

Embassy of Japan Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

NPGA/2025

October 2nd, 2025

Japan's NPGA Handover to Ministry of Revenue and Customs

His Excellency INAGAKI Hisao, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga, handed over high speed patrol boats funded through Japan's Non-project Grant Assistance (NPGA), to Tonga's Ministry of Revenue and Customs, on Thursday, 2 October 2025.

These patrol boats are the first batch of a USD\$3million dollar NPGA, formalized for the Ministry in 2022 and are designed to enhance maritime security and combat illegal smuggling into the Kingdom. Inspection equipment will also be provided through this funding such as trace detection system machines and a portable Raman spectrometer.

“Japan remains committed to supporting Tonga's aspirations for peace, stability and prosperity,” stated H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao

“In recent years, the challenge of illegal drug smuggling has posed a significant threat to the national security across the globe. Tonga is no exception. The alarming rise in such activities, particularly through maritime routes, underscores the urgent need for robust and effective countermeasures. It is in response to this pressing need that Japan has extended its hand in partnership, providing equipment that will bolster Tonga's maritime surveillance and enforcement capabilities.”

In the keynote address from Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga he extended the heartfelt appreciation of the Government of Tonga to Japan's support and the provision of the two high speed patrol boats which significantly enhance maritime capabilities enabling customs officers to respond swiftly to border threats. He acknowledged the consistent and ongoing assistance from Japan from infrastructure developments and technical assistance, improving lives of the people of Tonga.

“This contribution not only reflects Japan's commitment to regional cooperation but a powerful symbol of trust, partnership and shared purpose.”

Hon. Mateni Taupueluelu, Minister for Revenue and Customs in his words of acknowledgment thanked the Government of Japan for assisting the operational readiness of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs.

The handover ceremony was attended by relevant stakeholders, and was held at the Masfield Naval Base of His Majesty's Armed Forces, at Toulaki.

END

Attached: Photos



Japan's NPGA, provision of Patrol Boats to Tonga's Ministry of Revenue and Customs handover ceremony on Thursday, 2nd October 2025 at the Masefield Naval Base, Toulaki.



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao in the official handover of keys to Hon. Dr. 'Aisake 'Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga



Demonstration of the Patrol Boats



Handover ceremony of Japan's NPGA to Ministry of Revenue and Customs, 2nd October 2025