

Press Release

Embassy of Japan to the Cook Islands



**Handing-over Ceremony of
THE PROJECT FOR
THE PROVISION OF AERIAL LADDER TRUCK TO THE FIRE RESCUE STATION IN
TEIMURIMOTIA
under
JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY
PROJECT
Rarotonga**

Today, on 12 July 2019, a 15 meter Aerial Ladder Truck was handed over and week-long specialist training programme was completed for the Brigade of the Fire and Rescue Station in Teimurimotia. The project received a grant of up to one hundred and thirty-two thousand and five hundred twenty-seven (NZ\$ 132,527) New Zealand dollars in fiscal year 2018 under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

This project aims to improve the Brigade's capacity to promptly and effectively respond to fire outbreaks, natural disasters and other emergencies in multi-floored buildings along with providing an immediate emergency response to not only the Teimurimotia community, but also the wider populace of Rarotonga, including residents and businesses. Due to urbanization and increasing numbers of tourists in recent years, the Brigade's role and responsibility have grown to cover not only 2,000 people in the Teimurimotia area but more than 10,000 people and tourists throughout Rarotonga. This is the twenty-first (21th) GGP project completed in the Cook Islands since GGP was introduced to the Cook Islands in 2011.

In closing his address, Ambassador Kobayashi expressed his appreciation to the training specialists from the Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy and the Brigade's members for their close cooperation. He wished that the Teimurimotia Fire and Rescue Station becomes a good example and a role model to other fire and rescue stations in the Cook Islands.

(End)

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