

**Statement by Mr. Seiji KIHARA,  
Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan and  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
at the 26th PIF Post-Forum Dialogue**

**1 August 2014,**

President Remengesau,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I express my deepest condolences to the victims and their families of the shooting down of the Malaysian airliner over the eastern part of Ukraine. Japan, in its capacity, will contribute to identifying the causes of the incident, and to the efforts of the international community for resolving the Ukrainian crisis.

**(Opening remarks)**

Today, it is a great honor for me to participate in the 26<sup>th</sup> PIF Post-Forum Dialogue. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Palau for your warm hospitality.

Japan and Pacific Island countries are important, longstanding partners, sharing the Pacific Ocean and addressing common challenges. My mission as the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, is to cement our partnership with PICs (Pacific Island Countries) toward addressing various challenges that require our collective efforts. This could take form in bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as through collaboration with trusted partners such as Australia and New Zealand.

**(Ocean)**

This year's Pacific Island Forum is dedicated to the theme "The Ocean: Life & Future". Needless to say, the ocean is indispensable for prosperity of Japan, an island state, and PICs (Pacific Island Countries). In order to secure the ocean's bounty for our generation, for our children and for our grandchildren, we must keep striving to achieve the sustainable development and use of the ocean and its resources.

At the same time, in order for the Asia-Pacific region to fully demonstrate its latent potential and to ensure peace and stability, “the rule of law” is of critical importance, as stressed by Prime Minister Abe at “The Shangri-La Dialogue” in May. He laid out three principles for the rule of law at sea; first, to make and clarify claims based on international law; second, not to use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and third, to seek to settle disputes by peaceful means.

Japan is committed to cooperating closely with PIF member states and dialogue partners towards peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific through implementing these principles.

### **(Cooperation with PICs on Global Issues)**

Tackling global issues hand in hand with PICs is another priority for Japan’s diplomacy toward the Pacific. We will continue to actively support PICs in such areas as climate change and disaster risk reduction through, for instance, improvement of equipment for disaster risk management and the introduction of a micro-grid system with renewable energy.

Looking ahead, in September, the Third International Conference on SIDS will be held in Samoa. This will take place in the same month as the 2014 Climate Summit as well as the launch of intergovernmental negotiations towards the post-2015 development agenda. Also, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. The SIDS conference, which will take place before the aforementioned meetings, will be an important opportunity not only to address the challenges SIDS are facing, but to reiterate the importance of global cooperation built upon the notion of human security.

For the success of the SIDS Conference, Japan is actively engaged in its preparation as a bureau member and has made a financial contribution both to the UN Trust Fund and to the host country, Samoa. We will work together with Samoa and other relevant countries so that this conference, the first to be held in the Pacific, marks an important step towards the sustainable development of SIDS.

### **(Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting)**

Last but not least, the partnership between the PICs and Japan has been strengthened through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process. At PALM6, Japan committed to making maximum effort to provide up to **500 million US dollars** of assistance over the next three years. As of today, **534 million dollars** has already been disbursed, exceeding the original amount committed.

Next May, Japan will host PALM 7 in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture of Japan. At PALM7, we plan to announce our assistance to areas including people to people exchanges, human resource development and common challenges shared among the PICs such as natural disaster and climate change. Also, we hope to further strengthen the PALM process in order to establish a new partnership based on mutual trust between Japan and the PICs. We look forward to welcoming heads of states participating in the Summit to Iwaki City in May next year.

### **(Conclusion)**

In concluding, as a friend and longstanding partner of PICs, Japan will continue to be actively involved in the PIF in every aspect.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**(END)**