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Rongelap to set up pig farm

Rongelap Atoll Local Government Mayor James Matayoshi and Japan Charge Akira Ikeda signed an agreement for the Grassroots Grant program funding for the northern atoll at a signing ceremony last Friday.

Japan will be providing \$74,199 to assist RALGov with developing a piggery facility on Rongelap.

“This grassroots project will go a long way in the pursuit of meeting one of our objectives — providing the community with an adequate supply of protein for a healthy diet,” said Matayoshi. It will also “complement the other projects that the local government has lined up as part of our holistic approach in providing an economical and self-sustaining community as we prepare ourselves facing the future,” he said.

The Japanese Embassy said that this project will also generate income for the local government through marketing meat to other islands or atolls, and will create job opportunities for returning residents.

There is presently no livestock on Rongelap.

Matayoshi said that poultry raising “really suits the Marshall Islands because the method of farming has been proven to work well, especially in the outer islands.”