

Embassy of Japan Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

NPGA/2024/02

November 29, 2024

Japan's NPGA Handover to Waste Authority Limited and Tonga Water Board

H. E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga handed over vehicles and equipment funded through Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid Assistance, NPGA, to Waste Authority Limited and Tonga Water Board on Friday, 29 November 2024.

Mr. Tapu Panuve, Chairman of the Combined Utility Board of Directors received the NPGA assistance, during a handover ceremony attended by Mr. Malakai Sika, CEO of Waste Authority Limited and Mr. Sione Finau, CEO of Tonga Water Board. The ceremony was also attended by a delegation from Japan's International Cooperation System, led by Mr. Ishizaki Takahiro, the procurement agency for both Projects.

Japan's NPGA to Tonga's Public Enterprises were formalized in August 2022, prioritizing the provision of vehicles and equipment valued equivalent to \$6 million USD, to support waste management and recycling systems by Waste Authority Limited and water infrastructure development by Tonga Water Board.

H.E. Mr. INAGAKI emphasized the handover as a significant milestone to enhance waste and water management in the Kingdom of Tonga in relation to disaster recovery. "Both projects are not only in line with the Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025, but also aligned with Japan's Development Cooperation Policy for Tonga, which focuses on the environment and climate change, and overcoming vulnerability."

"It is crucial to recognize the importance of continued collaboration between Japan and Tonga in achieving our shared environmental goals. The partnership between our nations is an example of the positive impact that can be achieved through mutual support and cooperation. Together we can ensure the protection of our planet for future generations and promote a legacy of environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management," stated Ambassador INAGAKI.

Mr. Tapu Panuve, expressed his gratitude for Japan's generous assistance. "Your commitment to Tonga's development in the vital areas of sanitation and water once again highlights Japan's enduring commitment to Tonga's development and prosperity. Today's gifts will go a long way towards improving our service delivery and ensuring the health and well-being of our people"

Components of the two NPGA Projects included, cargo trucks, crane trucks, excavators, tractors and some other equipment.

END

*For further enquires please contact: Mr. Nakano Akihiko, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
Level 5, National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building / Telephone: 22-221*

Attached: Photos



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga marked handover of Japan's NPGA assistance to Tonga Water Board and Waste Authority Limited, assisted by Mr. Tapu Panuve on Friday 29 November 2024.



H.E Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, addressed the handover ceremony at Matatoa,

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The Japan International Cooperation System delegation arrived Tonga for the NPGA handover, and were led by Ishizaki Takahiro (far left) along with H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao



Members of the Combined Utility Board who attended the handover of Japan's NPGA on Friday, 29 November 2024.

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Mini excavators handed over through Japan's NPGA to Waste Authority Limited.



Trucks to assist water infrastructure development provided through Japan's NPGA to Tonga Water Board.

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