

November 2, 2013

**Japan – New Zealand Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Joint Press Release on Pacific Islands Cooperation**

On the occasion of the meeting between Foreign Ministers H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida and Hon Murray McCully in Tokyo on 2 November 2013, Japan and New Zealand confirmed steady progress in the Pacific Islands Cooperation as agreed in the “Joint Statement on a Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Japan and New Zealand” announced in June, 2013. Both Ministers identified such areas of significance as follows.

1. General Directions

Japan and New Zealand reaffirmed their shared interest in stability and prosperity of the Pacific Island region, and decided to hold a first round of Pacific consultations at an earliest possible timing next year to strengthen cooperation on Pacific issues and enhance development coordination in the region utilizing their experience and knowledge.

2. Disaster Prevention and Relief

- (1) Japan highly values the progress made in the area of disaster prevention and relief following the Joint Statement released under New Zealand's initiative at the PIF Post Forum Dialogue 2011 in Auckland. Specifically noted in this respect are the periodic meetings, such as the joint Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Round Table, for case sharing among Pacific countries and key agencies in the fields of disaster prevention and climate change, which promoted discussions on strengthening collaboration on disaster risk management and efficient implementation of development aid. As an outcome of these discussions, Japan highlighted the contribution of New Zealand's initiative in hosting “Pacific Island Countries Regional Training and Consultation workshops on Strengthening Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response”, which allowed for tangible cooperation between Japan and New Zealand in the field.
- (2) Japan and New Zealand confirmed the steady progress of their Pacific

Island Cooperation in the fields of tsunami early warning and emergency response. New Zealand highly values Japan's continued efforts in supporting improvements to regional capabilities in weather, earthquake and tsunami monitoring. Japan highly values New Zealand's initiatives in fostering an all-hazards approach to disaster risk management at the community level, New Zealand appreciates and supports Japan's planned workshop on tsunami early warning systems in Samoa next year.

3. Renewable Energy

Japan and New Zealand reconfirmed the importance of assisting the Pacific Island region with climate change adaptation and mitigation through such means as promoting the use of renewable energy. Japan highly values New Zealand's initiatives in promoting the use of renewable energy in the Pacific Islands region, particularly demonstrated by hosting the Pacific Energy Summit in March 2013. New Zealand values Japan's continued efforts in helping the region to combat climate change through Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Fund and ODA programs. Both sides noted in particular their collaboration in Tonga, where Japan has been helping introduce a Micro-Grid System for electricity stabilization, which complements New Zealand's assistance in constructing a local solar power plant. The two sides reconfirmed the promising impact of continued cooperation in the field.

4. Conclusion

Japan and New Zealand both place great importance on the Pacific Islands Cooperation particularly in the spheres of climate change and natural disasters including earthquake and tsunami. Both countries have acknowledged anew the need for international cooperation in these arenas, and reconfirmed their commitment to further promoting their bilateral cooperation in the coming future.

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