

Response to the oil leakage off the coast of Mauritius

March 2021
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. Overview

From 6 August 2020, approximately 1,000 tons of fuel oil leaked from a bulk carrier "WAKASHIO," stranded off the southern-east coral coast of Mauritius.

2. Japan's Cooperation in the crisis management phase

Upon the request of the Government of Mauritius, the Government of Japan (GoJ) dispatched Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Teams (19 members in total) consecutively three times to support the Mauritius Government from 10 August to 18 September 2020. The teams assisted oil removal and other environmental activities, conducted training for the National Coast Guard of Mauritius and provided equipment.

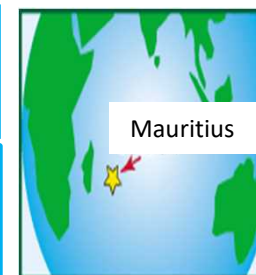
3. Japan's Cooperation from the mid- and long-term perspectives

(1) On 7 September 2020, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, spoke over the phone with the Honorable Pravind JUGNAUTH, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius. Towards the restoration and revival of Mauritius, Minister MOTEGI expressed **his intention to advance an unprecedented scale of cooperation from the mid- and long-term perspectives in a swift manner**. In response, Prime Minister JUGNAUTH told that he appreciated the immediate dispatches of the JDR Expert Teams as well as the proposal of future cooperation, stated that Japan is not responsible for the accident, and also expressed his expectation to receive Japan's continuous supports.

(2) **Minister Motegi visited Mauritius** in December 2020. During his visit, Minister Motegi presented progress of the cooperation to Prime Minister JUGNAUTH and signed the exchange of notes (E/N) on a grant aid to provide equipment to improve disaster prevention capabilities of Mauritius. Minister Motegi also inspected the status of recovery from the oil spill.

(3) Progress of the cooperation

①maritime safety: an E/N concerning grant for maritime navigation monitoring was signed on 22 February 2021, and a technical cooperation project will be implemented; ②recovering the environment and ③restoring the livelihoods of the people engaged in fishery: technical cooperation projects based on the result of a JICA survey mission will be initiated promptly; ④ recovery and development of the Mauritian economy: an E/N on emergency financial support (ODA loan) of up to 30 billion yen (approx. 284 million US dollars) was signed on 22 February 2021. A Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment will be dispatched to Mauritius.



Visit by the PM of Mauritius to the JDR Expert Team



Visit by the PM of Mauritius to the JDR Expert Team



Visit by the Minister Motegi to an area damaged by the oil spill