

Japanese Ambassador praises impact of development assistance in Solomon Islands

BY NED GAGAHE

MIWA Yoshiaki, the Japanese Ambassador to Solomon Islands, is delighted with the ongoing impact of Japan's development assistance, which continues to strengthen key sectors in the Solomon Islands.

Miwa said these efforts are not only fostering growth and development but also reinforcing the strong partnership between Japan and the Solomon Islands.

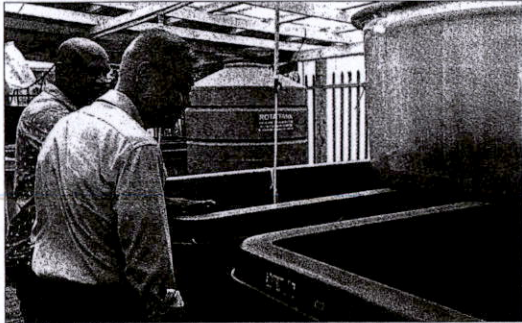
Ambassador Miwa made these remarks during the Embassy's annual press tour on September 10, 2024, where he toured St. Nicholas College, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), and the Value-Added Timber Association (VATA) to see firsthand the impact of Japan's support.

The visit highlighted both the achievements and the areas where Japan's continued support is crucial for enhancing development outcomes in the Solomon Islands.

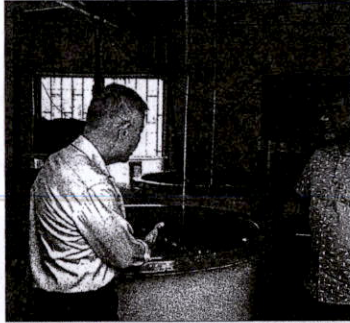
Ambassador Miwa stated that Japan's aid through UN agencies focuses on improving health systems, legislative capacity, and maritime security.

"Since 2018, through its 'Economic and Social Development Programme', Japan has supported seven key projects in sectors such as fisheries, health, and forestry through equipment procurement."

He highlighted that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Program, has been active since 1979, plays a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding and development, with recent efforts saw 18 volunteers



Miwa Yoshiaki visited the MFMR Hatchery.



Miwa Yoshiaki chats with a MFMR official at the Hatchery.

working in various sectors in Honiara and the provinces.

In 2018, Ministry of Fisheries received \$300 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for equipment such as vehicles, refrigerators, boats, and ice-boxes to enhance monitoring, research, and stakeholder cooperation.

In 2019 the Japanese Government also supported the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification (MMERE) was awarded \$400 million yen (SBD\$24 million) for geographical survey equipment including ion chromatography, a portable core drilling machine, and solar-powered street lights to improve livelihoods.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services received the following assistance.

2019: Received \$300 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for medical infrastructure like X-ray machines and portable beds.

2022: Granted \$200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for negative pressure isolation wards.

2023: Provided 200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for additional medical equipment such as portable ultrasound systems, dry ice machines, and hemoglobin meters.

The Ministry of Forestry and Research (2023): Received \$300 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for 50 Lucas Mills to support sustainable forest resource management under a JICA project.

The Ministry of Police, National Security, and Correctional Services (2023) was awarded \$120-million-yen (SBD\$7 million) for a landing craft to enhance

unexploded ordnance activities in provincial areas.

Mr Miwa said looking ahead Japan remains committed to furthering the partnership with the Solomon Islands.

"We will continue to support key sectors to drive sustainable development and address emerging challenges. Our aim is to ensure that our assistance not only meets immediate needs but also contributes to long-term growth and stability."

"We believe that by working together, we can achieve significant progress and strengthen the ties between our two nations."

"We are excited to see the positive impact of these projects and will keep striving to support the Solomon Islands in its development journey," Ambassador Miwa said.



Ambassador Miwa inside St Nicholas School library.



A group photo at St Nicholas School during the tour.



