

Statement by Mr. Shunichi SUZUKI,
Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan and
Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the 25th PIF Post-Forum Dialogue

6 September 2013,
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

President Loeak,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

(1. Opening remarks)

- Please allow me to offer my congratulations upon the hosting of Post Forum Dialogue, which has a history of almost quarter of a century since 1989, in Japan's neighboring country, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I would like to express my gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the government and the people of the Marshall Islands.
- Japan attaches great importance to its relations with Pacific Island Countries. In order to clearly demonstrate Japan's commitment, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent me to this dialogue as his Special Envoy.

(2. Japan's efforts on climate change)

- This is my first visit to the Marshall Islands, and I was deeply impressed by a fascinating contrast of the shiny sea and the white sand. These beautiful islands blessed by nature must be handed over to our children and grand-children. Climate change, which is the main theme of this year's PIF meetings under the leadership of President Loeak, constitutes the very threat to the security and the

economic development of all states, including Japan and Pacific Island countries. We highly value the adoption of “Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership,” which was explained earlier.

- To cope with climate change issue, it is essential to establish a new international framework which must be fair, effective and participated by all states. We will cooperate with Pacific island countries towards the establishment of this new framework.
- At the same time, Japan, as an island state, intends to materialize concrete assistance through realizing projects one by one based on the needs of each country, such as introduction of renewable energy, by utilizing Japan’s cutting-edge technologies.
- Japan has been continuously committed to be a robust supporter of Small Island Developing States(SIDS). We have been cooperating with island states to adapt and mitigate effects of climate change with concrete actions, including the assistance of 240 million U.S. dollars in a three-year-period until 2012, and the contribution to the “SIDS-DOCK” programme to support the promotion of renewable and energy-saving. We will continue working closely with island states for the success of the third International Conference on SIDS, which will be held in Samoa in 2014.

(3. Strengthening partnership with the Pacific Island Countries)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The ties between Japan and Pacific Island Countries on climate change issues illustrates just one of the numerous fields of cooperation. Japan has been deepening its partnership with the Pacific Islands Countries through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process. Last year’s PALM6 established five pillars of cooperation including maritime issues and response to natural disasters.

Now, Japan is steadily implementing this cooperation based on these pillars.

- In coming October, we will host the Second Ministerial Interim Meeting (MIM2) of the PALM in Tokyo and in Sendai, so as to follow-up the outcomes of the previous PALM and discuss the directions of our next PALM. We are looking forward to receiving Foreign Ministers of PIF member states, and witnessing by their own eyes the Tohoku region under the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. We also intend to deepen our discussion towards resolving our common challenges, such as climate change and disaster management.
- Japan and Pacific Island Countries share not only geographical characteristics as an island state embraced by the Pacific Ocean, but also challenges such as coping with climate change and natural disasters, and peaceful and sustainable use of the rich ocean. Japan and PICs are natural partners, sharing the same Pacific Ocean and similar challenges. Japan intends to further enhance our role in this region as a “co-working peer”, through tackling these challenges and resolving them together.
- We are Islanders! As an island country in the Pacific Ocean, Japan is willing to contribute for a robust development of this region as a whole, under a common objectives and vision.

Thank you for your attention.