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the People of Japan

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Japan formalizes provision of Chemical Fire Truck for Tanna Airport

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth up to VUV\$45.8million (US\$429,953) to Airports Vanuatu Limited (AVL) for the procurement of a Chemical Fire Truck through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

H.E. Mr. CHIBA Hirohisa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Vanuatu, and Mr. Jason Rakau, Chief Executive Officer of AVL will formalize Japan's assistance at a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony to be held at 10.00am, 19 March at the VIP Lounge, Port Vila International Airport Terminal.

### 1. Basic information

- (1) Project title: The Project for Provision of Chemical Fire Truck to White-Grass Airport
- (2) Donor: Embassy of Japan in Vanuatu
- (3) Recipient: Airports Vanuatu Limited
- (4) Grant amount: VUV\$45.8million (US\$429,953)

### 2. Project outline

White Grass Airport, re-named Tanna Airport, is one of 3 major airports in Vanuatu. The Airport was established in 1995, which is located on the island of Tanna and is managed by Airports Vanuatu Limited.

Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting is an essential part of an airports operation and this is not an exception to Tanna Airport. However, their fire fighting service also extends to the community as being the only fire-safety provider on the island of Tanna. Occasionally the service switches to include carting water to schools during dry seasons and water pump failures.

At present, Tanna Airport has two fire trucks, one of which is not in a serviceable condition. As a temporary measure, AVL transferred a fire-truck from the Port Vila Airport to assist with operations. With future plans to upgrade the airport to Category 6 of the International Civil Aviation Organization standard, AVL needs a more permanent solution in strengthening its Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting service at Tanna Airport.

In support of AVL's efforts and recognising the need to enhance its fire fighting capacity not only for the airport but also for the community, the Government of Japan will provide a chemical fire truck packaged with necessary training on its use and maintenance, to AVL.

This project will enhance airport operations in safety and compliance to international requirements whilst strengthening the firefighting capacity of Tanna Airport.

GGP is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people from the grassroots level. GGP in Vanuatu has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health and transportation since 1996. To date, more than 131 projects have been implemented under GGP in Vanuatu, which amount to an approximate value of USD \$10.7 million.

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Ms. Mele Raturaga on email address: [mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and telephone number: (+679) 3304633.

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