

Signing Ceremony of **The Project for the Construction of Punanga Marumaru Community** **Hall and Shelter**

On 27 February (local time), the Grant Contract for the Project for the Construction of Punanga Marumaru Community Hall and Shelter was signed under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) by Minister Kazuhiro Nakai of the Embassy of Japan to the Cook Islands and Ms. Kathleen George-Nubono, Principal of Catholic Education Trust and Parents/Teachers Association of St. Joseph School.

The Project will see the Government of Japan provide grant assistance of NZ\$210,500 to construct a community hall that can be used for a better and safer learning space for music and dancing lessons, school ceremonies for such as entrance and graduation, and various vocational trainings for the communities. It can be also used as emergency shelter in time of cyclones and other natural disasters.

Minister Nakai extended his appreciation for the Catholic Education Trust and Parents/Teachers Association's strong leadership and dedication, along with the tireless work for planning and designing the project. Minister Nakai concluded his remarks by saying, "The continuous efforts made by the Trust and PTA would create additional symbol of friendship and cooperation between Japan and the Cook Islands."

