

**Embassy of Japan**

**Tonga**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

*GGP/2025/01*

*January 17, 2025*

## **Japan formalized New Projects for the people of Tonga**

The Grant Contracts to formalize a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Cultural Project, GCGP and a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project, GGP by the Government of Japan were signed on Friday, 17 January 2025 in Nuku'alofa.

H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga formalized these contracts with Tonga Rugby Union and Mataika village of Vava'u island. The ceremony was witnessed by Lesieli Tufui Faletau, Acting CEO for Ministry of Finance and was attended by Mr. Vili Moli Havea, Town Officer of Mataika village in Vava'u and Mr. 'Aisea 'Aholelei, CEO for Tonga Rugby Union.

Japan's GCGP will fund the construction of a new gym for the Tonga Rugby Union's High-performance Academy, at the Union's office at Fasi mo e Afi, while the Japan's GGP will upgrade the water supply system for the people of Mataika village, Vava'u island.

"Today's two new projects have different objectives based on the immediate needs of each recipient," said the Ambassador, H.E. Mr. INAGAKI. "I hope that these projects will play an important role in building stronger and more resilient societies in the Kingdom, and that our friendship will continue to be enriched by our cooperation."

The Tonga Rugby Union looks forward to building its first training facility while expecting the project to facilitate cultural exchanges and deepen friendship and mutual understanding between Tonga and Japan. The people of Mataika village expects to improve their basic human needs by having better access to a cleaner and safer water supply, 24 hours a day.

Both recipients were grateful for Japan's assistance and assured that each project will benefit more generations to come.

H.E. Mr. INAGAKI acknowledged the continuing support from Tonga's Ministry of Finance in the success GGP projects throughout Tonga, since its inception in 1990.

END.

Attached; Project Factsheet & Photos

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## PROJECT FACTSHEET:

1) Project Title	The Project for the Construction of Tonga Rugby Union Training Facility
Grant Amount	USD \$ 143,400
Project Components - 1 New Gym Building (180 square meters)	

2) Project Title	The Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System in Mataika Village
Grant Amount	USD \$ 143,870
Project Component - 1 New Water Tank (27,500L) - 1 New Tank Stand - Renew of Main Pipes (6.6km)	

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Photos:



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan with Mr. 'Aisea 'Aholelei, CEO of the Tonga Rugby Union formalized Japan's GCGP for the Union's new training facility.



Formalizing Japan's GGP to Upgrade the Water Supply for Mataika Village, on Friday 17 January 2025, by Mr. Vili Moli Havea and H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga.

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Ms. Lesieli Tufui Faletau, Acting CEO of Ministry of Finance, H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao and the Mataika Village Water Committee who arrived from Vava'u islands for the signing ceremony, Mr. Vili Moli Havea and Sitani Lavemai



The signing ceremony on Friday, 17 January at Tonga's Ministry of Finance in Nuku'alofa.