

Country Assistance Policy for Solomon Islands

December, 2012

1. Relevance of Assistance

A number of geographically dispersed islands, small scale economy, and limited accessibility to international markets pose hardships for Solomon Islands to develop itself.

Solomon Islands experienced ethnic tension from the end of 1990s to the beginning of 2000 that caused instability in law and order. RAMSI which came in 2003 has succeeded to restore peace in Solomon Islands. Assisting in peace building and the rehabilitation of affected nations in collaboration with development partners falls under the objective of ODA.

The National Development Strategy (2011-2020) states the importance of poverty reduction and narrowing an income gap through economic development. In reality, however, a delay in providing basic infrastructures such as road, water supply, electricity, telecommunication is a hindrance to development in general and industrial (economic) development in particular.

Inadequate social services including education and medical services such as for the prevention of non-communicable diseases, environmental degradation caused by mining and logging as well as rural-urban migration are factors that affect the living environment of the country. Solomon Islands are also vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclone, flood, earthquake, tsunami and it is necessary for them to overcome such vulnerability in order to achieve social and economic development.

The Fisheries Agreement allows Japan to operate in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Solomon Islands and this has established a tie between the two governments in the sector of fisheries. Since her independence, the Government of Solomon Islands has been supportive for the Government of Japan in the international arena and this has helped two governments build a friendly relationship. In order for Solomon Islands to develop in a more sustainable manner and to further strengthen the tie between the two countries, it is important that the Government of Japan continuously assists the Government of Solomon Islands. Owing to nickel mining by a Japanese company, it is anticipated that two governments will have closer collaboration in economic development.

2. Basic Policy of Assistance : Support for sustainable economic development and improving a living standard through the assistance for the economic and the social sectors

Based on the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy and assistance

policy spelled in Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, held once in three years since 1997, the Government of Japan provides assistance to economic development including infrastructure, the improvement of social services and environmental conservation and climate change.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Overcoming Vulnerability

The Government of Japan gives support in building and maintaining basic economic infrastructure such as transport, electricity, energy, water supply, to enhance sustainable economic development that further accelerates the rebuilding of the nation in post-conflict era. Agriculture and fisheries being primary industries in Solomon Islands, the Government of Japan assists rural industrial development mainly through agriculture and fishery sectors, which include the provision of trainings on human resources.

Furthermore the Government of Japan gives an importance to better health and sanitation facilities as well as rural medical services, including the development of human resources engaged in infection and NCD control and public health awareness. Primary education is considered essential and therefore the Government of Japan places an emphasis upon improving the quality and upgrading the facilities.

(2) Environmental conservation

In order to overcome vulnerability to the impact of climate change, the Government of Japan supports in climate change resilience and disaster risk management. The Government of Japan further supports in solid waste management and preparation for related law and capacity development.

4. Points to be considered

- Assistance from the Government of Japan is based on five priority areas stated in Okinawa 'Kizuna' Declaration that was adopted in the Sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM6) held in May 2012. These are (1) response to natural disasters; (2) environment and climate change; (3) sustainable development and human security; (4) people-to-people exchanges; and (5) maritime issues.
- As stated in Okinawa 'Kizuna' Declaration, the Government of Japan considers its support in line with Okinawa's experiences such as solid waste management and water resource management. Okinawa has similar geographical and environmental conditions as Pacific Island countries.
- The Government of Japan takes into consideration of a number of difficulties faced by Solomon Islands, such as geographical dispersion, in providing assistance to the Government of Solomon Islands.

- The Government of Japan engages in effective and efficient support through active dialogue with other development partners, such as Australia and New Zealand, with a purpose of enhancing synergy effects and at the same time avoiding activities that are duplicative.
- There is a potential economic strength of Solomon Islands through mining development, and the Government of Japan is attentive to the necessity of a system that helps equal redistribution of income from mining industry.

Note: For the purpose of better facilitating the development process with other development partners, the Government of Japan signed “Solomon Islands Education Sector Statement of Partnership Principles between Solomon Islands Government and Development Partners” (October 2009) and “Partnership Arrangement between the Solomon Islands Government Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Health Development Partners” (May 2009).

