

## The Government of Japan Celebrates the Completion of "the Project for Construction of Gravity Water Supply System in Vativou Village, Maubara



MAUBARA-On 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, the Government of Japan celebrated the completion of "the Project for Construction of Gravity Water Supply System in Vativou Village, Maubara Ad-

ministrative-post, Liquica Municipality". The ceremony was organized by the communities of Vativou village and Naroman Timor Foun (NTF), a national NGO, and attended by Mr. Eiji

Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, a member of the National Parliament, a representative from Ministry of Public Works, the representatives from the President Office and the

Prime Minister's Office, and local government officials and the people of the communities.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) scheme, the Government of Japan provided US\$101,060 for this project, whose contract was signed on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. The GGP has been provided to Timor-Leste at the grass-roots level since 2000, and 95 projects have been launched in all 13 municipalities, such as providing water supply systems and irrigation channels, and constructing and rehabilitating school buildings

and other important infrastructure for the local communities, especially in rural areas.

The new water supply system in Vativou village is expected to provide safe and clean water for nearly 950 people, and it is also extended to such public facilities as a clinic, an English training center and two public schools.

The communities of Vativou village have been facing difficulties in accessing clean water for decades, and they had to consume water from wells, which contain salt, or walk a long distance to get clean water. This

made children, pregnant women and elders in the village vulnerable to various infectious diseases, including diarrhea and malaria. Children used to have to go to school without bathing because of lack of access to water. But this is no longer the case.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Yamamoto said, "I would like to ask you all, especially SAS (Water & Sanitation Service) Liquica and the maintenance group members, to maintain this system very well so that you can use it for a long time." In this opportunity, let me introduce a word in Japanese - it's

"Mottainai" Mottainai is one of our mottoes to respect all the natural resources. All the resources that we use for our daily life, we have to consider because it's precious, but limited. I would be happy if you could remember this word", he stressed.

This project including the construction of a total of over 9,500m-long water pipelines was implemented by NGO NTF, in close cooperation with the local communities and the government authorities, particularly with SAS Liquica providing technical advice and hygiene and sanitation training.\*\*