

Dive into the Blue Pacific

JICA's Cooperation for the 14 Pacific Island Countries



Shaping a Sustainable Future of the Pacific Island Countries Together



What is JICA?

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an incorporated administrative agency in charge of administering Japan's ODA, is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies supporting socioeconomic development in developing countries in different regions of the world.

Under its new vision set out in July 2017, JICA supports the resolution of issues in developing countries through a flexible combination of various types of assistance methods.

Mission

JICA, in accordance with the Development Cooperation Charter, will work on *human security* and *quality growth*.

Vision

Leading the world with trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

Actions

1 Commitment

Commit ourselves with pride and passion to achieving our mission and vision.

2 Gemba

Dive into the field ("gemba") and work together with the people.

3 Strategy

Think and act strategically with broad and long-term perspectives.

4 Co-creation

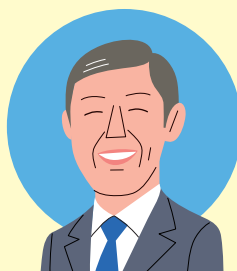
Bring together diverse wisdom and resources.

5 Innovation

Innovate to bring about unprecedented impacts.

Message from JICA President

Growing together with our neighbors in the Pacific region



KITAOKA Shinichi
JICA President

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and Japan are maritime nations that share the Pacific Ocean and many cultural commonalities and historical ties. While Japan's mandate in Micronesia after World War I laid the foundations for infrastructure and social services, the PICs and Japan also share the painful history of World War II, in which many lives were lost in fierce battles in the region. Today, the PICs and Japan maintain a friendship, with shared basic values of belief in freedom, peace, and the rule of law.

The people of the PICs call the Pacific Ocean "the blue continent" and are doing their utmost to protect it as its custodian. The preservation of peace and stability in the Pacific and the maintenance of a sustainable environment, including the protection of the oceans, is vital not only for the development of the PICs but

also for Japan.

The PICs are faced with many challenges, such as the negative impact of climate change and the threat of infectious diseases, which endanger the health and stable lives of their people. Improving capacity to conserve vast ocean areas by the PICs themselves is also essential. In response to these challenges, Japan, as an island nation having a unique modernization experience since the 19th century, can contribute to fostering the leaders who will be responsible for shaping a sustainable future of the PICs by sharing its experience and knowledge.

I look forward to realizing a future abundant in peace and hope together with the PICs, where we have nurtured a relationship of trust throughout our history.

CONTENTS

In this booklet, we shall rediscover the charms of the culture and art of the PICs, and find out, “Why has Japan been cooperating with the PICs?” by observing cases of cooperation. Let us consider the relationship of trust between the PICs and Japan, continuing on from the past into the future.

Chapter 1

Experience the Magic of the Islands

Let us take a peek at the PICs' attractions in history, culture, and specialties.



JICA basic information

2P ➔ What is JICA?

7P ➔ How does it work?



A visual glimpse of the 14 nations

Here we will introduce the 14 PICs covering basic data like populations and languages, as well as information and photos of specialties and the cultures unique to each country.

4 ▶ 6P ➔ Pacific Island Countries, our Pacific neighbor
Let's take a closer look at each country



Chapter 2

Exploring the Reasons for Japan's Cooperation

We will explore the reasons why Japan is cooperating with the PICs, and look at the history of some of the activities carried out to date.

8 ▶ 13P ➔ The PICs and Japan Building a Sustainable Future Together



The 4 challenges faced by the island countries

The PICs are small-sized, isolated, remote, and maritime, and they are faced with many issues related to these features. JICA is offering a wide range of cooperation to overcome their challenges.

▶ 8-9P | Why is Japan cooperating with the PICs?



PALM is deepening the bonds between the PICs and Japan

Once every three years, Japan and the leaders of the PICs hold a conference called the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting: PALM. Find out more about the PALM, where the issues of each country are shared and future cooperation is discussed.

▶ 10P | What is the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM)?

Chapter 3

Introducing JICA's Cooperation

JICA carries out activities based on the five main cooperation areas decided at the PALM. In order to understand specifically what projects are being implemented, we will look at them together with case studies.

Projects linked to 5 priority areas

At PALM9, the PICs and Japan decided on five priority areas to respond to together including countermeasures against COVID-19 and climate change and disaster risk reduction. Find out what these five areas are, and let us have a look at the specific projects.

14 ▶ 17P ➔ The 5 Promises the PICs and Japan Made

Training held at the Pacific Climate Change Centre.



Projects launched through partnerships

JICA is promoting projects by forming partnerships with a variety of bodies such as international organizations and private sectors in Japan. Here, we will introduce four projects that are being implemented utilizing the knowledge and expertise of each partner.

18 ▶ 19P ➔

Cooperation by Various Partners and JICA

At Tokyo University of Agriculture, the focus is on breadfruit, traditional food in Tonga.



Pacific Island Countries, our Pacific neighbor Let's take a closer look at each country

To date, Japan has carried out a variety of human exchange and cooperation projects with the PICs* as a partner in the international community. Here is an introduction of the countries in the Pacific Islands, composed of Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia regions.

👤 = Population 💰 = Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

GNI per capita and population are quoted from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (2020)
* The "Pacific Island Countries (PICs)" described in this booklet refer to the 14 countries JICA is cooperating with (see pages 4-6 for details).



