Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Handover Ceremony for Kapingamarangi Drought Recovery and Support for Conservation Equipment on Tuesday 17 November 2020

The Hon. Reed Oliver, Governor, Pohnpei State,

The Hon. Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor,

The Hon. Casinda Ludwig, Senator of the Pohnpei State Legislature from Kapingamarangi,

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

Senior Officials Present,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to be here at the handover ceremony of Kapingamarangi Drought Recovery and Support for Conservation Equipment, and say a few words.

The Federated States of Micronesia and Japan have historical bonds; Kizuna, and long-standing friendly and cooperative relations.

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

This year the Government of Japan has committed various new development cooperation projects for the FSM, including the grant assistance to procure medical equipment made in Japan to fight COVID-19, amounting to up to about 3.5 million US Dollars.

In addition to the cooperation from the Government of Japan, there have been, and I am sure that there will continue to be various cooperation projects and programs for the FSM from the private organizations of Japan, including APIC.

APIC, i.e. the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, is a private foundation based in Tokyo, whose aim is to strengthen relations between Japan and the nations in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

Vis-à-vis the FSM, APIC has implemented various development cooperation projects in the FSM and invitation and scholarship programs in Japan for both the leaders and the youth of the FSM.

As a severe drought hit Kapingamarangi Atoll, resulting in the loss of taro, breadfruit and coconut crops, affecting the inhabitants there, the Micronesian Conservation Trust, or MCT requested APIC its cooperation, and APIC decided to donate 20,000 US Dollars for the purpose of purchasing 8 units of 1,000 gallon water tank in Pohnpei Island to be shipped to Kapingamarangi Atoll.

This is APIC’s second cooperation for procuring water tanks in the FSM this year.

In last April, APIC donated also 20,000 US Dollars for MCT to purchase 10 units of 1,500 gallon water tank and deploy them in Weno Island, Chuuk State, which was affected by a severe drought earlier this year.

I have got the message from Ambassador Peter Sato, President of APIC, as follows:

“We are pleased to work with the Micronesia Conservation Trust to help alleviate the terrible suffering caused by the droughts on Kapingamarangi and on Weno. The 18 water tanks purchased and installed at the strategic locations will reduce the likelihood that the next drought will cause so much suffering.”

In conclusion, I hope that the water tank placement will proceed smoothly, and the water tanks donated by APIC will develop to become another symbol of friendship between Japan and the FSM.

Thank you.