



**Handing-over Ceremony of
THE PROJECTS FOR
THE REPAIR AND UPGRADE OF THE AITUTAKI COMMUNITY WATER TANKS
under
JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECT
Aitutaki**

On 28 September 2017, repairs and upgrades to the Aitutaki Community Water Tanks was handed over to the Aitutaki Community. The project received a grant of up to one hundred fifty seven thousand one hundred and eighty-one (NZ\$ 157,181) New Zealand dollars in fiscal year 2016 under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

This project saw the ten (10) water tanks repaired in six (6) villages and two (2) water-buildings constructed to replace those blown away by cyclone Pat in 2010. The project aims to improve the destroyed potable water storage capacity in the Aitutaki community and assist in enhancing community resilience during periods of low rainfall, along with mitigating the impact of climate change on the island community. The waterbuildings will also provide space for the women's crafting community in Aitutaki as well as many tourists since Aitutaki is the one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Cook Islands. It will also improve the response to fires during dry seasons by improving water storage capacity. This is the thirteenth (13th) GGP project in the Cook Islands since GGP was introduced in the Cook Islands in 2011.

In closing his address, Ambassador Toshihisa Takata extended his congratulations on the completion of this project and expressed his appreciation to the Aitutaki Local Government for assisting the well-being of the local people and community and for all the hard and tireless work of all those involved in this projects' successful completion. He also hoped that through the Aitutaki Local Governments' and the communities' of six (6) villages ongoing due care and maintenance, the repaired and upgraded community water tanks would be additional symbols of friendship and cooperation between Japan and the Cook Islands.

(End)



