Statement of Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu at the Handover Ceremony for the Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State on February 25, 2021

Traditional Leaders,

The Hon. John Rensle, Acting Mayor, Madolenihmw Municipal Government,

The Hon. Masao Silbanuz, Speaker, Madolenihmw Municipal Council,

The Hon. Kiomy Albert, Chief Justice, Madolenihmw Municipal Court,

The Hon. Shelten Neth, Senator, Pohnpei State Legislature,

Other Dignitaries of Pohnpei State and Madolenihmw Municipality,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this handover ceremony of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, for the Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to US$ 89,647.

On the occasion of the visit of the Hon. Kono Taro, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific Island Countries in August 2019, Minister Kono proposed the cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island Countries for a future that is Active, Opportunity-filled, and Innovative, i.e. the AOI future.

On the occasion of visit of H. E. David Panuelo, President of the FSM to Japan in November 2019, H.E. Abe Shinzo, then Prime Minister of Japan stated that Japan would strengthen support for the FSM’s sustainable economic and social development.

I signed the Grant Contract for the Project for Procuring a Garbage Truck in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei State in December 2019, as the first new commitment by the Government of Japan after that summit meeting between our two countries, in response to the request from the Madolenihmw Municipal Government to finance the provision of a Garbage Truck to address the environmental problems arising out of littering and accumulation of the wastes in the Municipality.

We understand that the Madolenihmw Municipal Government plans to mobilize the Garbage Truck delivered, periodically to collect wastes from each area of the Municipality every month, and the Truck will reduce sizes of the wastes so that it will be able to collect 22 times larger amount of the wastes compared to the current capacity of waste collection.

This will be in conformity with the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision that aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach announced in the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration in June 2019.

Thus the Garbage Truck delivered is expected to play a very important role in protecting the environment of Madolenihmw and Pohnpei State, and to contribute to the AOI Future of the FSM.

In conclusion, I hope that the Garbage Truck donated will be fully utilized to contribute to the improvement of the environment of Madolenihmw and Pohnpei State, and will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thank you.