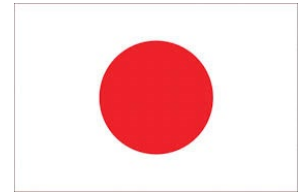


Press Release

Embassy of Japan in Cook Islands



**Handover Ceremonies held at
Puaikura Fire Brigade and the Creative Centre
for
JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS
in Rarotonga, The Cook Islands**

On 18 October 2024, two handover ceremonies were held in Rarotonga to mark the successful completion of the "Project for Improvement of Puaikura Fire Station" and the "Project for the Extension of Facilities at the Creative Centre", both funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

For the Puaikura Fire Station, the Government of Japan funded for expansion of the fire station, providing new rescue and training equipment, and delivering an emergency vehicle. The completed improvements now include an indoor parking space for fire engines, facilitating quicker emergency responses. The newly supplied vehicle and equipment are expected to significantly enhance the Fire Brigade's disaster response capabilities, thereby increasing the overall safety of Rarotonga's residents and visitors.

For the Creative Centre, the Government of Japan funded for the expansion of the vocational learning facility. The extension of the Creative Centre's deck space is expected to provide a safe vocational training and learning space for people with disabilities, thereby improving their social welfare and livelihoods.

Ms. Naoko HAYASHI, Economic Advisor, attended each ceremony to convey Ambassador Osawa's message, which congratulated both parties on the successful completion of the project and wished both upgraded facilities and equipment to be well-maintained and serve the community for many years as a token of friendship between the Cook Islands and Japan.

To date, the Japanese Government has supported more than 35 projects through GGP since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands in 2011. It is hoped that this continued assistance will create additional symbols of friendship and cooperation between the Governments and people of Japan and the Cook Islands.

Handover Ceremony for the Creative Centre



Handover Ceremony for the Puaikura Fire Brigade



(End)

For Further Information:
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