Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Signing Ceremony of the Project for Procuring Woodchipper in the Awak Community, Pohnpei State

on Wednesday 18 March 2020

Mr. William Kostka, Executive Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust,

Mr. Pakardy Ramirez, Vice President, Awak Farmers’ Association,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor 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 Woodchipper in the Awak Community, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to 72,923 US Dollars.

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

We appreciate the activities of Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) which has been promoting the protection of the environment through the utilization of woodchipper, among its other activities.

While the vast majority of farmers in Pohnpei keep pigs, as excreta of pigs have a number of pathogenic microbes such as Leptospirosis and Escherichia coli, the water contaminated by them threatens spread of infectious diseases.

Against this background, MCT has been implementing and promoting the dry litter system using a woodchipper for shredding disposed wood products into woodchips to be mixed with excreta of pigs, so that the mixed materials would become disinfected manures.

About half of the farmers in U Municipality, the project site for the dry litter system by MCT, have adopted this system.

However, the woodchipper which had been used for the system, owned by the Agriculture section of the Department of Economic Affairs, Pohnpei State Government, went out of order.

Under the circumstances, MCT requested the Government of Japan to provide financial assistance to obtain a new woodchipper and a small truck, and to improve their storage facility along the Awak River in U Municipality, so that MCT may continue and further promote the dry litter system, contributing to the protection of the environment.

The Government of Japan considered the request and decided to respond positively.

If completed, the project will benefit about 900 people living along the Awak River, and about 50 farmers who will receive the woodchips and their family members, as they will be able to avoid hygiene and health problems.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of U Municipality, contributing also to that of Pohnpei State, as well as that of the FSM.

Thank you.