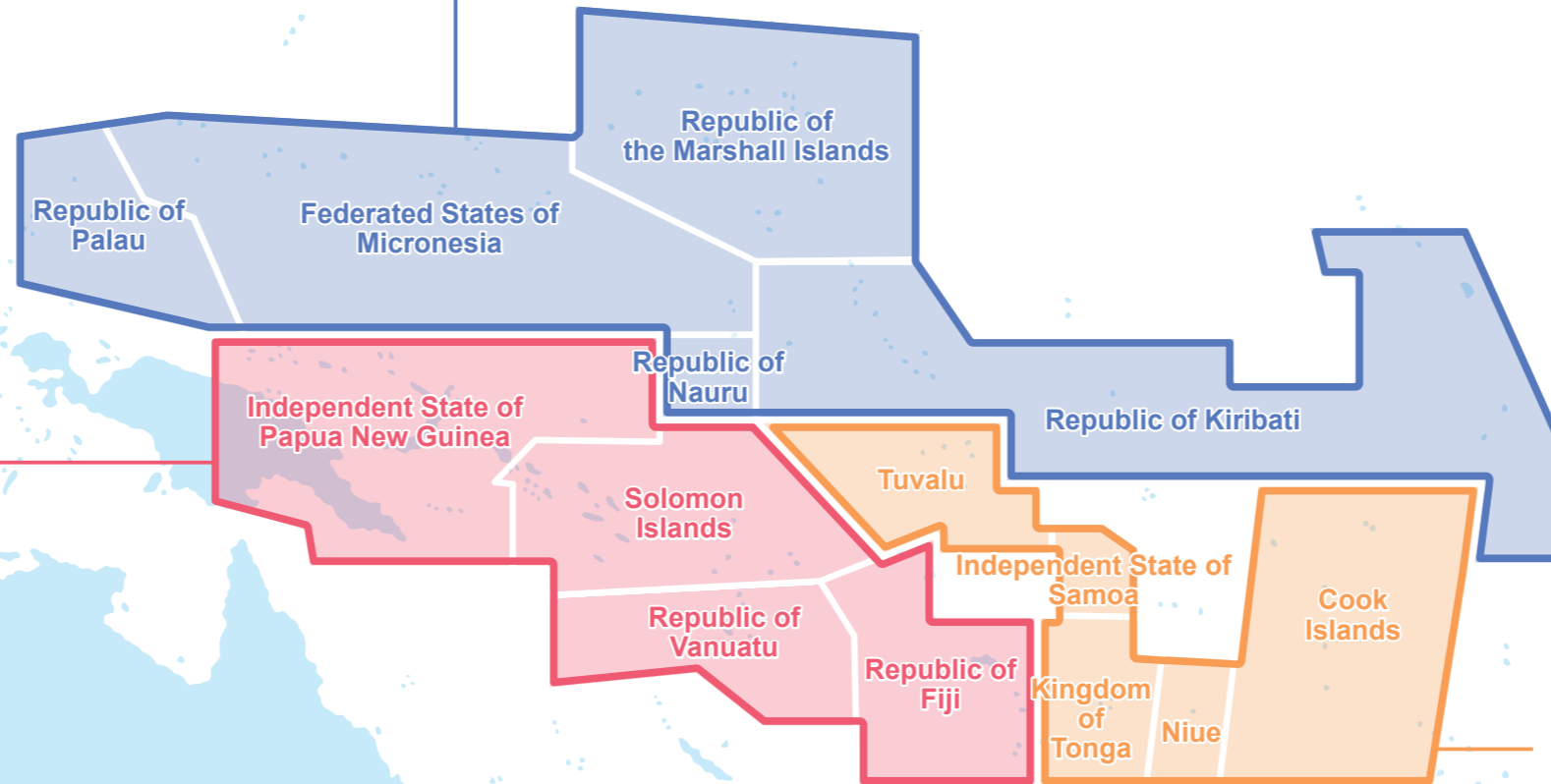
🇯🇵 **Japan**

👤 **125,840,000**
💰 **us\$40,360**

Capital: Tokyo
Area: 378,000km²
Language: Japanese
Major industries: automobiles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel, non-ferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textile goods

Micronesia

This region was named Micronesia because it is dotted with small (micro) islands. Many countries in Micronesia retain remnants of Japanese culture from the Japanese mandate period.



Melanesia

There are many large islands blessed with natural resources in Melanesia and the overall population is much larger than the other two regions. Melanesia has a strong relationship with Australia, which is geographically close.

Independent State of Papua New Guinea

👤 **8,947,000**
💰 **us\$2,720**

Capital: Port Moresby
Area: approx. 460,000km²
Language: English, Pidgin English, Motu
Major industries: mining (liquefied natural gas, gold, crude oil, copper), agriculture (palm oil, coffee), forestry (lumber)

Papua New Guinea has the largest land area of the PICs and it is home to many ethnic minorities. In 2008, "Kuk Swamp," the oldest agricultural site in the world, was recognized as a World Heritage Site.

Solomon Islands

👤 **687,000**
💰 **us\$2,300**

Capital: Honiara
Area: 28,900km²
Language: English, Pidgin English
Major industries: agriculture (copra), fisheries, forestry (lumber)

The Solomon Islands is a country made up of more than 1,000 large and small islands with many towering volcanoes and rich tropical rainforests. The country's capital is located on the island of Guadalcanal, which was a fierce battlefield in the Pacific War.

Republic of Vanuatu

👤 **307,000**
💰 **us\$3,190**

Capital: Port Vila
Area: 12,190km²
Language: Bislama (Pidgin English), English, French
Major industries: agriculture, tourism

The yellow Y on the flag represents a chain of about 80 islands stretching 1,200 kilometers from north to south. It depicts the tusk of a boar, which is considered a sacred being.

