

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*GGP/2026/06*

*21 July 2026*

### **Japan's GGP Handover of the Water Supply System for Kanokupolu Village**

Mr. IWASAKI Taira, Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga, handed over the water supply system for Kanokupolu village's new settlement, implemented under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project, GGP, on Tuesday, 21 July 2026.

Japan's GGP funded the 2,543meters of the underground main water pipes, installed into the new settlement at Matatoa, in Tofoa.

Mr. IWASAKI in his address emphasized that "access to clean water is essential for maintaining a healthy life and good hygiene."

"I understand that the people of Kanokupolu have endured great hardship following the tsunami caused by the volcanic eruption in 2022. By relocating to a new settlement at a higher elevation, the people of Kanokupolu will be able to live in a safer environment, with a significantly reduced risk of being affected by future tsunamis."

"Through this GGP project, a new water supply system - an essential part of the infrastructure for the relocation site - has been installed, ensuring a reliable and stable supply of clean water for the community," said Mr. IWASAKI.

Mr. Metui Taukei'aho, Town Officer of Kanokupolu acknowledged the significant assistance from the Government of Japan supporting a reliable water supply system for the relocation of his village. The assistance will benefit every member of the community and encourage healthy living in the community as a whole.

Japan's GGP have benefitted over 300 projects across the Kingdom of Tonga since the 1990's, prioritizing development at the grassroots level.

END

Attached: Factsheet & Photos

# Embassy of Japan

## Tonga

|                                                 |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Project Title                                | The Project for the Water Supply System in Kanokupolu Village |
| Recipient                                       | Tonga Water Board                                             |
| Grant Amount                                    | USD 91,399                                                    |
| Project Outline:<br>- Main Water Pipes (2,543m) |                                                               |

### Photos:



Mr. IWASAKI Taira, Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga with Mr. Metui Taukei'aho, Town Officer of Kanokupolu after unveiling the GGP Project for main water pipes for Kanokupolu new settlement at Matatopa, on Tuesday, 21 July 2026

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The unveiling of the Project for the Kanokupolu new settlement.



Women and children of Kanokupolu village to benefit from Japan's GGP assistance to their water supply system.

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## Tonga



Mr. IWASAKI Taira, Mr. Metui Taukei'aho, Town Officer and Rev. Siua 'Atevalu along with members of the Kanokupolu community committee on Tuesday, 21 July 2026.