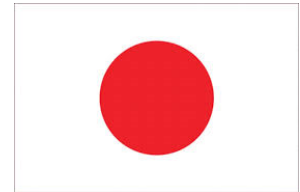


Press Release

Embassy of Japan in Cook Islands



**Handover Ceremony of the Grant Contract for
THE PROJECT FOR
ROOF RENOVATION OF IMANUELA AKATEMIA SCHOOL
under
JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS
in Rarotonga, The Cook Islands**

On 10 May 2024, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Cook Islands, Mr. OSAWA Makoto, attended a handover ceremony to commemorate the successful completion of the “Project for Roof Renovation of Imanuela Akatemia School” under Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) in Rarotonga.

The Government of Japan provided a grant amount of NZ\$114,102 for the school facility renovation implemented within the framework of GGP. This grassroots project is the 33rd project Japan has supported since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands in 2011.

Prior to the implementation, the Imanuela Akatemia School required the replacement of the rusted veranda roof, deteriorated gutter, and water tank. Since then, a new roof and necessary equipment have been installed. This will enable the school to create a safer and more hygienic educational environment for students and teachers, contributing to the enhancement of the quality of education.

During the ceremony, Ambassador OSAWA remarked, “Today I am delighted to celebrate the completion of the project with you all. I sincerely hope that the school facility and equipment will be maintained well and used for many years to come, to be enjoyed by future students and residents of the next generation.”

Along with Principal Pita Bolatoga Senibiakula and Chairperson Ingrid Kelly Jubilee from Imanuela Akatemia School, the handover ceremony was also attended by Mr. Owen Lewis, Secretary of Ministry of Education, Pastor Tevai Matapo, Co-founder of Imanuela Akatemia, Landowner Mokoroa-Kauvai Family, parents and students. The attendees, in turn, expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their support.

The Government of Japan has been supporting Cook Islands through GGP since 2011 in the areas of education, health and sustainable growth. It is hoped that this assistance will help further strengthen the friendly ties between the Governments and people of Japan and the Cook Islands.



Chairperson Ingrid Kelly Jubilee (left), Principal Pita Bolatoga Senibiakula from Imanuela Akatemia School (right), and Ambassador OSAWA Makoto (centre)



Attendees' entry and Speech by Ambassador OSAWA

(End)

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