Republic of Fiji

👤 **896,000**
💰 **us\$4,890**

Capital: Suva
Area: 18,270km²
Language: English, Fijian, Hindi
Major industries: tourism, agriculture (sugar), manufacturing (clothing)

The Republic of Fiji functions as a hub connecting the Pacific Islands. This country is committed to cultural protection of traditional dancing, and Kava, a drink served during ceremonies and hospitality.

Tuvalu

👤 **12,000**
💰 **us\$5,820**

Capital: Funafuti
Area: 26km²
Language: English, Tuvaluan
Major industries: agriculture, fisheries

Tuvalu is the smallest country in Polynesia consisting of 9 atolls. The land is at a low altitude and there are concerns about rising sea levels caused by climate change. This country earns revenue by leasing its country domain (.tv) to U.S. companies.

Independent State of Samoa

👤 **198,000**
💰 **us\$4,050**

Capital: Apia
Area: 2,830km²
Language: Samoan, English
Major industries: agriculture, fisheries

The Independent State of Samoa consists of two main volcanic islands blessed with lakes, rivers, and mountains with lush greenery. Samoa is carefully preserving its unique culture including the chief system and traditional clothing. In the rural areas, the self-sufficient lifestyle is strongly entrenched.

Kingdom of Tonga

👤 **106,000**
💰 **us\$5,190**

Capital: Nuku'alofa
Area: 720km²
Language: Tongan, English
Major industries: agriculture (taro, yam, kava, vanilla, pumpkin), fisheries

Consisting of more than 170 large and small islands, Tonga is the only country in the Pacific Islands that continues to be a monarchy. Through exchange with Japan, sumo wrestling and math using an abacus were introduced. Tongans are renowned for their friendly character.

Niue

👤 **1,888**
💰 **N/A**

Capital: Alofi
Area: 259km²
Language: Niuean, English
Major industries: agriculture, fisheries, tourism

Niue is an isolated island made of coral reefs. Rising out of the ocean, it is called the "Rock of Polynesia." The magnificent scenery is attractive with limestone cliffs rising to a height of 60 meters.

Cook Islands

👤 **18,000**
💰 **N/A**

Capital: Avarua
Area: approx. 237km²
Language: Cook Islands Maori, English
Major industries: tourism, agriculture, fisheries (black pearl), finance

Named after Captain Cook who discovered these islands, this country consists of 15 islands. It is known for a location of the movie "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" directed by OSHIMA Nagisa.

Republic of Palau

👤 **18,000**
💰 **us\$14,390**

Capital: Melekeok
Area: 488km²
Language: Palauan, English
Major industries: tourism

The Republic of Palau is an island nation with an area almost the same size as Yakushima (an island in the south of Japan). There is abundant nature and tourism development is progressing. Japanese words such as "okyaku" (guest) and "shashin" (photograph) are still in use from the Japanese colonial era.

Federated States of Micronesia

👤 **115,000**
💰 **us\$3,950**

Capital: Palikir
Area: 700km²
Language: English, 8 local languages
Major industries: fisheries, tourism, agriculture (coconuts, taro, bananas)

Federated States of Micronesia consists of 607 islands and atolls in a vast sea area approximately 7million km² wide. It is inhabited by an abundance of rare creatures including birds and its four states each possess a unique culture.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

👤 **59,000**
💰 **us\$4,940**

Capital: Majuro
Area: 180km²
Language: Marshallese, English
Major industries: agriculture (copra, coconut oil), fisheries

The Marshall Islands, consisting of over 1,000 islands and atolls stretched out in a series like a ring, is called the "Pearl Necklace of the Pacific" because of its beautiful scenery. Bikini Atoll has a history of being a U.S. nuclear test site.

Republic of Nauru

👤 **11,000**
💰 **us\$15,990**

Capital: Yaren
Area: 21.1km²
Language: English, Nauruan
Major industries: mining (phosphorite)

Nauru has the third smallest area of any country in the world. The whole island is composed of phosphate ore and Nauru once prospered by exporting it. Currently, the country is concentrating its efforts on developing tourism.

Republic of Kiribati

👤 **119,000**
💰 **us\$2,960**

Capital: Tarawa
Area: 730km²
Language: Kiribati, English
Major industries: fisheries, agriculture (copra)

Kiribati, which consists of 33 atolls, is located just below the equator. The international date line runs along the country's national border. Caroline Island (Millennium Island), the easternmost atoll, is the place where the day starts earlier than any other place on earth.

Niue

👤 **1,888**
💰 **N/A**

Capital: Alofi
Area: 259km²
Language: Niuean, English
Major industries: agriculture, fisheries, tourism

Niue is an isolated island made of coral reefs. Rising out of the ocean, it is called the "Rock of Polynesia." The magnificent scenery is attractive with limestone cliffs rising to a height of 60 meters.

