
**Speech by H.E. Mr. CHIBA Hirohisa,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Vanuatu,
at the Handing-Over Ceremony for Banban Primary School
at Banban Primary School, Banban, Santo,
2.00pm, 14 January 2021**

- 1) PEO* SANMA Education Office – Mr. Paul Thompson Wari
- 2) SEO* Property and Maintenance – Mr. Chapman Mogeror
- 3) PEO* Administration and Asset Management Unit – Mr. Samson Sawan
- 4) SANMA Provincial Government Councillors at South East Santo area, Councilor Sylvio Moli and Councilor Joel Tari,
- 5) Area Secretary South East Santo – Mr. Ellie Kalnpel
- 6) Chief Barnabas Visi
- 7) Land Representative – Mr. Moses Moli
- 8) School Chairman – Mr. Deodeo Luke
- 9) Chairman of School Community Association – Mr. Rollyn Visi
- 10) Treasurer of School Community Association – Pastor Ron Bule
- 11) SANMA Education Financial Officer – Mr. Joplin Tambe
- 12) School Improvement Officer – Ms. Susan Balesa
- 13) Banban School Principal – Mr. Joe Timothy
- 14) Bombua High School Principal – Mr. Peter Brian
- 15) Teachers, Students, Boys and Girls and Parents,
- 16) All the Community Members,

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Konichiwa and a very Good Afternoon,

- **First of all, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the warm welcome accorded to me.**
- **Today, on behalf of the People and the Government of Japan, I am honoured to hand over this new fully furnished classroom block, equipped with two water tanks, to the Banban Primary School.**
- **This project was formalised in 2017 upon the request by the school management and the Ministry of Education and Training to address the overcrowded**

classrooms caused by the rapid growing population settled in the suburban districts of Luganville.

- **The Government of Japan, as a response, provided funding worth around Eighty Four Thousands US Dollars (USD\$84,504) or approximately Seven Million Seven Hundred Thousands Vanuatu Vatu (VT 7,708,994) for this project under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme or GGP in short.**
- **The GGP Programme is a part of overall Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) which is implemented by the Embassy of**

Japan to empower people from the grassroots level.

- **The GGP Programme in Vanuatu has been widely implemented in various areas including that of education. To date, Japan has implemented more than 130 projects under this programme in Vanuatu, which amount to an approximate value of USD 10.3 million, and around 60% of them have been contributed to the education sector.**
- **It is because that Japan truly realizes that education or human resources development has the vital importance for the nation building of a country including Vanuatu.**

- **I am more than happy to witness the completion of these high standard education facilities in Banban Primary School, which I can officially hand over today.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **In the formalisation process of this project, Japan had expressed our hope that this building would be also able to provide a safe haven for the community during natural disasters. As such, we were glad to hear that this building withstood the damaging winds caused by TC Harold and provided refuge to families in the Banban community.**

- **For this, we acknowledge the quality work carried out by the Ministry of Education in ensuring the construction of this building complied with Category 5 standards.**
- **The Government of Japan is taking a lead role in promoting Disaster Risk Reduction in this region, and this project has really become an impressive testament to its climate resilient infrastructure.**
- **It is important for us to realize that rebuilding school facilities should be conducive not only to better learning environment but also to promotion of resilience against natural disasters in line**

with the spirit of “Build Back Better.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the due care and good maintenance will be undertaken by teachers, school managers as well as other responsible authorities and all people of the community of Banban Primary School to ensure that this new classroom block and equipment will continue to serve you all and your children for many years to come.**
- **Thank you for your great cooperation, and I conclude with confidence that this project will be**

**a fantastic symbol of a bond of
friendship between the people of
Vanuatu and the people of Japan.**

**Tank You Tumas and Arigato
Gozaimashita.**

The End.