Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Handover Ceremony of the IT Equipment to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia on Tuesday 18 May 2021

The Hon. Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker, Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia,

Mr. Kevin Petrini, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to participate in this handover ceremony representing the Government of Japan.

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

The Government of Japan has been extending its cooperation to the Federated States of Micronesia, either directly or through international organization such as UNDP, either to counter COVID-19 or for other purposes.

As for the SLIP, or the Strengthening Legislatures’ Capacity in the Pacific Island Countries Project, under way from March 2018 to December 2021, Japan has committed 565 million Yen or about 5.14 million US Dollars to UNDP for its activities in the FSM, the RMI, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

We are glad to acknowledge that through our SLIP cooperation, the FSM Congress has become the first Pacific legislature to convene virtual sessions.

We understand that Japan’s financial cooperation has been utilized by UNDP to provide the IT equipment to the Congress to enable it to hold virtual conferences, for the technical cooperation for revising the Congress’ rules of procedure, for various briefing opportunities, and for the consultations with State legislatures.

In conclusion, I hope that the IT equipment handed over to the Congress today will further empower the Congress, which should contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of the FSM.

Thank you.