sufficient vehicles to do so. Japan's NPGA will support their services as well as the approach to expand emergency fire stations throughout the Kingdom.

Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga, expressed his gratitude for Japan's NPGA assistance, which will significantly enhance the emergency response and the protection of lives and property in event of natural and man-made disasters. Japan's assistance supports Tonga's Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025, to improve disaster management infrastructure through better support of emergency management.

END

Attached: Photos

Photos;



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, and Hon Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga, signed the exchange of notes for Japan's NPGA to Tonga Fire and Emergency Services, on Monday 12 August 2024



Japan's NPGA exchange of notes ceremony at Prime Minister's Office, witnessed also by Mr. Viliami Tu'ihalamaka, Commissioner of Tonga Fire and Emergency Services and Mr. Paula Ma'u, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet.

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