

(Provisional Translation)

Summary: Recommendations by Eminent Persons' Committee for PALM 6

15 November 2011

1. What PALM6 should aim for :

(1) Maritime Diplomacy

- Peace and prosperity of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are strategically important for Japan as a maritime nation. Prime Minister Noda's speech at the outset of PALM 6 on a new initiative on Japan's maritime diplomacy should be considered.

(2) Cooperation with the U.S.

- In light of changing strategic environment surrounding PICs, cooperation needs to be enhanced with the U.S. which plays important roles in maintaining maritime order in the Pacific. In this regard, the U.S. participation in PALM 6 should be considered.

(3) Sharing lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

- It is necessary to share lessons from the disaster with PICs and launch a new initiative on disaster management with a view to reciprocating generous assistance by PICs. At the same time, Japan should appeal its steady progress towards reconstruction.

(4) Respecting Equal Partnership

- Japan's assistance has contributed to building ties of trust with PICs beyond donor-recipient relationship. In order to strengthen such ties, it is imperative to continue the assistance in line with PICs' own values and necessity.
- PALM co-chairs should be limited only to PICs and rules in that regard are needed. (It is welcomed that the Cook Islands will be a co-chair of PALM 6.)
- It is essential for the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Japan to visit PICs on a regular basis. (The last visits by the PM and FM were in 1985 and 1987 respectively.)

(5) Engaging Fiji

- Towards Fiji's return to democracy, it is important to continue dialogue with Fiji in order for the country to hold general elections no later than 2014.

2. Assistance Plan at PALM6

(1) Commitment to Assistance

- In light of strategic importance of PICs as well as cost-efficiency of assistance to them, the current level of ODA to PICs should be maintained.
- It is important to focus on the quality of assistance and launch a new initiative in areas such as renewable energy.

(2) Key Areas of Assistance

- In light of the vulnerabilities of PICs, areas such as disaster management, environment and climate change should be prioritized.
- For strengthening people-to-people exchanges with PICs, it would be worthwhile to ① establish student funds for PICs, ② further expand the JET Programme for PICs, ③ further dispatch experts to PIC governments, and ④ invite officials in the area of security in a long term.

3. PALM Process

(1) Leaders Meeting

- It is important to host PALM every three years and to select a venue in an open and competitive manner.

(2) PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting

- An option to hold the next Ministerial Interim Meeting in the area affected by the disaster should be explored, and Foreign Minister should be the host. This will also be meaningful for appealing Japan's steady progress towards reconstruction.

(3) Strategic Public Relations

- It is important to carry out PR activities in cooperation with Okinawa Prefecture and private organisations, aiming at ① the general public of

Japan, ②PICs, and ③the international community.

- Since PALM 6 will be the first international leaders-level meeting hosted by Japan after the disaster, it is vital to appeal its steady progress towards reconstruction on this occasion. In this light, appointing “Hula Girls (a dancing team of Spa Resort Hawaiians in a disaster-stricken city)” as Goodwill Ambassador for PLAM 6 is worth consideration.
- It is important to organise PR events before PALM 6 and create a logo with a taste of Okinawa.

(4) Active Involvement of Local Governments

- It is meaningful to consider a mechanism which will allow the involvement of local governments in preparation for PALM.
- Since Okinawa is faced with similar challenges as PICs’, it is important to fully utilise knowledge and experiences of Okinawa.