Statement of Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State on December 13, 2019

The Hon. Petrick Ringlen, Mayor, Madolenihmw Municipal Government,

The Hon. Shelten Neth, Senator, Pohnpei State Legislature,

Other Dignitaries of Pohnpei State and Madolenihmw Municipality,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, for the Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to US$ 89,647.

On the occasion of the visit of the Hon. Kono Taro, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific Island Countries in last August, Minister Kono proposed the cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island Countries for a future that is Active, Opportunity-filled, and Innovative, i.e. the AOI future.

On the occasion of visit of H. E. Mr. David Panuelo, President of the FSM to Japan last month, H.E. Mr. Abe Shinzo, Prime Minister of Japan stated that Japan would strengthen support for the FSM’s sustainable economic and social development.

This Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State is the first new project being committed by the Government of Japan after the summit meeting between our two countries.

In response to the request from the Madolenihmw Municipal Government, the Government of Japan decided to finance the provision of a Garbage Truck to address the environmental problems arising out of littering and accumulation of the wastes in the Municipality.

The Madolenihmw Municipal Government plans to mobilize the Garbage Truck to be provided periodically to collect wastes from each area of the Municipality every month, and the Truck will reduce sizes of the wastes so that it will be able to collect 22 times larger amount of the wastes compared to the current capacity of waste collection.

This will be in conformity with the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision that aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach announced in the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration in last June.

Congratulations!

I hope that the project will proceed smoothly and contribute to the improvement of the environment of Madolenihmw, and the Garbage Truck will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thank you.