Mr Bennie Buga showing the ray boats the Japanese Government supported the MFMR with during the tour.

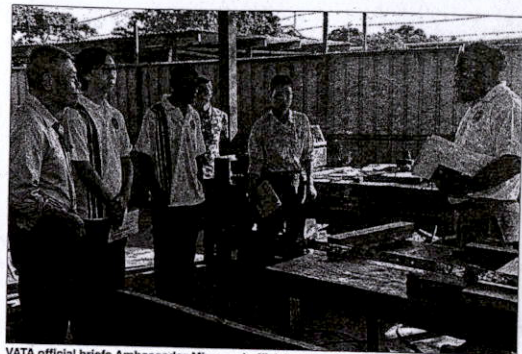


Ambassador Miwa and Embassy officials at MFMR.



MFMR staffs listening attentively to speeches during the tour.

Japan's support bolsters SI timber industry



VATA official briefs Ambassador Miwa and officials about the services VATA offers and Japan's assistance.

Japan's support bolsters SI timber industry

BY NED GAGAHE

THE Value-Added Timber Association (VATA) and the broader timber industry in the Solomon Islands are experiencing significant advancements thanks to ongoing support from Japan.

This support includes the provision of 67 Lucas mills, specialized training programs by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the expertise of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), all of which are enhancing timber production and boosting international marketing efforts.

On Monday last week, Japanese Ambassador to the Solomon Islands, Miwa Yoshiaki, alongside Embassy staff, visited VATA as part of the annual media tour.

The visit also included stops at other key locations in Honiara which included the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and St Nicholas College.

Ambassador Miwa was joined by JICA Resident Representative Mr. Takeshi Watanabe and other JICA officials.

Established in 2005, VATA plays a pivotal role in implementing the National Government's Forest Policy of Downstream Processing.

Aligned with the Timber Utilization Division of the Ministry of Forestry & Research, VATA works to support fair pricing and enhance timber exports.

These initiatives reflect Japan's strong commitment to sustainable development and capacity building in the Solomon Islands, paving the way for more efficient resource management and better economic opportunities for local communities.

By promoting high-quality timber production and enhancing international marketing opportunities.

The collaboration between the Ministry of Forestry & Research, VATA, and Japanese partners, including the Embassy of Japan and JICA, has been instrumental in maximizing benefits for local forest resource owners.

The Government of Japan's contribution of 67 Lucas mills, which will arrive soon, is expected to significantly improve milling capabilities across the country.

JICA's involvement goes beyond providing equipment. Last week, JICA is conducting Sustainable Forest Resource Management Training at VATA to build capacity and promote effective resource utilization.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program is also making a notable impact. Ms. Kanase Izozaki, stationed at VATA, offers crucial technical guidance, focusing on improving timber quality and optimizing processing techniques.

Additionally, another JOCV member is working with the Timber Utilization Department of the Ministry of Forestry & Research to support fair pricing and enhance timber exports.

These initiatives reflect Japan's strong commitment to sustainable development and capacity building in the Solomon Islands, paving the way for more efficient resource management and better economic opportunities for local communities.

Speaking at the press tour Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Forestry & Research Mr. Richard Raomae acknowledged Japan's contribution to the forestry sector.

Permanent Secretary Raomae stated that the Ministry is looking forward for full utilization of the machines that will be provided by Japan.

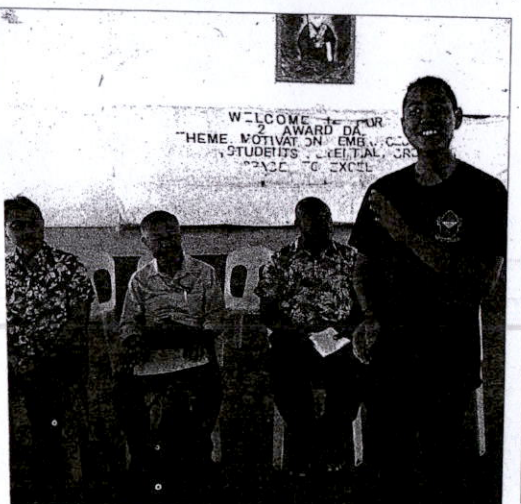
He said that with the machines production of timber will be greatly enhanced to benefit Solomon Islanders.