Annex: Rolling Plan

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| Development Issue 1-4 Strengthening Education System | [Background] The government of Solomon Islands has set the target to strengthen basic education as one of priorities in education sector. The enrolment ratio of school-age children shows improvement, while drop out ratio has kept high level. In order to upward the ratio of students who complete basic education, it is necessary to improve the educational services. In fact, educational infrastructure remains inadequate due to the budgetary constraints. Training for school teachers to gain sufficient teaching skills also requires to improve as an urgent matter. | | | [Japan's Assistance Policy] Japan provides the assistance in line with Japan's ODA policy for education sector (Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth), and coordinates its assistance to improve quality of basic education services including educational facilities, utilizing the assistance schemes such as volunteers, training and the Grassroots Grant Aid. | | | | | | Assistance Amount (100 Million Yen) | Note | |
| | Japan's Assistance Program | Program Summary | Project | Scheme | Schedule | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Before JFY 2015 | JFY 2016 | JFY 2017 | JFY 2018 | JFY 2019 | JFY 2020 | | |
| | Program for Support and Improvement of Education System | Primary education is considered essential and therefore an emphasis is to improve educational quality and to upgrade school facilities | Grassroots Projects for Improvement of School Facilities | GGP | | | | | | | 0.49 | |
| | | | Volunteers in Basic Education Sector | JOCV/SV | | | | | | | | |
| Training Programs in Education Sector | | | TR | | | | | | | | | |
| Strengthening the Capacity of Teachers and Principals in Primary and Secondary Schools in the Pacific Region | | | ML | | | | | | | 0.45 million (US\$) | The UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Capacity-building of Human Resources | |
| | | Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) | CTR | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area 2 | Environmental Conservation | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Development Issue 2-1 Climate Change | [Background] The Solomon Islands, which consists of six major islands and about 1000 small islands in the Pacific, has been exposed to threats and dangers by natural disasters, as cyclones, floods, earthquakes, and accompanying tsunamis. In particular, the frequency of heavy rains has increased in recent years, which calls an urgent action to strengthen the capacity to manage the risks. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), in line with the strategy of UNISDR, works actively in order to achieve the regional goals defined under the "Hyogo Framework of Action 2005". NDMO compiled the National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) in 2009, and the "5-year Corporate Plan 2010 - 2015". Important objectives are identified in the plan, such as strengthening systems to mitigate disaster risks, and strengthening disaster risk management and awareness-raising activities at community level. | | | [Japan's Assistance Policy] Japan provides the assistance to strengthen disaster risk management capacity, in order to minimize impacts of natural disasters caused by such as climate change. Japan provides the Grant Aid to support rapid and effective transfer of disaster information through the development of radio broadcasting networks. The Regional Technical Assistance Project also supports to enhance capability of the community-based disaster risk management. As other development partners have started their projects with their similar approaches, Japan collaborates with them to generate synergy, rather than duplication. | | | | | | Assistance Amount (100 Million Yen) | Note | |
| | Japan's Assistance Program | Program Summary | Project | Scheme | Schedule | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Before JFY 2015 | JFY 2016 | JFY 2017 | JFY 2018 | JFY 2019 | JFY 2020 | | |
| | Disaster Risk Management Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To enhance coordination capacity of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) •To develop a community-based disaster management system | Volunteers in Disaster Risk Management Sector | JOCV/SV | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Training Programs for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation | TR | | | | | | | | |
| The Project for Strengthening Multi-hazard Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries | | | ML | | | | | | | 1.24 | UN (ESCAP) | |
| Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) | | | CTR | | | | | | | | | |

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| Development Issue 2-2 Environmental Conservation | [Background] Changes in lifestyles and excessive flow of population to the urban areas in Solomon Islands have exacerbated the problem of health and sanitation, and waste disposal in urban areas. Given the situation, the Government of Solomon Islands announced the National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (NSWMP 2009-2014) and the National Health Care Waste Management Policy (NHCWMP) in 2009 to tackle the issues. However, the resource constraints, such as lack of budget, human and technical capacity, hinder its practical implementation. Awareness of environmental issues at the community level remains very low, which is another threat to lead adverse impacts on environment, health and sanitation for the people of Solomon Islands. | | | [Japan's Assistance Policy] Japan provides the assistance to improve the system of waste management in Solomon Islands, with regards to the experience of the regional projects in Samoa (2006-2010) as a good practice. In order to reduce amount of wastes, Japan also promotes environmental education, 3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) awareness program. Japan coordinates its assistance with combination of multiple schemes, as technical assistance, volunteer activities, and training, in order to maximize the outcomes. | | | | | | | | | |
| | Japan's Assistance Program | Program Summary | Project | Scheme | Schedule | | | | | | Assistance Amount (100 Million Yen) | Note | |
| | | | | | Before JFY 2015 | JFY 2016 | JFY 2017 | JFY 2018 | JFY 2019 | JFY 2020 | | | |
| | Program for Establishing a Society with an Environmentally Sound Material-Cycle in islands area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support in solid waste management and preparation for related law and capacity development To promote community awareness to reduce waste | The Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Islands Countries (J-PRISM) (Phase 2) | TCP | | — | | | | | | | Regional Project based in Samoa (9 Countries) |
| | | | Establishing separate collection system of household waste through public-private cooperation based on a new 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle and return) ideology | JPP | | — | | | | | | 0.50 | |
| | | | Project for Strengthening of Environmental Protection and Urban Beautification | GGP | | — | | | | | | 0.13 | |
| | | | Volunteers in Environmental Education and Afforestation Sectors | JOCV/SV | | | — | | | | | | |
| Training Programs for Solid Waste Management | | | TR | | | — | | | | | | | |
| Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) | CTR | | | — | | | | | | | | | |

Legend: [PS] = Preparatory Survey, [DD] = Detailed Design, [TCP] = Technical Cooperation Project, [TCDP] = Technical Cooperation for Development Planning, [EXP] = Expert, [EQ] = Equipment, [CTR] = Country-focused Training, [TR] = Issue-based Training / Training Program for Young Leaders, [JOCV] = Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, [SV] = Senior Volunteers, [TEXP] = Third-country Expert, [TTR] = Third-country Training, [ICT] = In-Country Training, [STC] = Science and Technology Cooperation on Global Issues, [JPP] = JICA Partnership Program, [xx-TA] = Technical Assistance implemented by organizations other than MOFA and JICA, [PCP-TC] = Private Companies Proposed-Technical Cooperation, [GA] = Grant Aid, [GGP] = Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid, [LA] = Loan Aid (ODA Loan), [ML] = Multilateral Cooperation, [SSM] = Support for Small and Medium sized Enterprise, [MAFF] = Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, [OFCF] = Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation, Solid Line [—] = Schedule, Dash Line [- - -] = Tentative Schedule