Statement of Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Procuring a Portable X-ray Machine in Chuuk State

on January 9, 2020

The Hon. Mark Mailo, Lt. Governor,

Mr. Julio Marar, Director, Department of Health Services,

and Other Officials and Members of the Government and the Hospital of Chuuk State,

The Hon. Roger S. Mori, currently Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Japan,

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 Portable X-ray Machine in Chuuk State, amounting to up to US$ 85,850.

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 August last year, 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 in November last year, H.E. Mr. Abe Shinzo, Prime Minister of Japan stated that Japan would strengthen support for the FSM’s sustainable economic and social development.

While Weno Island has a general hospital, in the other islands of Chuuk State there are only smaller health posts, if available, without beds for inpatients with limited kinds of medicine and equipment.

The limited availability of transportation between these islands and Weno Island as well as the costs of the transportation prevent many people in these islands from coming to Weno Island for medical services.

Thus sick people there have difficulty in accessing to appropriate medical services, which may result in tragic death.

One particular problem in Chuuk State is the prevalence of Tuberculosis (TB).

Already Chuuk has the bad reputation - I am sorry to say this - of the large prevalence of TB.

So some arrangements are needed.

Under the circumstances, upon the request from the Department of Health Services, Chuuk State, the Government of Japan decided to finance the provision of a portable X-ray machine, so that the machine will be brought to remote islands in Chuuk to check the health of the people there, including TB, which will pave the way for early finding of illness and for necessary treatment.

As the authorities in Chuuk plan to commence the mobilization of the X-ray machine to Tol Island and Polle Island, to begin with, their 6,000 residents will be the first beneficiaries of this project.

Congratulations!

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly and contribute to the good health of the people of Chuuk, and the portable X-ray machine will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thank you.