"We are thrilled about Japan's contribution to our forestry sector. With the advanced machinery that Japan is providing, we anticipate a significant boost in timber production, which will greatly benefit Solomon Islanders. This will not only increase the volume and quality of our timber products but will go a long way in supporting our goals of sustainable forestry management and economic development."

"We are committed to working closely with local communities to ensure that these advancements are widely beneficial, and we look forward to a strong and productive partnership with Japan that will drive long-term growth and innovation in our sector."



Japan Ambassador Miwa being briefed about Japan's assistance inside Ministry of Fisheries warehouse.



JICA Resident Representative Takeshi Watanabe, St Nicholas School Principal (principal) Francis Wate, JICA Volunteer Taiki Ando and H.E Miwa Yoshiaki at St Nicholas College.



Miwa Yoshiaki (third from left) posing with JICA volunteers, PS Raomae and other officials during the tour at VATA.

Japanese Ambassador praises development assistance in S

BY NED GAGAHE

MIWA Yoshiaki, the Japanese Ambassador to Solomon Islands is delighted with the ongoing impact of Japan's development assistance, which continues to strengthen key sectors in the Solomon Islands.

Miwa said these efforts are not only fostering growth and development but also reinforcing the strong partnership between Japan and the Solomon Islands.

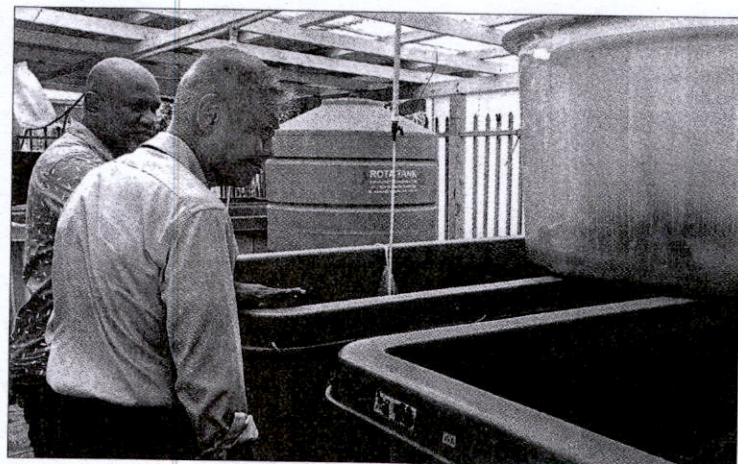
Ambassador Miwa made these remarks during the Embassy's annual press tour on September 10, 2024, where he toured St. Nicholas College, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), and the Value-Added Timber Association (VATA) to see first-hand the impact of Japan's support.

The visit highlighted both the achievements and the areas where Japan's continued support is crucial for enhancing development outcomes in the Solomon Islands.

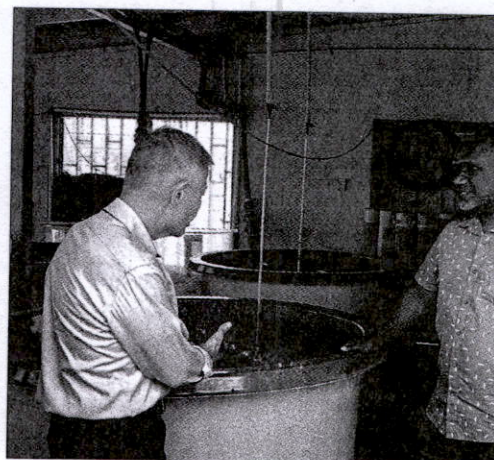
Ambassador Miwa stated that Japan's aid through UN agencies focuses on improving health systems, legislative capacity, and maritime security.

