



From
the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Hands Over Brand New Vehicles to Vanuatu Red Cross Society

The Government of Japan provided VT\$6,093,725 to Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) for the procurement of two brand new 4wd vehicles, under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

H.E. Mr. CHIBA Hirohisa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Vanuatu, will hand over the new vehicles to VRCS at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at Vanuatu Red Cross Headquarters, Port Vila.

1. Basic Information

- (a) Project title: The Project for Provision of Emergency Response Vehicles to Vanuatu Red Cross Society
- (b) Donor: Government of Japan
- (c) Total funding: VT6,093,725 (US\$54,701)

2. Project Outline

The VRCS plays a critical role during and post natural disasters, by closely working with the local communities in recruiting volunteers and operationalizing relief assistance from international donors. However, they faced challenges in reaching most remote households in need of aid and essential services due to the poor road conditions and limited availability of road transport on the outer islands of Vanuatu. Currently, the VRCS does not own vehicles in the Santo and Pentecost branches; therefore, having volunteers and relief distribution teams heavily dependent on public transport for such emergencies.

Aligning with the efforts of the VRCS, the Government of Japan funded the procurement of 2 brand new 4wd vehicles to be based at Santo and Pentecost.

These vehicles, funded under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), will address the transport challenges faced by the VRCS in the islands of Santo and Pentecost and enable the ease of access to emergency assistance by the households living in remote areas of these islands.

The GGP is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people from the grassroots level. The GGP in Vanuatu has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health and transportation since 1996. To date, more than 130 projects have been implemented under the GGP, which amount to an approximate value of USD 10.3 million.

You are most welcome to the ceremony. For further queries, please contact Ms. Mele Raturaga on email address: mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp and phone number: (679) 3304633.

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