Embassy of Japan

Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

GGP/2026/07
21 October 2026

Japan formalized two Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects for Tonga

The Grant Contracts formalizing Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (GGP), for small-scale agricultural mechanization for Tongatapu, to be implemented by MORDI Tonga Trust, and the construction of an evacuation centre and community hall for Talihau village in Vava'u were signed on Wednesday, 21 October 2026, in Nuku'alofa.

His Excellency, Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, formalized the assistance with Mr. Soane Patolo Jr., CEO for MORDI and Mr. Kaulave Moala, Chairperson of Talihau Community Committee.

"Agriculture is a vital pillar of Tonga's economy and culture, yet many small-scale farmers still face challenges such as the physical toll of manual farming and labour shortages," stated the Ambassador.

"We hope this support will empower local families and strengthen local farmers' livelihoods."

MORDI will be provided with two tractors with 10 attachments, including planter and harvesting machines, a plant cutter, different types of ploughs, a lawn mower and a multi-purpose sprayer.

The new evacuation centre for Talihau village will be relocated to higher ground to secure the lives of residents. This centre will also serve as a vibrant community hub for disaster education, traditional handicraft making, and health workshops on ordinary days.

He expressed his hope, stating, "These projects will bring lasting benefits to the people of Tonga and further deepen the warm bond of friendship between our two countries."

Mr. Soane Patolo Jr., on behalf of the benefitting communities, acknowledged the generous assistance from the people and Government of Japan. "Today's signing reflects your willingness to listen to the needs of our communities and support their aspirations."

"This assistance brings practical opportunities to improve daily lives," said Mr. Patolo.

The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Finance's conference room, St. George Building.

END.

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PROJECT FACTSHEET:

1) Project Title	The Project for the Mechanization of Small-scale Agriculture in Tonga
Grant Amount	US$ 71,589
Project Components - 2 Tractors, 10 Attachments	

2) Project Title	The Project for the Construction of Talihau Evacuation Centre and Community Hall
Grant Amount	US$ 134,308
Project Components - 1 New Evacuation Centre/Community Hall Building	

Photos:



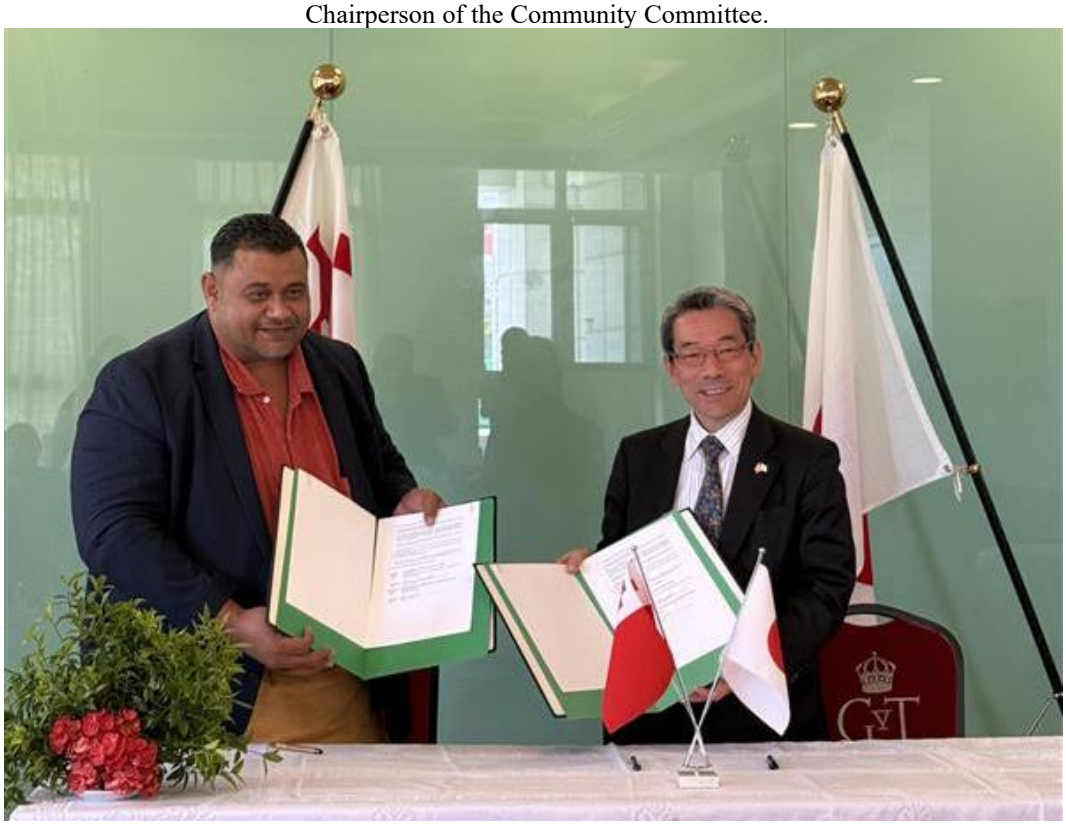
Ambassador INAGAKI with Mr. Soane Patolo Jr., CEO of MORDI (L) and
Mr. Kaulave Moala, Chairperson of Talihau Community Committee(R)

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Formalizing Japan's GGP Project for Talihau Village signed by Mr. Kaulave Moala, Chairperson of the Community Committee.



Mr. Soane Patolo Jr. signed for MORDI Tonga Trust's project for mechanization of small-scale agriculture in Tongatapu.

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The signing ceremony venue and facilitation was Tonga's Ministry of Finance, St George Building on Wednesday, 21 October 2026.



Ambassador INAGAKI with representatives from MORDI and Ministry of Finance

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Ambassador INAGAKI with representatives from Talihau Community and Ministry of Finance