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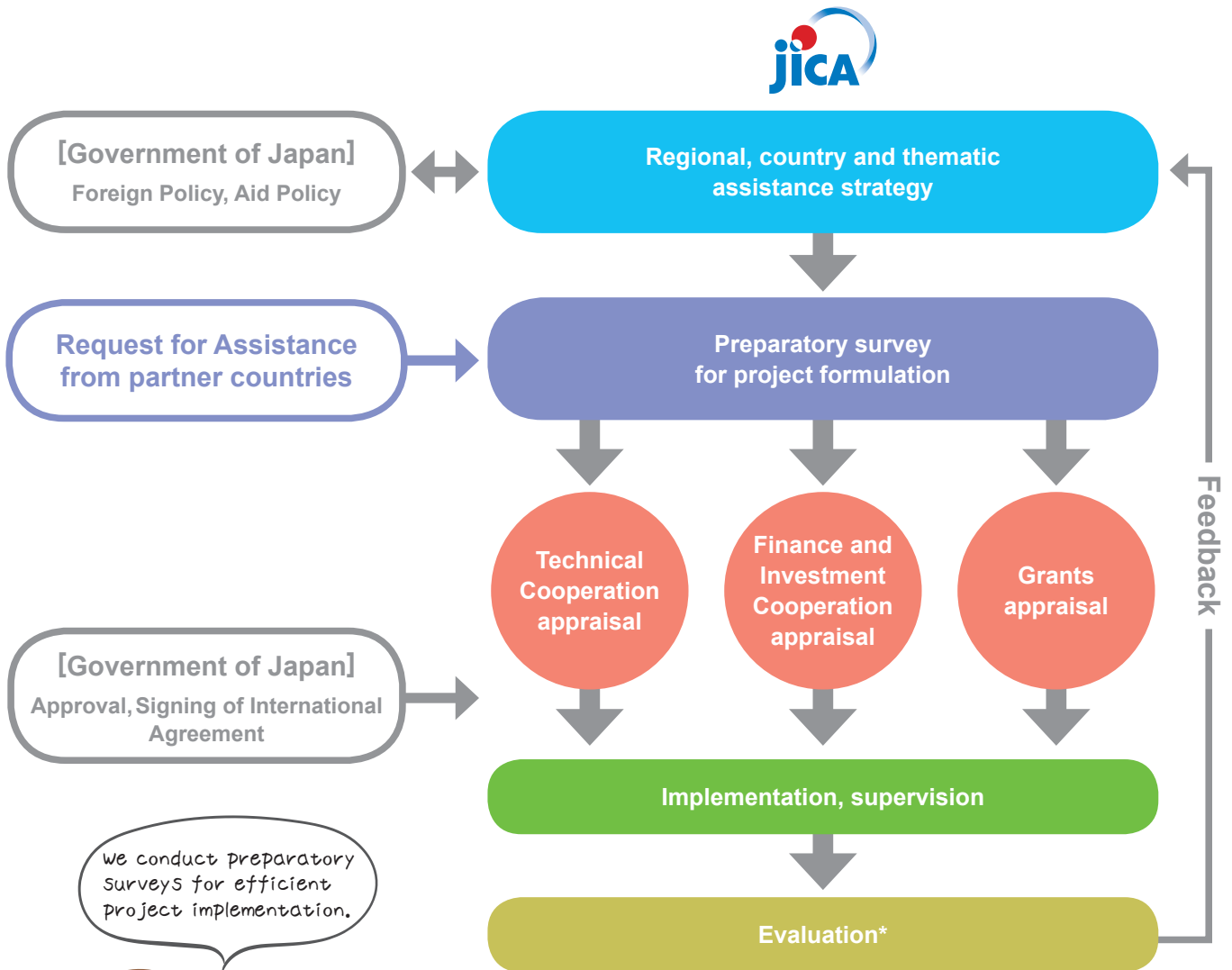
Named after Captain Cook who discovered these islands, this country consists of 15 islands. It is known for a location of the movie "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" directed by OSHIMA Nagisa.

How does it work?

See the flow at a glance!

JICA's Operational Flow for Cooperation

JICA implements effective and efficient cooperation under the Japanese government's aid policy based on an unbiased, broad perspective that extends beyond assistance schemes such as Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation, and Grants. In particular, JICA promptly conducts project formulation and implementation by undertaking preparatory surveys to investigate the content of cooperation at project sites before receiving aid requests from partner countries.



We conduct preparatory surveys for efficient project implementation.



* JICA conducts evaluations of projects using the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle for each scheme of Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation and Grants, and employs the system to further improve operations and sufficiently achieve public accountability.
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/evaluation/

The PICs and Japan Building a Sustainable Future Together

The PICs are **small-sized**, **isolated**, **remote**, and **maritime**, and they are faced with many issues related to these features. JICA is offering a wide range of cooperation to overcome their challenges.

Land area is limited and populations are small Small-Sized Nations

In the PICs, population is concentrated in small urban areas, causing environmental problems and insufficient water supply. Retail prices tend to be expensive and this affects the livelihoods of the islanders.

Japan has been carrying technical cooperation to tackle these issues, such as applying a Japanese landfill method for proper waste disposal and supplying safe water appropriate for island settings. JICA has also cooperated in establishing a pharmaceutical services center that allows for reduction of purchasing costs and provision of adequate storage for medical supplies.



Island countries are scattered throughout a wide ocean

Isolated

Where people live dispersed throughout multiple islands, the challenge lies in providing social services throughout every corner of the country, due to insufficient infrastructure and inadequate capacity building.

The PICs are making efforts to strengthen domestic links by developing necessary facilities, equipment, and personnel. For example, the donation of an inter-island ferry has facilitated economic activities, and the promotion of remote learning has provided high-quality education in the difficult-to-access regions. Healthcare initiatives include the development of hospitals and relevant equipment as well as the improvement of doctors' and nurses' skills.



The PICs are facing problems unique to island nations that have a serious impact on the lives of their inhabitants. For many years, Japan has continued to offer wide-ranging cooperation in areas such as healthcare, education, industry, and disaster prevention in response to their challenges.

Let's take a look at the development challenges faced by the PICs and how Japan is cooperating.

I didn't know they were faced with such critical issues...!!



Distant from major international markets and bases

Remote

The aging airports and harbors with limited capacity are impeding various opportunities for logistics and people-to-people exchange. Restrictions on access to higher education, such as universities, are just one example. The region is also susceptible to fuel prices.