"Since 2018, through its 'Economic and Social Development Programme', Japan has supported seven key projects in sectors such as fisheries, health, and forestry through equipment procurement.

He highlighted that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Program, has been active since 1979, plays a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding and development, with recent efforts saw 18 volunteers



Miwa Yoshiaki visited the MFMR Hatchery.



Miwa Yoshiaki chats with a MFMR official at the Hatchery.

working in various sectors in Honiara and the provinces.

In 2018, Ministry of Fisheries received \$200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for equipment such as vehicles, refrigerators, boats, and ice-boxes to enhance monitoring, research, and stakeholder cooperation.

In 2019 the Japanese Government also supported the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification (MMERE) was awarded \$400 million yen (SBD\$24 million) for geographical survey equipment including Ion chromatography, a portable core drilling machine, and solar-powered street lights to improve livelihoods.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services received the following assistance:

2019: Received \$300 million yen (SBD\$18 million) for medical infrastructure like X-ray machines and portable beds.

2022: Granted \$200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for negative pressure isolation wards.

2023: Provided 200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for additional medical equipment such as portable ultrasound systems, dry ice machines, and hemoglobin meters.

The Ministry of Forestry and Research (2023): Received \$200 million yen (SBD\$12 million) for 50 Lucas Mills to support sustainable forest resource management under a JICA project.

The Ministry of Police, National Security, and Correctional Services (2023) was awarded \$120-million-yen (SBD\$7 million) for a landing craft to enhance

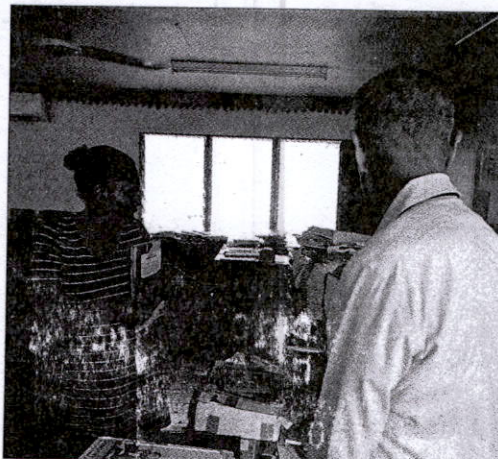
unexploded ordnance activities in provincial areas.

Mr Miwa said looking ahead Japan remains committed to furthering the partnership with the Solomon Islands.

"We will continue to support key sectors to drive sustainable development and address emerging challenges. Our aim is to ensure that our assistance not only meets immediate needs but also contributes to long-term growth and stability.

"We believe that by working together, we can achieve significant progress and strengthen the ties between our two nations.

"We are excited to see the positive impact of these projects and will keep striving to support the Solomon Islands in its development journey," Ambassador Miwa said.



Ambassador Miwa inside St Nicholas School library.



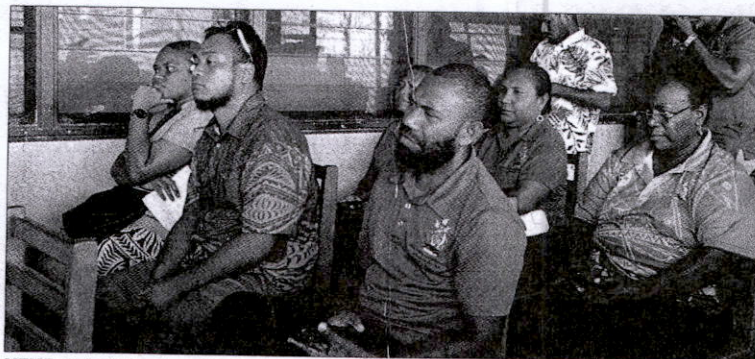
A group photo at St Nicholas School during the tour.



