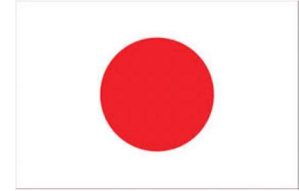


Press Release

Embassy of Japan in the Cook Islands

March 4th 2024



Signing of the Grant Contract in Rarotonga and Hand-Over Ceremonies in Rarotonga, Mauke and Aitutaki

under

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

The Grant Contract for the Project for the Extension of Facilities at the Creative Centre under GGP was signed on 28th February 2024 by Ms. Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Chairperson of the Creative Centre in the presence of First Secretary Takahashi in Rarotonga, and on 4th March 2024 by Ambassador ITO at the Embassy of Japan in Wellington respectively. This is the 34th GGP project supported by Japan in the Cook Islands. This grant will enable the Creative Centre to expand its deck space in order to provide a safe vocational training and learning space for people with disabilities and thereby improving their social welfare and livelihoods.

Between 22nd and 27th February, the following hand-over ceremonies for five GGP projects were held:

- On the 22nd, in Rarotonga, a handover ceremony for “The Project for Provision of Agricultural Machineries in Rarotonga Island” was held. Under this project, agricultural equipment including three tractors and trailers were procured and have been utilised through the Ministry of Agriculture as a low-cost tractor hire service.
- On the 26th, in Mauke, a handover ceremony for “The Project for Establishment of Water Tanks in Mauke Island” took place. Installation of the water tanks will not only improve water security for the residents, but also nurture the technical skills necessary for its maintenance, which will be passed on to future generations as an asset for the people of Mauke.
- On the 27th, in Aitutaki, a handover ceremony was held for three projects: The Project for the Construction of the Araura Primary School Multipurpose Hall and Cyclone Shelter, The Project for the Establishment of the Fire Rescue Station and Provision of fire Trucks to Aitutaki and The Project for Development of Safe Outdoor Area for Early Childhood Education of Vaitau School. These projects are aimed for improving the safety and welfare of the people of Aitutaki.

Japan has been assisting the Cook Islands through GGP since 2011. To date, Japan has supported Cook Islands at the grassroots level by providing a total of NZ\$ 4,337,102 through GGP."



Hand-over ceremony for “Project for Provision of Agricultural Machineries in Rarotonga Island”



Hand-over ceremony for “Project for Establishment of Water Tanks in Mauke Island”



Hand-over ceremony for “Project for the Construction of the Araura Primary School Multipurpose Hall and Cyclone Shelter”



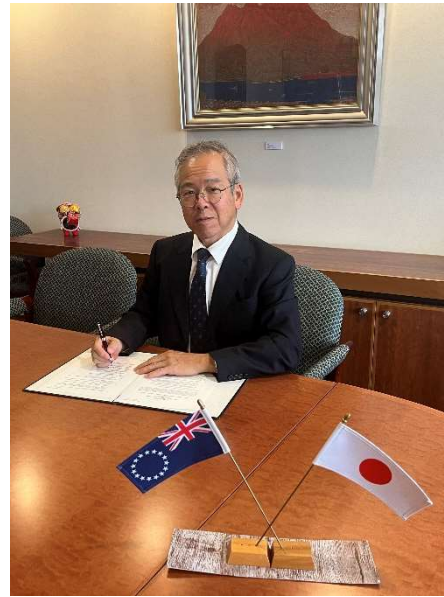
Hand-over ceremony for “Project for the Establishment of the Fire Rescue Station and Provision of fire Trucks to Aitutaki”



Hand-over ceremony for “Project for Development of Safe Outdoor Area for Early Childhood Education of Vaitau School”



Ms, Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Chairperson of the Creative Centre signing the Grand Contract in the presence of First Secretary Takahashi in Rarotonga



Ambassador ITO Koichi signing the Grand Contract at the Embassy of Japan in Wellington

(End)

For Further Information:
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