

PRESS RELEASE

*JGA/2016/01
April 21, 2016*

Japan's Grant Aid for Upgrading Wharf for Domestic Transportation

On April 21, His Majesty King Tupou VI graced the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Project for Upgrading Wharf for Domestic Transportation funded by the Government of Japan at the Queen Salote Domestic Wharf, in Nuku'alofa. Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u honored the ceremony with her presence.

His Excellency Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga along with Honourable Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, H.E Sarah Walsh, New Zealand High Commissioner, H.E Andrew Ford, Australian High Commissioner, Lord Tu'ivakano, Speaker of Tonga's Legislative Assembly amongst notable guests attended the groundbreaking ceremony held from 2:00pm.

In the remarks from H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, he stated that the new wharf symbolizes Japan's recognition of people in Tonga's daily struggle to the wide dispersal of its small islands. "We as islanders through mutual concern for improving the safety of seafaring in the Kingdom of Tonga, have taken this initiative to help the country develop its sea transportation sector, in order to increase connectivity among the scattered islands and reduce people's isolation."

"Together we can build a prosperous future towards a society where every people benefit when we share knowledge, experience and technologies that are essential to our basic human needs and sustainability," stated the Ambassador.

Hon. Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister of Tonga in the remarks from the Government of Tonga acknowledged with deepest gratitude the munificent grant assistance from the people and Government of Japan. "A Port, in my view, is a gateway for economic development and is thus a key economic infrastructure," he said.

This Project for Upgrading the Wharf for Domestic Transport for the Kingdom of Tonga is part of the Japanese Grant Aid at a cost of \$3,320,000,000. Japanese Yen, which is equivalent to over \$66 million Tongan pa'anga, is aspired to contribute to Tonga's economic growth in a sustainable manner. The new domestic wharf will have two ship berthing areas with each having a length of 90 meters, a passenger terminal building on the principle of universal design with gentle sloped ramps at entrances and passageways will be partly powered by the solar panel installed on the roof.

The Project is expected to be completed by 2018 with its multi-functional facility to assist the Government of Tonga in preparation to host the 2019 Pacific Games.

END.

Attached: photos

Photos:



Groundbreaking rite and honours by His Majesty King Tupou VI, for the Project for Upgrading Wharf for Domestic Transportation funded by the Government of Japan.



H.E Mr. Yukio Numata following the groundbreaking rite and honours.

*For further enquires please contact: Ms. Hitomi Obata, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
Level 5, National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building / Telephone: 22-221 / Fax 27-025*



Speech from the Government of Japan by H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, 21 April 2016



His Majesty King Tupou VI and H.M Queen Nanasipau'u.



Mr. Stephen Edwards, Chairman of the Ports Authority Board of Directors, Hon. Poasi Tei, Minister for Public Enterprises, Hon. Tevita Lavemaau, Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Project for Upgrading Wharf for Domestic Transportation and Minister for Revenue and Customs, H.E Mr. Yukio Numata, Ambassador of Japan with Hon. Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister of Tonga at the groundbreaking ceremony.



Mr. Tetsumi Murata, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan in Tonga along with TOA Corporation Team and Consultant for the Project.