Mr Bennie Buga showing the ray boats the Japanese Government supported the MFMR with during the tour.

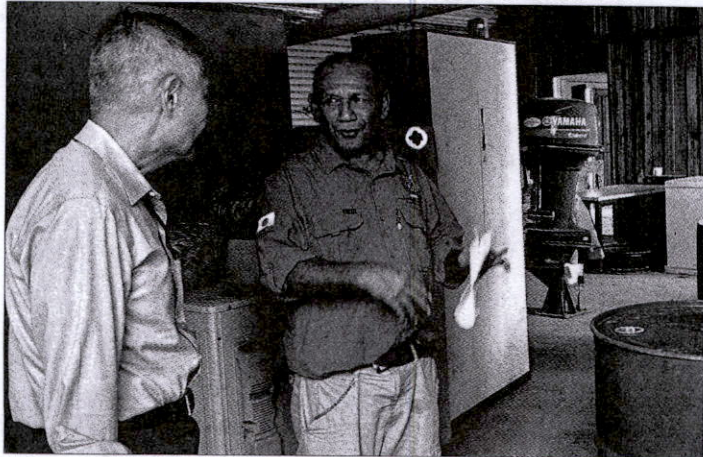


Ambassador Miwa and Embassy officials at MFMR.



MFMR staffs listening attentively to speeches during the tour.

