

Pillars 3: Multi-layered Connectivity

Case (30): Integrated improvement of airports, ports and communications infrastructure in Pacific island countries

1. Basic concept

- Pacific Island countries have a long friendship with our country. Our country attaches strategic importance to this region, where the sea lane connecting Japan and Australia meets up with the sea lane from the Indian Ocean through the South China Sea to the Pacific Ocean.
- Pacific Island countries are geographically dispersed, underpopulated and economically vulnerable. Particularly in recent years, these countries have become more vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is more important than ever to accelerate our support for the conventional infrastructure and to improve **regional connectivity** under the principle of inclusiveness, thus realizing dynamic growth.

⇒ **We will maintain and enhance the vibrant Indo-Pacific through cooperation by taking advantage of Japan's strengths while respecting each country's needs. We will aim to enable those countries to overcome their vulnerabilities and raise the level as a whole across borders.**

2. Items of cooperation

- Strengthening cooperation in various sectors including digitization and economic security in anticipation of the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10), scheduled next year
- Airport or port equipment improvement (examples of ongoing/completed projects)
 - Papua New Guinea(PNG): Nadzab Airport Redevelopment Project
 - Solomon Islands: The Project for the Improvement of the Honiara International Airport
 - Palau: The Project for Improvement of Terminal Building at Palau International Airport.
 - Vanuatu: Port Vila Lapetasi International Multi-Purpose Wharf Development Project
 - Kiribati: The Project for Expansion of Betio Port
 - Samoa: The Project for Enhancement of Safety of Apia Port
- Communications infrastructure improvement
 - Project for laying submarine cables in eastern Micronesia region (ongoing)
 - Laying spur submarine cable in Palau(Spur line of submarine cable between the U.S and Singapore)