JICA is working on improving transportation infrastructure which is the key to strengthening connections with major markets and for expanding logistics and tourism. In addition, JICA has assisted in introducing remote learning at the University of the South Pacific, a comprehensive university in the region, to enable students to participate in lectures from different countries.



Surrounded by the sea and vulnerable to natural disasters

Maritime

The PICs are susceptible to natural disasters such as high tides and floods resulting from tsunami, cyclones, and rising sea levels. Climate change is exacerbating natural hazards and rapid action needs to be taken to prepare disaster-resilient infrastructure and reinforce responsiveness.

Japan is focusing on disaster risk reduction measures to keep the impact of natural hazards in the region to a minimum. At the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, climate change specialists are trained, and the Centre welcomes administrative officers from various countries to learn about the climate change risks and countermeasures. JICA is also promoting development of climate-change resilient infrastructure.



Q Why is **Japan** cooperating with the **PICs**?

A **Prosperity** and **peace** in the **PICs** are closely linked to the lives of the people of **Japan**.

The history built up between the PICs and Japan will form the future relationship

Since the end of the 19th century, the PICs and Japan have forged a history of over 100 years. The people of the PICs and Japan have lived together as a result of Japan's immigration policy. Some countries in the region experienced being under Japanese mandate and the Pacific Islands were battlefields during World War II. Throughout the history, both sides have overcome many challenges, which has resulted in the mutual understanding between the PICs and Japan. Now, by supporting the PICs in their challenges and nation-building, we believe we can strengthen our ties and create a

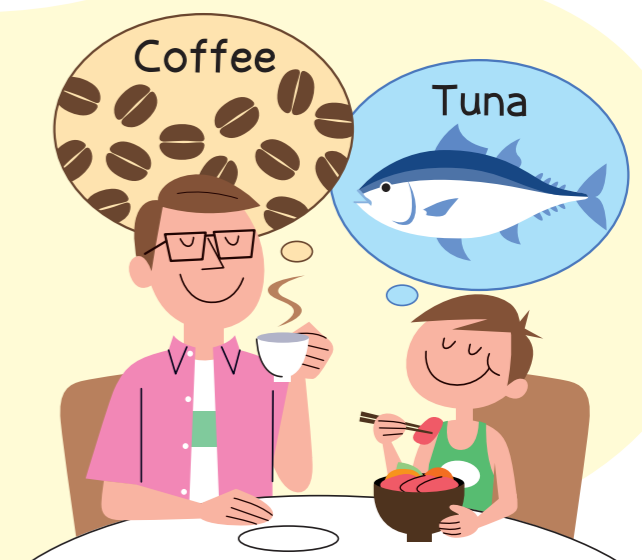
relationship where we can work together to solve international issues and help each other in the future.

The PICs form an important zone connecting Japan and the world

For Japan, the waters surrounding the Pacific Islands are an important route for the transportation of goods. For example, when trading with foreign countries, ships cross the seas off the PICs. Many aircraft carrying large numbers of passengers fly along air routes above the Pacific Islands. For Japan, the Pacific Islands region is an important zone for economic activity and securing the stability of the ocean and the sky will lead to the stability and growth of the Japanese economy.

The PICs are supporting the daily lives of Japanese people

Japan imports a variety of resources from the PICs. For example, approximately 40% of skipjack and tuna consumed in Japan is imported from the PICs. Other goods Japan imports from the region include mineral resources such as gold and copper necessary for manufacturing industrial products, forest resources such as wood necessary for construction and woodworking, and underground resources such as natural gas necessary for city gas and power generation. Japan has limited resources, and its lifestyles and industries are supported by resources imported from the PICs. Protecting the nature of the Pacific Islands region protects the lives of Japan.



Q What are some of the challenges the **PICs** and **Japan** face?

A **Isolation, remoteness, and maritimeness** are common to the PICs and Japan. Japan is carrying cooperation utilizing its knowledge and expertise

Like the PICs, Japan is an island country and it shares many of the same features. Japan is isolated, with many people living in remote islands; it is remote, because aircraft and ships are essential for import, export and tourism; and it is maritime, being vulnerable to typhoons and tsunamis. When cooperating in the PICs, there are many cases where Japan's knowledge is leveraged. For example, in "The Project for Introduction of a Micro-Grid System with Renewable Energy for the Tonga Energy Road Map," which was carried out in Tonga, JICA cooperated in adopting a stable supply of renewable energy such as solar power taking advantage of achievements in remote islands in the Kyushu and Okinawa areas of Japan.

Tonga: The Project for Introduction of a Micro-Grid System with Renewable Energy for the Tonga Energy Road Map

In order to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and enhance energy security in Tonga, "The Tonga Energy Road Map 2010-2020" was formulated, and renewable energy is being introduced increasingly. However, when large volumes of electric power were introduced via solar and wind power, maintaining a consistent power supply proved problematic. In addition, because the frequency of the power system fluctuates, it was hard to keep the power quality high. Therefore, JICA cooperated to secure power quality (voltage/frequency) and a balance of supply and demand for the entire region through the Community Energy Management System (CEMS) and smart power storage system technology, applying its achievements in the Kyushu and Okinawa areas.



Q What is the **Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM)**?

A It is a conference in which leaders of the **PICs** are invited to **Japan** to talk about future cooperation.



