Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Handover Ceremony of FY 2016 Economic and Social Development Programme on Wednesday 23 September 2020

The Hon. Reed Oliver, Governor, Pohnpei State,

The Hon. Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor,

Mrs. Suzanne Gallen, Chief of Staff,

Directors and Senior Officials of Pohnpei State,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this handover ceremony of FY 2016 Economic and Social Development Programme, for infrastructure sector cooperation by the Government of Japan.

The total amount committed for this grant programme was up to 350 million Japanese Yen or approximately 3.2 million US Dollars, and about 80 million Japanese Yen or around 740 thousand US Dollars was allocated for use by each of the 4 States of the FSM.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership and all those concerned in Pohnpei State Government for their efforts to fight COVID-19.

I hope we will win this fight.

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

In Pohnpei State, infrastructure development, among other initiatives, is under way, and using the above-mentioned grant from Japan, the following units of equipment have been procured to the following Departments:

* 1 biological coagulation analyzer to the Department of Health Services.
* 2 water tank trucks to the Department of Public Safety.
* 2 wood chippers, one to the Department of Research and Development and the other to the Environmental Protection Agency.
* 2 dump trucks and 4 excavators to the Pohnpei Transportation Authority.

These units of equipment have arrived in Pohnpei from July to this month.

We understand that the 4 excavators have already been mobilized to construct quarantine facilities in preparation for receiving the Pohnpei citizens and residents from abroad for the first time since March this year, and we are glad that Japan’s cooperation is effectively and efficiently utilized to counter COVID-19.

Other units of equipment should be utilized for Pohnpei’s economic and social infrastructure development, including strengthening the State Hospital and other public services.

In conclusion, I hope that the equipment procured from Japan will contribute to sustainable economic and social development of Pohnpei State.

Thank you.