Statement of Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Procuring Garbage Trucks in Kolonia Town, Pohnpei State on March 18, 2021

The Hon. Beterigo Jacob, Mayor, Kolonia Town Government,

The Hon. Bilimon Henry, Speaker, Kolonia Town Council,

Other Senior Officials of Pohnpei State and Kolonia Town 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 Procuring Garbage Trucks in Kolonia Town, Pohnpei State, amounting to up to US$ 177,088.

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

Earlier in 2011, the Government of Japan donated to Kolonia Town Government two used Garbage Trucks which have worked for about 10 years to collect wastes.

However, both Garbage Trucks broke down, and they are no longer able to serve for waste collection.

Thus Kolonia Town Government now rents a truck with a flat space for loading equipped with a crane from Environmental Protection Agency, Pohnpei State for waste collection.

But this truck may collect only part of the volume which was collected by the Garbage Trucks.

Under the circumstances, Kolonia Town Government requested the Government of Japan to provide two new Garbage Trucks.

We considered and decided to respond positively.

With the provision of two new Garbage Trucks, the frequency of waste collection in Kolonia Town will increase from once in 2 weeks to once a week, benefiting about 6,000 population of the town.

This is in conformity with the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision which 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.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly and will help improve the environment of Kolonia Town and Pohnpei State, and thus will contribute to the AOI future of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thank you.