

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan's Grant Assistance for the Improvement of Fua'amotu International Airport

On Tuesday, 19 August 2025, His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga and Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Valu Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga, signed on the Exchange of Notes on Japan's Grant Aid for the Project for the Improvement of Fua'amotu International Airport in the Kingdom of Tonga.

The Project provides a grant aid of 2.549 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to 17.7 million US dollars).

In formalizing this assistance, His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI highlighted Japan's commitment to elevating passenger convenience and operational efficiency at the airport. "Since the establishment of the international passenger terminal building and related infrastructure in 1989, Fua'amotu International Airport has seen a significant increase in passenger numbers and while this growth is indicative of the airport's success, it has also led to congestion in various facilities, including check-in counters, security screening areas, waiting lounges, and immigration checkpoints."

"This Project aims to address these pressing challenges," said Ambassador INAGAKI, "by expanding and refurbishing the international passenger terminal building, extending the international apron, installing new boarding air bridges and connecting passages, and enhancing essential facilities such as sewage treatment systems and terminal access roads."

The geographical distribution of Tonga underscores the critical importance of air transport as a means of transportation and logistics, as well as in tourism, trade and the provision of various social services. Japan's assistance emphasizes the vital role of Fua'amotu International Airport as a gateway to the nation, playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country. Ambassador INAGAKI hopes that the Project will further promote the 55 years of bilateral relations between Japan and Tonga.

Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga expressed his deepest gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their significant assistance. He highlighted that Japan's exceptional support for "enhancing the Kingdom's connectivity with quality infrastructure, investment and promotion of inclusive economic prosperity, which is a part of its vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." He also emphasized that the project "reinvigorates our close friendship, strengthens our bond or 'kizuna' - which remains strong."

The Government of Japan funded the construction of Fua'amotu International Airport terminal 35 years ago, and in 2025 it will have the privilege of funding a multimillion-dollar improvement project again, contributing to strengthening Tonga's economy and development in the transportation sector.

Present at the ceremony was Hon. Piveni Piukala, Minister for Public Enterprises along with Mr. Edger Cocker, Chief Executive Officer for Tonga Airports Limited as well as Ms. Rika Uemura, Resident Representative of JICA-Tonga the implementing agency of the Project.

END

Attached: Photos

Photos;



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan and Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Valu Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga in formalizing Japan's Grant Aid for the Improvement of Fua'amotu International Airport on Tuesday, 19 August 2025.



Addressing the occasion by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao at St. George Building, Nuku'alofa.



Formalizing Japan's Grant Aid of 2.549billion JPYen for the Improvement of Fua'amotu International Airport.



Perspective view of the Fua'amotu International Airport Improvement Project.



The Fua'amotu Airport Terminal Expansion Diagram.