

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) FY2025 Project to His Majesty's Armed Forces

On Friday, 05 December 2025, His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga, and His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, Tonga's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for His Majesty's Armed Forces signed the Japan's "Official Security Assistance (OSA)" FY 2025 project with a grant aid of 300 million JPY, equivalent to 2 million USD.

Japan and the Kingdom of Tonga are important partners that share the values and principles such as freedom, democracy and rule of law. The Kingdom of Tonga plays a crucial role in peace and security in the Pacific as one of the three Pacific Island countries that have an armed force. The Two countries have been working together in various areas, including security.

This project aims to enhance the capabilities of the His Majesty's Armed Forces (HMAF) in the area of maritime surveillance, disaster response, and search and rescue, as well as strengthen the identity and morale of service members as military personnel through the provision of drones and military uniforms to them. It is expected to contribute to maintaining and enhancing peace and security in the Kingdom and the region, and thereby serving the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao referred to the continued defense and security cooperation between Japan and the Kingdom of Tonga characterized by capacity-building programs, personal exchanges and defense cooperation through various initiatives. "Today's signing ceremony will further support the Tonga Royal Navy and Air Wing with their maritime security duties by providing cutting-edge drone technology".

"We expect these drones to play a significant role in enhancing Tonga's surveillance and disaster relief capabilities, contributing to your efforts to counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and illegal drug trafficking". "Additionally, Japanese-made military uniforms featuring the camouflage color and pattern selected by His Majesty King Tupou VI, will be provided through this new initiative to strengthen the identity and morale within His Majesty's Armed Forces".

"We hope that this new OSA program will serve as a cornerstone for our collaborative efforts to achieve these shared goals and set a new benchmark in our bilateral relations." said Ambassador INAGAKI.

His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala expressed his deepest gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their significant assistance, which is vital for the Tonga's development

of maritime security capabilities. In his remarks, His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala highlighted Japan's exceptional support for "enhancing the Kingdom's capability with quality equipment and investment," thereby contributing to the safety and prosperity of the Kingdom's maritime domain. He also highlighted the importance of defense cooperation between Japan and Tonga, including capacity-building assistance and personnel exchanges of cadets from HMAF, and stated that this new initiative under OSA would contribute to further strengthening Japan-Tonga cooperation.

OSA was established in 2023 as a new cooperation framework for the benefit of armed forces and other related organizations in recipient countries with the aim of deepening our security cooperation with the countries, creating a desirable security environment, and contributing to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security, by enhancing their security, law enforcement, and humanitarian response capabilities, including disaster response through the provision of equipment and supplies as well as assistance for the development of infrastructures.

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Attached: Photos'

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala and His Excellency, Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga in signing the Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) FY2025 Project to HMAF, funded by the Government of Japan.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala with H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao after the signing ceremony for OSA Project for Tonga on Friday 05 December 2025 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tonga.

