

Signing Ceremony of the Grant Contract for
THE PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE OUTDOOR AREA FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OF VAITAU SCHOOL
under
JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY
PROJECTS (GGP)

On 4 March 2023, the Grant Contract for the Project for Development of Safe Outdoor Area for Early Childhood Education of Vaitau School under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed by Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Tatsushi Nishioka of the Embassy of Japan in the Cook Islands, and by Ms Linda Ruamoana, the Chairman of the Apii Vaitau Committee at the Vaitau School in Aitutaki, Cook Islands.

Under this scheme, Japan will provide NZ\$90,570 to the Apii Vaitau Committee to create a dedicated outdoor space in front of the early childhood education classroom at Vaitau Primary School in Vaipae/Tautu Village, Aitutaki Island, Cook Islands. The outdoor space will have a fence to prevent children from walking out of the school and an extended roof to block direct sunlight, helping to improve the safe environment for early childhood students and teachers.

Mr Nishioka commented at the ceremony: "The Cook Islands and Japan has a history of 12 years of diplomatic relations and I am proud of the history of our relations. We are very far away to each other, as we are here at the South Pacific, and Japan is at the North Pacific. However, we are living together in the same Pacific Ocean. Visit of the people between two countries has been suspended for a while because of COVID19, but the cooperation between our two countries has never suspended so far."

