
Speech by H.E. CHIBA Hirohisa,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Vanuatu
at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
for the Project for Provision of Chemical Fire Truck to White-Grass Airport
at VIP Lounge, International Airport Terminal, Port Vila,
at 10:00a.m. on Friday, 19 March 2021

- Mr. August Letlet, Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management,
- Mr. Johnson Binaru, Director General of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities,
- Mr. Iaken Kiero, Chairman of Airports Vanuatu Limited Board of Directors,
- Ms. Anna Salwai, Director of Vanuatu Project Management Unit (VPMU),
- Ms. Jacky Langati, Director of Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu (CAAV)
- Ms. Anna Bule, Head of Aid Coordination and Negotiation Unit of the Prime Minister's Office
- Mr. Mark Stafford, Director of Airports Vanuatu Limited,
- Mr. Jason Rakau, Chief Executive Officer of Airports Vanuatu Limited.
- Officers from VPMU, DESPAC and representatives of other organizations,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gud moning long yumi evriwan, Ohayou gozaimasu.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded to me by Airports Vanuatu Limited this morning.

It is my great honor to attend this ceremony today with you all, and on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan to sign the Grant Contract with the representative of Airports Vanuatu Limited for a Japan's Grant Assistance of funding approximately Four Hundred and Thirty Thousand US

dollars for the Project for Provision of Chemical Fire Truck to White-Grass Airport. The fire engine which has 6,000 liter capacity will be utilized at White-Grass Airport or Tanna Airport as its new name now which does not have its own fire truck for the moment. The Island of Tanna is one of the main tourist spots in Vanuatu and also a trading hub in the southern part of the nation. Therefore, it is an absolute necessity to upgrade the safety level of the airport operations through, among others, strengthening its fire-fighting capabilities at the runway with its own fire engine. We are really happy to be able to fulfill the need at last upon the request of Airports Vanuatu Limited.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project is realized under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects or GGP in short, and it will be implemented in cooperation with the Society of Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy (SPJD), an organization that will facilitate the procurement of the chemical fire engine along with the provision of spare parts and with necessary training services. I am also pleased to inform you that Japan has been supporting Vanuatu's efforts to promote grass-roots community development through GGP, a unique assistance scheme of Japan's ODA which will benefit directly grass-roots people and their communities. More than 130 GGP projects have been implemented in Vanuatu since 1996, with the total value exceeding 10.7 million US dollars.

Happy Invited Guests,

I am confident that the deployment of this modern chemical fire truck at Tanna Airport will be strong support to address challenges they face more effectively so that it can boost fire-fighting capabilities of the airport and enhance the safety of daily operations to meet international standards required.

It is also expected that the truck will provide additional services for the people living in the surrounding areas of the airport as the facilities at the airport have been playing a key functional role as a base for local activities of fire-fighting and disaster prevention for many years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, I sincerely request you, the distinguished representatives of AVL, to exercise proper care and timely maintenance of the fire engine, ensuring its longevity in the service of the people of Vanuatu.

I conclude with confidence that this project will further strengthen the cooperative relations and friendship between the governments and the peoples of Japan and Vanuatu in the future.

Tangkyu tumas. Arigatou Gozaimashita.