PALM is a summit-level meeting held every three years since 1997 to foster partnerships between the PICs and Japan

PALM is an international conference hosted in Japan, where leaders and representatives of 16 countries and two regions, including 14 PICs that have diplomatic relations with Japan, and Australia and New Zealand, are invited to attend. At PALM, top-level discussions are conducted on what issues the PICs are facing and how Japan can cooperate with them. PALM has been held every three years since 1997, with the venues spanning from Miyazaki to Okinawa, Hokkaido, and Fukushima, providing a valuable opportunity for the participants to gain a better understanding of Japan. The relationships of trust built through PALM are often reflected in the ties between the respective countries. Japan is the only country that has such a framework with the 14 PICs, and there are very few international summits that have continued for more than 20 years. The triennial PALM has become a proud asset of Japanese diplomacy, as it builds close cooperative relationships and deepens ties between Japan and the PICs.



Q How are **cooperation areas** decided?

A They are decided according to the challenges of the times and the requirements of each country.

Reinforcement of basic social services



Dealing with challenges that occur as a result of change in lifestyle and the environment

Extending support in the fields of healthcare and education to cooperation designed to respond to environmental issues

The content of cooperation is determined by the challenges and concerns that change with the times. In the 1980s and 1990s, shortly after JICA's cooperation began, there was a lot of demand for support in basic social services such as healthcare and education. These include a project to suppress lymphatic filariasis which has been implemented in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), and another project to strengthen the remote learning system at the University of the South Pacific. In the 2000s, JICA began to assist in dealing with environmental issues resulting from waste disposal, a new problem created by lifestyle changes. As the PICs face common challenges, the knowledge and expertise obtained from the projects will be shared in other countries. Our aim is to cooperate with the Pacific Islands region overall to become a safe and pleasant place to live in.

Now, let's have a look at how Japan has been cooperating with the PICs in the past.



History of JICA's Cooperation with the PICs

JICA's cooperation is implemented based on the dialogue between the PICs and Japan. Operations are conducted to achieve peace and security in the entire region, meticulously responding to the requirements of the times.

- 1920** ● The League of Nations recognizes Japan's mandate over Micronesia.
- 1945** ● End of World War II
- 1954** ● Japan joins the Colombo Plan and begins international cooperation.
- 1972** ● Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) dispatched to West Samoa (now Samoa) for the first time in the Pacific Islands region.
- 1974** ● JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) established.
- 1987** ● The Kuranari Doctrine (the five key principles of Japan's cooperation policy with the Pacific Island region) announced.
The five key principles:
(1) Respect for independence and autonomy, (2) Support for existing arrangements for regional cooperation, (3) Assistance in preserving political stability, (4) Provision of assistance to make the region more prosperous, and (5) Promotion of people-to-people exchanges.
- 1989** ● Participation in the Post-Forum Dialogue of the South Pacific Forum (SPF/now PIF). Japan has been participating at the ministerial level every year to promote policy dialogue.
Commencement of dispatch of medical volunteers, the forerunner of the Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region.
- 1997** ● 1997 The First Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM1).
- 1998** ● **Commencement of the Project for Upgrade of the USNet Communications System.**
- 2000** ● 2000 The Second Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM2).
Dispatch of experts, the forerunner of the Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries.
- 2003** ● JICA reorganized and renamed as the Incorporated Administrative Agency Japan International Cooperation Agency.
The Third Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM3).
- 2006** ● The Fourth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM4).
- 2009** ● The Fifth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM5).
- 2012** ● The Sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM6).
- 2014** ● 60th anniversary of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- 2015** ● The Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7).
- 2016** ● Commencement of Pacific Leaders Educational Assistance for Development of States Program (Pacific-LEADS).
- 2017** ● **Commencement of the Project for Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in the Pacific Island Countries.**
- 2018** ● The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8).
- 2019** ● Inauguration of the Interagency Committee for Promoting Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries.
- 2021** ● 2021 The Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9).

Healthcare

Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (medical volunteers dispatched from 1989)

Swift action is being taken globally to suppress lymphatic filariasis, which makes social life difficult because of physical disorder and pain. Since 1989, JICA has dispatched medical volunteers and implemented preventive awareness activities and mass drug administration. The activities continued with the support of WHO until 2018 when an independent JICA program was launched. JICA is now working to suppress the disease in six countries that remain.



This page is in Japanese



Education

The Project for Upgrade of USP Net Communications System (from 1998)



In order to expand opportunities for higher education, JICA is cooperating with the reinforcement of a remote learning system at the University of the South Pacific, which has its headquarters located in Fiji. The project is being implemented in stages including the construction of a satellite communications network, training of lecturers, development of teaching materials, and the preparation of facilities and equipment. JICA is cooperating for the development of an educational environment, aiming to create a base for training the leaders of the future in the Pacific Islands region.

This page is in Japanese



Waste Management

Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (experts dispatched from 2000)

Due to the modernization of lifestyles, there is an increase in the amount and types of waste in the PICs. This is affecting the environment as waste management system has not been able to keep up with the changes. JICA started dispatching experts in 2000 to tackle the issue, and from 2011, a technical cooperation project targeting the PICs is being implemented with the aim of appropriate waste management and reduction of waste emissions.



Photo courtesy of IMAMURA Kenshiro /JICA

This page is in Japanese



Resources and Energy

Project for Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in the Pacific Island Countries (from 2017)



The PICs depend on imported fuel for electric power energy, and the impact of soaring transportation costs and prices has become a challenge. JICA has cooperated in introducing a hybrid power generation system combining solar power generation with existing diesel power generation. In addition to reducing fuel costs, this is contributing to a stable supply of electricity and a reduction in greenhouse gases. JICA is also working together for further promotion of renewable energy.

This page is in Japanese



Q What are the types of cooperation JICA provides?

A JICA uses an array of schemes to meet the diverse needs of developing countries around the world.