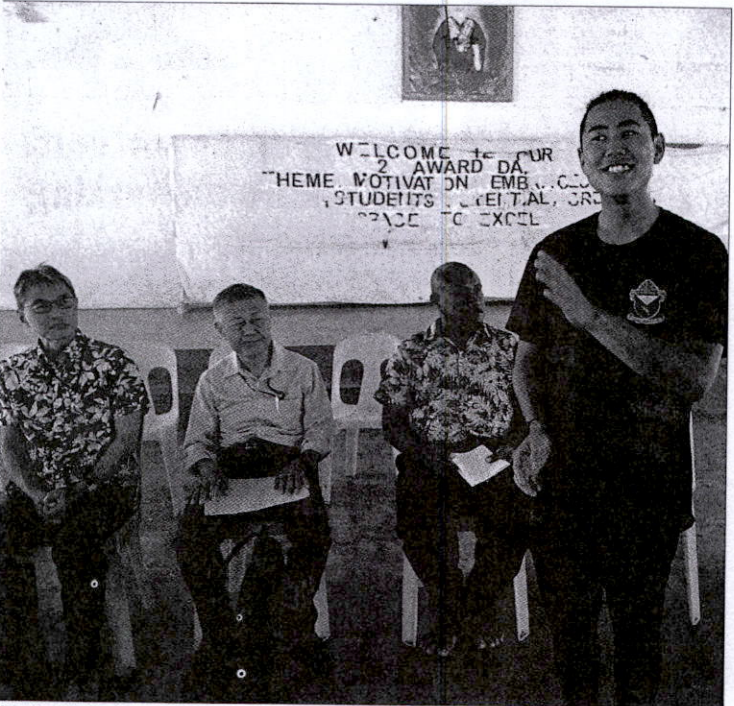
Impact of Solomon Islands



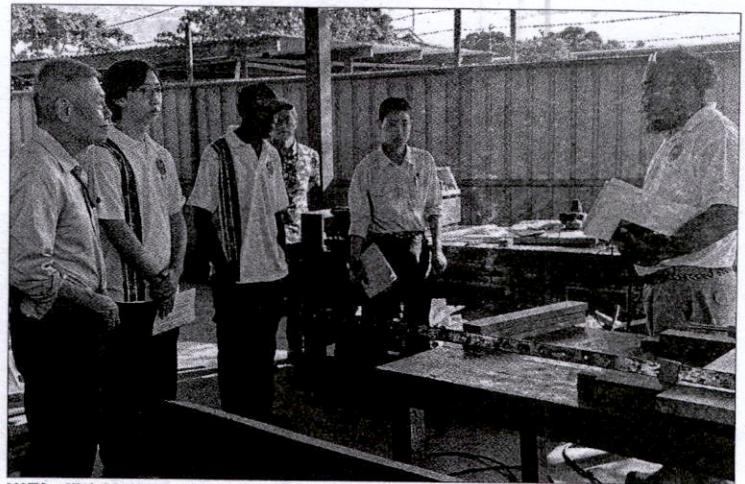
Japan Ambassador Miwa being briefed about Japan's assistance inside Ministry of Fisheries warehouse.



JICA Resident Representative Takeshi Wantanabe, St Nicholas School Principal (private sector) Francis Wate, JICA Volunteer Taiki Ando and H.E Miwa Yoshiaki at St Nicholas School.



Ando talking to the media.



VATA official briefs Ambassador Miwa and officials about the services VATA offers and Japan's assistance.

Japan's support bolsters SI timber industry

BY NED GAGAHE

THE Value-Added Timber Association (VATA) and the broader timber industry in the Solomon Islands are experiencing significant advancements thanks to ongoing support from Japan.

This support includes the provision of 67 Lucas mills, specialized training programs by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the expertise of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), all of which are enhancing timber production and boosting international marketing efforts.

On Monday last week, Japanese Ambassador to the Solomon Islands, Miwa Yoshiaki, alongside Embassy staff, visited VATA as part of the annual media tour.

The visit also included stops at other key locations in Honiara which included the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and St Nicholas College.

Ambassador Miwa was joined by JICA Resident Representative Mr. Takeshi Watanabe and other JICA officials.

Established in 2005, VATA plays a pivotal role in implementing the National Government's Forest Policy of Downstream Processing.

Aligned with the Timber Utilization Division of the Ministry of Forestry & Research, VATA works to support forest resource owners

by promoting high-quality timber production and enhancing international marketing opportunities.

The collaboration between the Ministry of Forestry & Research, VATA, and Japanese partners, including the Embassy of Japan and JICA, has been instrumental in maximizing benefits for local forest resource owners.

The Government of Japan's contribution of 67 Lucas mills, which will arrive soon, is expected to significantly improve milling capabilities across the country.

JICA's involvement goes beyond providing equipment. Last week, JICA is conducting Sustainable Forest Resource Management Training at VATA to build capacity and promote effective resource utilization.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program is also making a notable impact. Ms. Kanae Isozaki, stationed at VATA, offers crucial technical guidance, focusing on improving timber quality and optimizing processing techniques.

Additionally, Mr. Yuya Takada, another JOCV member, is working with the Timber Utilization Department of the Ministry of Forestry & Research to support fair pricing and enhance timber exports.

These initiatives reflect Japan's strong commitment to sustainable devel-

opment and capacity building in the Solomon Islands, paving the way for more efficient resource management and better economic opportunities for local communities.

Speaking at the press tour Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Forestry and Research Mr. Richard Raomae acknowledged Japan's contribution to the forestry sector.

Permanent Secretary Raomae stated that the Ministry is looking forward for full utilization of the machines that will be provided by Japan.

He said that with the machines production of timber will be greatly enhanced to benefit Solomon Islanders.

"We are thrilled about Japan's contribution to our forestry sector. With the advanced machinery that Japan is providing, we anticipate a significant boost in timber production, which will greatly benefit Solomon Islanders. This will not only increase the volume and quality of our timber products but will go a long way in supporting our goals of sustainable forestry management and economic development.

"We are committed to working closely with local communities to ensure that these advancements are widely beneficial, and we look forward to a strong and productive partnership with Japan that will drive long-term growth and innovation in our sector."



Miwa Yoshiaki (third from left) posing with JICA volunteers, PS Raomae and other officials during the tour at VATA.