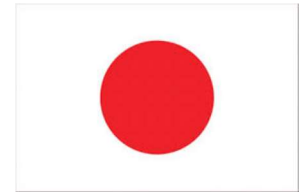


Press Release

Embassy of Japan in the Cook Islands

September 28th 2023



Signing of the Grant Contract in Rarotonga and Handing Over Ceremony for Two Projects in Mangaia

under JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS (GGP)

The Grant Contract for the Project for Roof Renovation of Imanuela Akatemia School in Rarotonga Island under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed on 21 September 2023 by Ms Ingrid Kelly-Jubilee, Chairperson of Imanuela Akatemia School Board in the presence of First Secretary Takahashi in Rarotonga, and on 28 September 2023 by Ambassador ITO Koichi at the Embassy of Japan in Wellington respectively. This grassroots project is the 33rd project Japan has supported since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands in 2011. The project enables the School Board to replace the rusted veranda roof of the Imanuela Akatemia School building as well as the deteriorated gutter and water tank. This will create a safer and more hygienic educational environment for students and teachers, thereby contribute to improving and enhancing the quality of education.

On 22 September 2023, in Mangaia, Cook Islands, a handover ceremony was held for the two projects on Mangaia Island, "Project for the Construction of Water Irrigation System for Sustainable Taro Plantation in Puna Tavaenga Village in Mangaia" and "Project for the Construction of the Facility for Forest Resources Management (Sawmill & Community Educational Class) in Mangaia". These were the fourth and fifth projects that took place in Mangaia. The irrigation system will support food production and improve food security in Mangaia. The sawmill facility is expected to provide affordable timber and woodworking skills to community members and contribute to long-term forestry management.



Ms Ingrid Kelly-Jubilee, Chairperson of Imanuela Akatemia School Board (Left) and Tetsumi Takahashi, First Secretary of Embassy of Japan (Right)



ITO Koichi
Ambassador of Japan to Cook Islands



Students gather for the celebration



Dance performance by Imanuela
Akatemala school students



Water tanks in Puna Tavaenga village
in Mangaia



Sawmill training at the facility for
Forest Resources Management in
Mangaia

(End)

For Further Information:
Embassy of Japan in the Cook Islands
TEL: 64-4-495-8315 Email: development@wl.mofa.go.jp