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

on Thursday 19 March 2020

The Hon. Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor, Pohnpei State,

Mr. Stuard Penias, Secretary, Board of Directors, and

Mr. Henry Susaia, Executive Officer, both from the Environmental Protection Agency, Pohnpei State,

Other Dignitaries including a JICA Volunteer,

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 Construction of New Recycling Center, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to 87,609 US Dollars.

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.

In this connection, I am particularly grateful to the presence of Hon. Lt. Governor Perman here, amid his busy schedule.

I hope we will win this fight in due course.

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.

In Pohnpei State, the Container Deposit Legislation Program is under way, and in 2017, a total of 5 million aluminum cans were recovered.

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.

Under the circumstances, a request was made from the Environmental Protection Agency, Pohnpei State, to the Government of Japan for financing the construction of a new recycling center.

We considered and decided to respond positively.

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

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

No such an environmental problem as is existing in the current recycling center will be expected there.

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.