



**Australian High Commission**  
**Samoa**



*Embassy of Japan*

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

# PRINTING INFRASTRUCTURE KEY TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Samoa's Ministry for Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) can look forward to self-sufficient and effective use of educational printing resources with the opening of a refurbished Printing Facility, supported through joint funds from the Governments of Samoa, Australia and Japan.

The joint venture will improve printing and publishing services for the Ministry and schools of Samoa. Australia contributed SAT \$1.5 million to the refurbishment project. This builds on Australia's existing support to the education sector through Phase II of the Samoa Education Sector Support Program, worth AUD \$13 million over the next 4 years (2020 to 2024).

Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, HE Ms Sara Moriarty says an educated community is vitally important to Samoa's recovery from COVID-19 impacts: "Australia's investment in education is key to securing and improving learning outcomes for Samoans in line with our Partnerships for Recovery Strategy. We hope these tools will equip teachers with the resources necessary to improve the quality of education, a crucial element to Samoa's economic recovery in wake of COVID-19," Ms Moriarty said. "We are very pleased to partner with Japan on this project."

Japan assisted the education sector with providing a range of heavy duty machinery valued at 300 million Japanese Yen (approximately 7.3 million SAT) that will replace and upgrade aging equipment that are currently present within the MESC printing facility which were previously funded through grant assistance in 2001.

These range of printing machinery includes plate setter, offset printing press, perfect binder, paper cutter etc. that will enable a mass production of materials such as textbooks, reading and curriculum materials, national examinations for students from early childhood education course to primary and secondary schools.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Samoa, His Excellency Mr. TERASAWA Genichi acknowledged in his remarks the successful collaboration of the governments involved in the project.



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“A collaboration between like-minded partners like Australia and Japan makes us possible to provide larger-scale and higher quality development assistance for Samoa. I am hopeful that this project will strengthen the existing cordial relationship of our three countries, Samoa, Australia and Japan.”

This project demonstrates the commitment of the Governments of Samoa, Australia, and Japan to further supporting the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in Samoa.

**END**