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JOINT PRESS RELEASE
**EXCHANGE OF NOTES - JAPAN'S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
(Procurement of Automated Meteorology Weather Observation Equipment)**

The Prime Minister of Samoa Honourable Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt and the Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, His Excellency Mr. SUZUKI Ryotaro today signed the Exchange of Notes in a Ceremony held at the Cabinet Chambers formalizing agreement to fund new observatory equipment for Samoa's Meteorology Division under Japan's Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP). A Grant Agreement was also signed immediately thereafter by the Hon. Prime Minister and the JICA Resident Representative, Ms ASAKUMA Yumiko to complete the formalities between the two Governments.

The signing marked yet another important milestone reflecting the warm and enduring partnership between the two countries. The initiative enhances the robust relations between Samoa and Japan and underscores shared cooperation and commitment towards supporting Samoa's sustainable development and climate resilience.

The grant, valued at JPY436 million (approx. US\$2.9 million) will strengthen national meteorological capabilities through the provision of automated meteorology weather observation systems to be installed at multiple locations across Samoa including Faleolo International Airport, Lufilufi, Le Mafa, Togitogiga, Manono, Mt Talu (Sataua), Le Piu (Safotu) and Maota Airport.

By improving the accuracy and reliability of meteorological information including forecasting and weather monitoring, the project will enhance early warning mechanisms to improve local preparedness for extreme weather events and contribute to

building resilient communities.

This project reflects Japan's continued commitment under the PALM10 Joint Action Plan to strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Pacific Island countries through improved meteorological observation and monitoring capacity.

Japan continues to support other key development sectors including education, health, environmental protection, water resource management, infrastructure and human resource development/capacity building.

The Government of Samoa expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for their ongoing support to build resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods. The Government of Samoa looks forward to further strengthening the enduring partnership between the two nations in areas of shared common interest.

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