

**The Signing Ceremony of the Grant Contract for the Project for  
The Establishment of the Fire Rescue Station and Provision of Fire Trucks to Aitutaki Under  
Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)  
At Wellington New Zealand**

On 22 January 2020, the Grant Contract for Project for the Establishment of the Fire Rescue Station in Aitutaki and Provision of a Fire Pump Truck and a Tank Truck under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security (GGP) was signed by Ambassador of Japan to the Cook Islands, Hiroyasu Kobayashi and Mr Paul Maoate, Chairman and Trustee of Aitutaki Volunteer Fire Rescue Brigade Charitable Trust (AVFBCT) at the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand.

In this Project, the Government of Japan provided AVFBCT a grant of NZ\$241,573 for a permanent fire rescue station and two (2) fire trucks: one is a 4 wheel-drive pump truck and the other is 9,000-litre water tank truck. Mr Maoate said that Aitutaki people were not able to respond to bush and house fires sufficiently due to the lack of a fire station and fire trucks, so he is delighted that AVFBCT will be assisted by Japan at this time. Mr Maoate added all Aitutaki people benefit from the Project once it is completed, and he was deeply grateful to the Government and people of Japan.



Ambassador Kobayashi's speech



Exchange of Grant Contracts: Chairman Mr Paul Maoate (left) , Ambassador Kobayashi (right)



From left, Mr Makimare, Mr Rota Ariki, Mr Maoate, and Ambassador Kobayashi

(end)