Statement of Ambassador SOBASHIMA Hidenobu at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Improving School Environment for Palikir Elementary School, Pohnpei State on December 10, 2020

The Hon. Reed Oliver, Governor, Pohnpei State,

Mr. Stanley Etse, Director, Department of Education, Pohnpei State,

Mr. Francisco Ifamilik, Principal, Palikir Elementary School,

Officials of Pohnpei State Government Present,

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 Improving School Environment for Palikir Elementary School, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to US$ 76,693.

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 support for the FSM’s sustainable economic and social development.

Children will be leaders of tomorrow.

They are gemstones to be polished by education to become jewels.

According to the information which we have, Palikir Elementary School accommodates 246 girls and 288 boys with 23 teachers and staff members.

However, as for the restrooms of the school, currently only one room, out of the four rooms, is in service, compelling a long queue of students there, resulting in their delay at classes, causing also safety and health concerns.

The lack of roofs between the restrooms and the classroom buildings, and the slippery ground, inconvenience students and teachers when it rains.

The drainage ditch cover has been damaged.

Under the circumstances, Palikir Elementary School requested the Embassy of Japan through the Department of Education of Pohnpei State, the cooperation to improve the school environment, and the Government of Japan decided to respond positively.

We have decided to finance the following:

* Renovation of the three restrooms and their 15 flush toilets and 14 hand wash sinks.
* Renovation of the drainage ditch cover which extends 110.33 m.
* Building the walkways with roofs between the restrooms and the classroom buildings.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly, and the improved Palikir Elementary School will contribute to the sustainable development of Pohnpei State and the Federated States of Micronesia through the economic and social activities of its educated graduates, and thus the school will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thank you.