

**Embassy of Japan
Tonga**

PRESS RELEASE

*GGP/2026/05
30 June 2026*

Japan's GGP Handover of Fire Truck for Ha'apai Airport

His Excellency INAGAKI Hisao, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga, handed over a fire truck for Salote Pilolevu Airport in Ha'apai funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (GGP) on Tuesday, 30 June 2026.

Hon. Hua'akavameiliku, Minister for Public Enterprises attended the handover ceremony held at the Fua'amotu Airport. Mr. Tevita Kaitu'u Fotu, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Members of the Board for Tonga Airports Limited were also present at the ceremony along with Ms. Gladys Fukofuka, Acting CEO for Ministry of Finance, Mr. Poasi Tei, CEO for Tonga Airports Limited and other government officials.

The fire truck funded through Japan's GGP will be stationed at the Ha'apai Airport, and in addressing the occasion H.E. INAGAKI highlighted that "maintaining safe and reliable airport operations is essential for the wellbeing and economic development of the community."

"We hope that this vehicle will contribute to ensuring constant emergency readiness during airport operations, strengthening aviation safety, and enhancing the resilience of the Ha'apai community as a whole."

"This project reflects Japan's commitment in improving the safety and wellbeing of local communities. It also symbolizes the close and friendly relationships that has long existed between the people of Japan and Tonga," stated Ambassador INAGAKI.

CEO Tei acknowledged Japan's assistance strengthening critical infrastructure, aviation safety and preparedness, and firefighting capabilities at the Ha'apai Airport. He said that the airport had to rely on Tonga Police for their fire truck and services, but now they would be operating with their own fire truck.

Japan's GGP have benefitted over 300 projects in Tonga since 1990, addressing basic needs at the grassroots level.

END

Attached: Factsheet & Photos

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1) Project Title	The Project for the Procurement of Secondhand Fire Truck for Ha'apai Airport
Recipient	Tonga Airports Limited
Grant Amount	USD 61,340
Project Outline: - 1 Fire Truck (Donated by Aridagawa Town, Wakayama Prefecture)	

Photos:



Handover of the fire truck keys by H.E. Mr. Inagaki Hisao to Hon. Hu'akavameiliku Minister for Public Enterprises on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at Fua'amotu Airport.

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The fire truck funded by Japan's GGP handed over to Tonga's Airport Limited on Tuesday, 30 June 2026.



The address by Ambassador INAKAGI at the handover ceremony.

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The fire truck to be stationed at Salote Pilolevu Airport in Ha'apai.



The handover ceremony at Talia lounge, Fua'amotu Airport.