Technical Cooperation

Dispatch of Japanese experts and acceptance of training participants and students to disseminate Japanese technologies and knowledge.

Finance and Investment Cooperation

Lending and investing of funds under concessional terms to developing countries for their development.

Grants

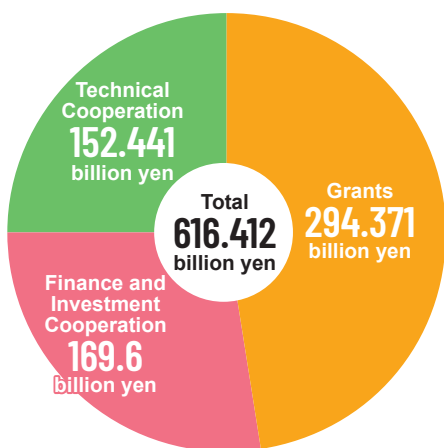
Financial assistance with no repayment obligation; it mainly targets developing countries with low levels of income.

Others

JICA's volunteer programs / Citizen Participation / Partnership with Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean / Emergency Disaster Relief / Studies and Research / Public-Private Partnerships

Cooperation with the PICs
(cumulative total since the start of cooperation)

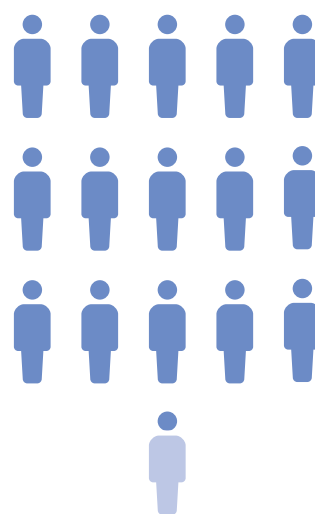
Scale of JICA's operations to the PICs



Japan's ODA scale per country

Papua New Guinea	219.608	billion yen
Fiji	70.544	billion yen
Samoa	57.940	billion yen
Solomon Islands	50.774	billion yen
Tonga	40.639	billion yen
Vanuatu	34.384	billion yen
Palau	34.306	billion yen
Federated States of Micronesia	34.038	billion yen
Kiribati	30.765	billion yen
Marshall Islands	24.011	billion yen
Tuvalu	14.133	billion yen
Nauru	3.401	billion yen
Cook Islands	1.506	billion yen
Niue	363	million yen

The number of people taking part in People-to-People Exchange through JICA's schemes to date



30,358

1 icon = 2,000 people

Source: Calculations based on "JICA Annual Report 2021" and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Cooperation Bureau's "Japan's ODA Data by Country 2020."
* Grant Aid data for 2020 only covers ODA implemented by JICA.

The 5 Promises the PICs and Japan Made

JICA is implementing cooperation in line with the PALM 9 Joint Action Plan

At the Ninth PALM (PALM9) in 2021, the joint action plan for Japan's cooperation to be carried out in the PICs was announced. JICA has already commenced activities based on the joint action plan. What promises did Japan make to the people of the PICs? Let us look at some specific cases.

The end date of some of the project implementation periods may have changed from that posted on the JICA website due to the influence of COVID-19.



1 Promise 1 COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Key points of cooperation:

- Reducing the risk of severe COVID-19
- Vaccine provision and preparation of a resilient healthcare system
- Recovery from a stagnant economy resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has threatened the lives and health of human beings and has had a serious impact on society and the economy. At PALM9, the PICs sought assistance for reinforcement of healthcare systems and economic recovery. JICA is cooperating to increase healthcare facilities and equipment, develop human resources, and implement measures against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) that pose a risk of severe

infection (Case Study 1). In collaboration with the provision of vaccines implemented by the Japanese government, JICA is providing technical cooperation and equipment to store vaccines at a suitable temperature. Medium- to long-term financial assistance has also been provided for economic recovery.

Case Study 1

The Project for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases / Pacific Islands region (May 2015 to May 2020)



This page is in Japanese

Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) to reduce the risk of severe COVID-19

Patients and medical staff working closely together to prevent NCDs

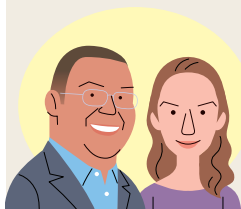


HAMADA Naomi
JICA Expert
Chief Advisor

In Fiji, NCDs account for 85% of all deaths among the population (2019 estimate*). JICA cooperated with the human resource development of healthcare workers to prevent NCDs through improving health literacy to empower people to take ownership of their own health. The training focused mainly on practicing "Motivational Interviewing," an effective counseling method for improving lifestyles. The approach helps raise patients' awareness of voluntary health improvement by listening carefully to patients and encouraging them to share stories. It is also important to cultivate a better understanding such as by using illustrations

when explaining things to patients. As the signs of improvement were observed in a patient's blood pressure or blood glucose level, the commitment of healthcare workers improved and the number of medical collaborators increased simultaneously. The program, which initially began in Fiji, later expanded to Kiribati. The project contributed to the primary prevention of NCDs by preventing or delaying the onset of the diseases among patients. The prevention of NCDs also suppresses the risk of severe COVID-19. We are passing the baton to the next phase of the project in the hope that Fiji will continue this training in the years ahead.

NCDs prevention and control through cross-country collaboration



Devina Nand
Andrew Prasad
Fiji Ministry of
Health and Medical
Services

Our project had a specific focus on primordial prevention and primary healthcare improvement to ensure evidence-based NCDs prevention and control. While numerous challenges existed, the project yielded great benefits in improving health systems and capacity building for healthcare workers. The collaboration with JICA promoted SDGs Goal 17 through learning and respecting diversity in different cultures and work ethos.



