

7. Oceania

The Pacific island countries are not only Japan's "neighbors" which share the Pacific Ocean, but also have historical ties with Japan. Having an enormous Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), these countries are the cornerstone of Japan's maritime transport, and they provide important pelagic fishing grounds. Therefore, the peace and prosperity of the Pacific island countries are important to Japan.

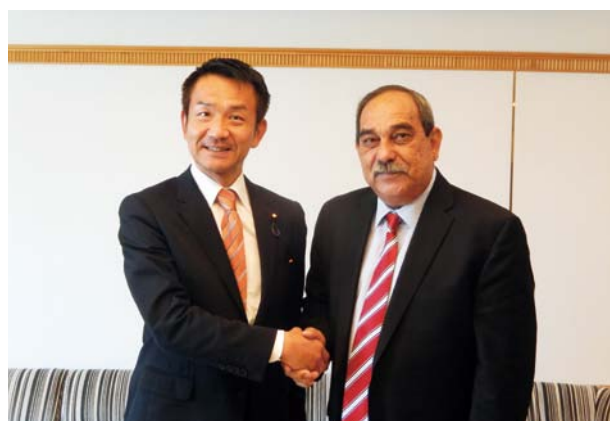
Meanwhile, many of the Pacific island countries are relatively new independent states, and it is urgent that

<Japan's Efforts>

To achieve political stability and self-reliant economic development in the Pacific island countries, it is crucial to overcome socio-economic vulnerabilities and to provide assistance for the entire region. In addition to promoting cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF),¹¹ a framework for regional cooperation composed of the Pacific island countries, Japan has been hosting the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM), the summit meeting between Japan and the Pacific island countries every three years, since 1997. Furthermore, since 2010 Japan has been hosting the Ministerial Interim Meeting every three years midway between the PALMs. In addition since 2014 Japan has held the Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting at the time of the UN General Assembly every year.

At PALM7 held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture in May 2015, Japan announced cooperation intending to promote interactive partnerships between Japan and the Pacific island countries with focus on the following seven areas: (i) disaster risk reduction; (ii) climate change; (iii) environment; (iv) people-to-people exchanges; (v) sustainable development; (vi) oceans, maritime issues and fisheries; and (vii) trade, investment and tourism. Japan committed to providing assistance of more than ¥55 billion as well as to reaching out to 4,000 people through human

they become economically independent. In addition, they have common problems that are specific to small island countries, such as a small-sized economy dependent on primary industries, territories being geographically stretched across the sea, difficulty in access to the international market, and vulnerability to natural disaster. Based on this situation, Japan, as a good partner committed to the Pacific island countries, provides assistance for supporting their self-reliant and sustainable development.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiyoshi Odawara pays a courtesy call on President Peter Martin Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia during his visit to Japan in October 2016.

resources development and people-to-people exchanges in the next three years. In order to start preparing for PALM8, at the Third Ministerial Interim Meeting held in Tokyo in January 2017, discussion was held regarding follow-up to the support declared at PALM7 and cooperation taking into account the issues in common between Japan and the Pacific island countries, etc.

Based on the assistance package announced at PALM, Japan is implementing bilateral cooperation, including developing basic infrastructures such as ports, along with region-wide cooperation spread across several countries. For "disaster risk reduction," one of the priority areas of cooperation, Japan is extending comprehensive assistance for building disaster-resilient societies in the Pacific island countries, drawing on Japan's expertise, such as training meteorological agency personnel from each country and developing appropriate evacuation systems.

In addition, to support the Pacific island countries in addressing climate change issues, Japan partners with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), a regional organization in Samoa, to work on activities to train personnel engaged in measures countering climate change in their countries.



A vocational training center located on the Majuro Atoll in Marshall. Students build an outrigger canoe using traditional techniques inside a facility constructed through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project. (Photo: Hideyuki Yamasaki / Embassy of Japan in Marshall)

Note 11: PIF member counties and regions: Australia, Cook, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia

