

**Statement by Mr. Kiyoshi ODAWARA,  
Special Envoy of the Prime Minister  
and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
at the 28<sup>th</sup> PIF Post-Forum Dialogue  
11 September, 2016 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia**

Mr. Chair,

**(Opening Remarks)**

It is a great honour for me to be given the opportunity to participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> PIF Post-Forum Dialogue.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, and as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister Abe, I would like to express my deep respect to President Christian for his strong leadership as the Forum Chair. I would also like to thank the Secretary General, Ms. Taylor and the staff of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for their tireless efforts.

Let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm hospitality of Japan's good and long-standing friends, the Government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

**(Importance of Cooperation with PIF)**

As a partner whose relationship is underpinned by trust that has been nurtured over many years, and also as a member of the Pacific Citizens, Japan stands side by side with the countries in the region in overcoming development challenges. This is the reason why Japan has been attaching a great importance to this dialogue since its foundation in 1989. We would like to contribute to development of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) by utilizing our expertise in the areas in which we excel, such as development of quality infrastructures and capacity building with a long term perspective.

Japan strongly supports PIF's efforts toward the implementation of *the Framework for Pacific Regionalism*. We hope that this framework will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the pacific region by complementing the efforts by individual countries in the region to overcome common constraints and by enhancing sustainable and inclusive development in the region focusing on every single citizen of the PICs.

Japan places emphasis in maximizing synergy between our work under the

Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process and the efforts by PIF.

**(Fishery and Ocean)**

Mr. Chair,

Japan is committed to cooperating closely with the PIF member states and dialogue partners so that our much cherished bounties of the ocean will be relished not only during our generation but also by our descendants in many generations to come. To that end, I would like to call upon each and every country to firmly support rule-based maritime order which is both free and open.

**(Climate Change)**

Mr. Chair,

Japan has long been and will be providing comprehensive assistance to enhance the capacity to adapt to climate change which is a pressing issue for the Pacific region.

For instance, Japan has decided to ramp up our support for capacity building in the PICs by developing the Pacific Climate Change Center in the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). We will continue to assist the enhancement of resilience against environmental and climate change.

Also, with regard to Green Climate Fund (GCF), our efforts to assist the PICs, to which we attach great importance, are making consistent progress through the adoption of a number of projects to support PICs. As a major donor, Japan will make effective use of GCF and seek to steadily adopt new projects.

**(Challenges in Economic Fields)**

Mr. Chair,

Japan would also like to develop its relations with the PICs not only as a development partner but also as a business partner. From this perspective, Japan dispatched economic missions to Fiji last December, and to Samoa this July, to promote trade and investment. I will assure you that Japan will continue such efforts.

**(Human Resource Development)**

Lastly, Japan believes that it is indispensable to continue the efforts for human resource development in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive development of the region. This August, Japan has launched a long-term human resource development

program, “Pacific-LEADS” to foster young leaders that will forge the future of PICs. I hope there will be active participations from each country.

**(PALM)**

Mr. Chair,

The Third PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting is planned later this year to hold in-depth discussion on these issues, follow-up the concrete outcomes of the PALM 7, and discuss the directions for our next PALM 8. We are looking forward to having rich and in-depth discussion with high-level participation from the PICs.

**(Conclusion)**

I would like to close my remark by assuring you that as a member of the Pacific citizens and as a partner with long-standing trust, Japan will continue to support the efforts by the PIF and its members to address regional challenges through continuous dialogue and will make a meaningful contribution to the region.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(End)