

Notes for the Amendments to the Exchange of Notes between the Government of Japan and the Government of Western Samoa dated September 3, 1971 concerning the dispatch of volunteers under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Programme were signed and exchanged on 22 August 2018 between the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Samoa, H.E. Mugaoleatuolo Shinya Aoki and the Hon. Prime Minister, Tuilaepa A. Le'alea Sailele Malielegaoi.

Samoa is the first country in the Oceania region to which Japan dispatched a Volunteer in December 1972 pursuant to the Exchange of Notes above. To date, approximately 670 Volunteers to Samoa have actively contributed to the economic and social development in more than 85 fields and at more than 100 recipients.

Currently, 26 Volunteers are in Samoa and engaged in primary education (10), science education (2), disability assistance (2), physical education (2), computer instruction (1), swimming (1), judo (1), physiotherapy (1), nutrition instruction (1), public health (1), electric engineering (1), Japanese language education (1), curation (1) and veterinary medicine (1).

The Amendments do not alter the basic framework of the Exchange of Notes, and include such as: to replace "Western Samoa" with the "Independent State of Samoa"; to specifying competent authorities; to clarify the purposes of use for acquired techniques, equipment etc.; to clarify the responsibility of the entity bearing any arising claims against the Volunteers; to clarify responsible entity; and to ensure that necessary measure to secure safety are in place for the Volunteers.

The Government of Japan wishes that the Amendments will serve as a basis of expanding cooperation between Japan and Samoa in assistance to the economic and social development through the Volunteers.