Japan's international cooperation policy in the Oceania Region

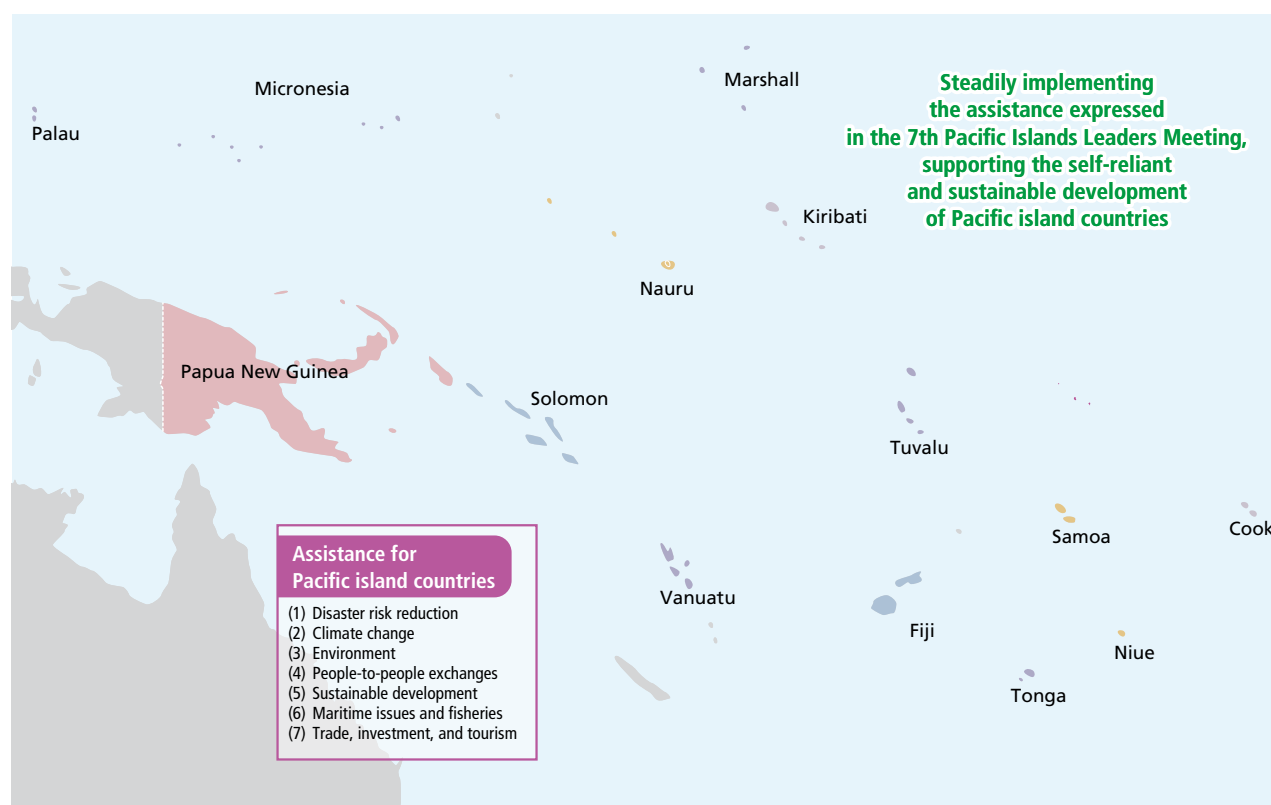


Chart II-14 Japan's Assistance in the Oceania Region

Calendar year: 2015

(US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants			Total	Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants provided through multilateral institutions	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
1	Papua New Guinea	6.70	—	11.32	18.02	0.68	15.00	-14.32	3.70	18.70
2	Vanuatu	2.75	0.64	2.67	5.43	12.94	—	12.94	18.37	18.37
3	Solomon	12.78	—	4.05	16.82	—	—	—	16.82	16.82
4	Tuvalu	10.20	—	2.98	13.18	—	—	—	13.18	13.18
5	Federated States of Micronesia	10.30	—	2.39	12.69	—	1.49	-1.49	11.20	12.69
6	Samoa	5.66	—	4.15	9.81	1.85	—	1.85	11.66	11.66
7	Tonga	7.05	—	2.20	9.25	—	—	—	9.25	9.25
8	Fiji	3.67	2.45	5.42	9.08	—	1.00	-1.00	8.08	9.08
9	Marshall	3.95	—	1.57	5.52	—	—	—	5.52	5.52
10	Palau	1.03	—	2.48	3.51	—	—	—	3.51	3.51
11	Nauru	2.60	—	0.09	2.69	—	—	—	2.69	2.69
12	Kiribati	0.55	—	1.30	1.85	—	—	—	1.85	1.85
13	Cook	1.12	—	0.12	1.23	—	—	—	1.23	1.23
14	Niue	—	—	0.07	0.07	—	—	—	0.07	0.07
15	[Tokelau]	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
	Multiple countries in Oceania	3.13	2.91	1.35	4.48	—	—	—	4.48	4.48
Oceania region total		71.48	6.00	42.16	113.64	15.47	17.49	-2.02	111.62	129.11

*1 Ranking is based on gross disbursements.

*2 Due to rounding, the total may not match the sum of each number.

*3 [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.

*4 Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

*5 Aid for multiple countries is aid in the form of seminars or survey team dispatches, etc. that spans over multiple countries within a region.

*6 Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.

*7 Negative numbers appear when the recovered amount of loans, etc. exceeds the disbursed amount.

*8 Square brackets [] denote region names.

