

Statement by Ms Toshiko ABE,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
at the Pacific Energy Summit

26 March 2013  
Auckland, New Zealand

Honourable Foreign Minister McCully,  
Commissioner Piebalgs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**1. Introduction**

It is a great pleasure and honour to attend the Pacific Energy Summit. I wish to commend this timely initiative led by New Zealand and the European Union. I also appreciate the Government of Tonga for its hosting of the Pacific Leaders Energy Summit on March 21 and 22 in Nuku'alofa.

Today, Pacific Island Countries are facing challenges in their paths for sustainable development, including high dependence on fossil fuels and serious outcome of global warming. To overcome these challenges, Pacific Island Countries are aspiring for installing inexhaustible and renewable energy, which is exactly what Japan shares in its own energy policy.

With limited natural resources, Japan has always been pursuing new technologies for renewable energy, in order to reduce its high dependence on imported fuels. This has prompted Japan to become a leading country in the world in the field of solar power generation. Thus we emphasise the fact that, any challenge can be overcome with one's wisdom and determination.

## ***2. Japan's overall policy towards the Pacific Island Countries***

Pacific Island Countries are Japan's "neighbouring" countries, sharing not only the Pacific Ocean but also the history of longstanding friendship and cooperation. Hosting the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) every three years is a testimony of our strong commitment to enhance cooperation with this region.

Japan has been steadily implementing its commitment to making maximum efforts to provide the assistance of up to 500 million US dollars over the three years. We will host the second Ministerial Interim Meeting this autumn, and look forward to participation of all PALM members.

## ***3. Japan's contribution to the promotion of renewable energy***

Japan attaches a great importance to the promotion of renewable energy and to the improvement of energy efficiency in this region.

Japan has disbursed 66 million U.S. dollars for the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Fund, to promote concrete projects for solar power generators and sea water desalination plants. Eleven countries have already implemented their projects, utilising latest Japanese products in this field.

Japan is assisting Tonga to put in place a micro-grid system. We hope this project will fit well into Tonga's Energy Roadmap. Recently, we also decided to undertake a yen loan project to reinforce a transmission system in Papua New Guinea to improve energy efficiency.

Renewable energy is a key tool to address climate change

issues. In this respect, Japan implemented 230 million US dollars to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as part of Japan's Fast-Start-Finance up to 2012. Japan also launched the "Green Future Initiative", in the Rio + 20 in 2012, to provide three billion US dollars over three years to developing countries.

As regards promoting networking and advocacy on renewable energy, Japan is supporting the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as the second largest contributor and a Member of the Council. Last year, Japan co-hosted with IRENA a workshop, to discuss the policy and technological efforts to be made for the deployment of renewable energy in Pacific Island Countries.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of installing renewable energy depends on harmonised cooperation of all stakeholders, which is Pacific Island Countries' own energy strategy, financial and technical cooperation by donors, and active involvement of the private sector including financial institutions.

In this regard, I commend the concept of the Summit to take all stakeholders on board. I am certain that such approach will provide further impetus for a greater access of renewable energy in the region.

Thank you for your attention.