Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Project for Construction of New Recycling Center, Pohnpei State

on Wednesday 7 October 2020

The Hon. Reed Oliver, Governor, Pohnpei State,

The Hon. Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor,

The Hon. Stevick Edwin, Vice Speaker, representing the Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature,

Your Highness Mr. John Adolph, Iso Nahnken of Madolenihmw, and Administrator, Office of Transportation and Infrastructure,

Mr. Henry Susaia, Executive Officer, Environmental Protection Agency,

Other Officials of Pohnpei State present,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this groundbreaking ceremony of the New Recycling Center, Pohnpei State.

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.

Last March, I and the Executive Officer of the EPA who is present here signed a grant contract of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan for the Project for Construction of New Recycling Center, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to 87,609 US Dollars.

The recycling center plays an important role for reducing the volumes of the wastes, and even generating incomes through the Container Deposit Legislation Program under way now.

I have heard that, by this Program, a total of about 15 million aluminum cans have been recovered from 2017 to date.

However, the location and the size of the current recycling center are not ideal to collect a large number of cans properly, or to avoid the traffic congestion at the time of collection, causing problems for smooth implementation of the program.

Furthermore, the piles of the cans waiting to be pressed have caused an environmental problem with gathering mosquitoes and other insects.

The new recycling center, if constructed, will be able to collect and pressure to downsize additional 4 million aluminum cans.

The traffic here will be much better than at the current recycling center.

I hope that no such an environmental problem as is existing in the current recycling center will take place here.

Furthermore, the habit of recycling taking root in Pohnpei people will nurture the culture against littering.

Thus this project should benefit all 36,000 people living in Pohnpei Island.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly, and contribute to sustainable economic and social development of Pohnpei State.

Thank you.