Samoa

Capacity Enhancement Project for Samoa Water Authority in Cooperation with Okinawa**Technical cooperation project (August 2014 –)**

The Samoa Water Authority (SWA) provides water supply services to approximately 85% (160,000 people) of the total population of the island country of Samoa located in the South Pacific. But it faces various problems, including water shortages in the dry season, water contamination caused by the heavy rain in the rainy season, the resulting impact on water purification treatment, and also the outflow of skilled human resources from the country. In recent years, the particularly difficult issue has been the large “amount of non revenue water,” the amount of water supplied by SWA which it was not able to bill customers for. A variety of factors such as water leaks due to decrepit pipes and sloppy pipeline construction techniques, illegal connection by some of the residents (water theft), and defects in the water meters, combine to produce a high rate of non revenue water, said to be 60%-70%, which had a negative impact on operation of the water supply business.

To date Japan has utilized the strengths of Okinawa prefecture, which had been tackling the issues unique to islands, to advance cooperation with Samoa in the water sector. Miyako-jima's Water Supply Model Project in Samoa, JICA partnership program was implemented by Miyakojima city in Okinawa prefecture from 2010 to 2013. It contributed to the transfer of technologies for the correct operation and management of purification facilities based on the purifying effect of microorganisms (the biological purification method), and the improvement of leakage prevention technologies including pressure management, the development of pipeline design drawings, etc. The initiatives of Miyakojima city were highly praised by the Government of Samoa, and in response to its request for continuing cooperation Japan commenced the Capacity Enhancement Project for Samoa Water Authority in Cooperation with Okinawa from August 2014, which pools the wisdom and experience Okinawa has cultivated

in this sector. It is rare for the name of a specific prefecture to be included in a project name but it is reported that this was a strong request from Samoa.

This project focuses on the reduction of non revenue water while also including the strengthening of water quality management and the operation and management of purification facilities.

Through the project, experts dispatched from water utilities and related institutions in Okinawa prefecture provide on-site instruction and advance the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) pertaining to the knowledge and technologies of each operation, to disseminate and establish them through the SWA organization. Eight SOPs have been prepared to date, and the Non Revenue Water team in the SWA Urban Operations section, which studied and put into practice the water pressure and flow volume survey procedures in the SOPs, monitored and analyzed the trends in water pressure and flow volume in the Alaoa Water Supply Zone inside the area covered by the project. As a result, the rate of achievement of the appropriate pressure standard, which had been 24% at the time the project commenced, improved to the current rate of 65%.

This project, together with the Grant Aid Project for Improvement of Urban Untreated Water Supply Schemes being implemented concurrently, aims to ensure that Samoa can receive a safe and stable supply of water. (As of August 2016)



An expert team re-examines water supply blocks using a pipeline drawing in order to supply water with appropriate pressure.
(Photo: Kenta Tomiyama / JICA)

Papua New Guinea

Solar-Powered Desalination Plants Project in Manus Province
Support through the Pacific Environment Community Fund (April 2016 –)

Papua New Guinea is comprised of the eastern half of New Guinea island, the second largest island in the world, and 600 other islands. It is close to the equator, and located in the South Pacific. As the water supply infrastructure is inadequate approximately 1,000 ethnic groups living in the country are using unsanitary water sources with unstable supply such as rainwater and well water.

Furthermore, in the dry season damage such as drying up of wells occurs, so ensuring safe water is a pressing issue. In order to solve this issue, INGÉROSEC Corporation conducted a feasibility study and Sojitz Corporation and Toray Industries, Inc. will implement a project for solar-powered desalination plants in Manus Province, utilizing the Pacific Environment Community Fund (PEC)¹.

Japan proposed the establishment of the PEC fund in the Fifth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM5), and made contributions to it, including a grant of \$4 million to Papua New Guinea.

Through this project, desalination plants comprised of ten solar-powered floor-standing units and five emergency-use portable units will be installed on Bipi island, Mbuke island, and Whal island in Manus Province during FY2016. The people in the islands will be able to use a stable supply of clean water for daily life. With these plants, ten cubic meters of water, equivalent to daily drinking water needs for approximately 5,000 people, can be supplied (this is the maximum daily treatment capacity). Furthermore, technical guidance pertaining to the maintenance and management of the plants will be provided by Sojitz Corporation to ensure that the local people will be capable of using the plants by themselves over a long period. The project will also install small plants in schools

and hospitals. Through collaboration with the Government of Papua New Guinea, it is expected that this will give the children on the islands an opportunity to go to school and also have a good effect on the sanitation level and quality of life of the islanders.

This project conforms well to the water supply, health and sanitation plan and Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) of the Government of Papua New Guinea. It has been evaluated to be an experimental project that would be effective not only for the other provinces on the seacoast of Papua New Guinea but also for other island countries with poor water resources. Initiatives to secure safe water through taking into account the outcomes and lessons from this kind of experimental project are expected.

(As of August 2016)

*1 This is a \$66 million fund founded by the Oceanian countries to respond to the climate change problem.



Ten solar-powered desalination plants (reverse osmosis membrane method) were installed on a remote island of Manus Province. They can desalinate sea water and purify ground water which clear the WHO drinking water standards in a location with absolutely no water or electrical infrastructure, and makes daily life possible without depending on uncertain and impure rain water.
(Photo: Sojitz Corporation)