To promote patients' understanding, we incorporated locally sourced ingredients in the nutrition chart.



*Source: World Bank



Promise 2

2 Sustainable Oceans based on the Rule of Law

Key points of cooperation:

- Ensuring maritime law enforcement capability and maritime safety
- Management of waste and coastal resources to conserve the marine environment
- Sharing knowledge for the purpose of utilizing marine resources sustainably and effectively

While the land area is relatively small in the PICs, the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) are substantial. In order to utilize marine resources sustainably, it will be necessary to manage these vast marine areas and maintain the environment to prevent the depletion or reduction of these marine resources. JICA is assisting in a campaign to reinforce waste management which is

directly linked to the marine environment, and to increase the awareness of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) (see page 12). Additionally, support is provided for training in international rules related to cracking down on illegal fishing, fostering of seamen, conservation of marine resources, and livelihood improvement (Case Study 2).

Case Study 2

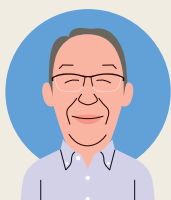
Project for Promotion of Grace of the Sea in the Coastal Villages (Phase 3) / Vanuatu
(March 2017 to June 2023)



This page is in Japanese

Introducing measures to improve livelihoods while regenerating coastal resources to pursue balance with the economy

Coastal resource management in harmony with local livelihoods

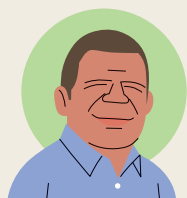


SEKO Akiya
JICA Expert
Senior Consultant

From ancient times, the people of Vanuatu have made a living by fishing at the "foreshore" in coastal areas. However, marine resources are being drastically depleted due to population growth and excessive overseas exports. The decline in fishers' incomes and soaring prices of seafood have become serious challenges. In 2006, JICA began to support the local people by improving their livelihood and utilizing marine resources sustainably. One attempt to recover such resources was the transplantation of green snail (large sea snail), and it successfully increased the population. Measures to restrict the fishing activities in order to manage and protect marine resources, such as simply reducing the fishing yield, negatively impacted the livelihood

of local fishers, and the Government of Vanuatu was having difficulty in gaining the cooperation of the local community. In this project, we introduced awareness activities for resource management at a soccer tournament directed at young people. Using a soccer ground as an analogy for a fishing ground and likening the resource management guidelines to soccer rules, we struck a chord with the fishers. We were able to establish a marine protected area that had been a long-cherished dream for the locals. We also carried out technical training for producing shell craft souvenirs for tourists, and provided operational support to seafood restaurants in their community. Currently, we are making preparations for outreach activities in other PICs.

Triggering a transformation in the consciousness of the people and government officials



Sompert Gereva
Vanuatu Fisheries
Department

For residents engaged in fishing, this community-based project has become a trigger for reaffirming the importance of coastal resource management and improving traditional management methods. Through cooperation with JICA, government officials have learned the significance of respecting rules devised by the inhabitants.



A traditional ceremony performed when inaugurating a prohibited fishing area.
(above)
Following the safe voyage training.
(below)



3 Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

Promise 3

Key points of cooperation:

- Development of a disaster prevention system to minimize the negative impact of climate change (adaptation)
- Support for the introduction of renewable energy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (mitigation)
- Development of human resources to respond to the variety of challenges related to climate change

Natural disasters due to climate change, are often referred to as "The Single Greatest Threat" in the PICs. At PALM9, continuous support was being sought to strengthen responsiveness to disasters. With Japanese expertise, JICA is implementing cooperation to minimize damage and preparing a wide-area disaster prevention system. When Tonga was faced with disasters caused by volcanic eruption in January

2022, we worked with the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) to quickly deliver emergency relief goods. Furthermore, in order to reinforce responsiveness to climate change in the region as a whole, training is being offered to administrative officers in each country (Case Study 3). Renewable energies that take advantage of Japanese technology are also being introduced to reduce greenhouse gases.

4 Strengthening Foundation for Sustainable and Resilient Economic Development

Promise 4

Key points of cooperation:

- Infrastructure development such as transportation and information and communication technology (ICT) to reinforce regional connections
- Creation of a resilient economy that can support the foundations of stable growth
- Promotion of trade and investment to strengthen the resilience of the economy
- Strengthening governance functions to support peace and stability

In order to encourage foreign investment and achieve economic growth while expanding trade, high-quality infrastructure development is the key to supporting an investment environment. The people of each country who support the economy also expect the social infrastructure to be improved. JICA is providing a variety of support both in terms of hard and soft components, such as strengthening the transport and

communication systems that stimulate the economy in addition to electricity (Case Study 4) and water supplies (see page 19) which form the basis of daily life. Moreover, efforts are made to provide assistance with product development in order to promote trade and investment (see page 19).



"In the future, we want to meet the electric power demands of the surrounding area," said Ms. Mildred Hayaku.

Case Study 3

Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific / Samoa
(July 2019 to January 2023)



This page is in Japanese

Capacity building in response to climate change through a diverse range of training for practitioners

Training is key in addressing climate change issues



OGAWA Masako
JICA Expert
Chief Advisor

For the PICs, where damage from natural disasters is becoming more serious year by year, strengthening resilience against climate change is the most important challenge. In 2019, Japan assisted the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), which is the regional hub for climate change measures. Upon the opening of the Centre, JICA launched a capacity-building project with a series of training programs for practitioners from the PICs. The programs aim to equip practitioners with the knowledge and skills to implement climate change policies and strategies in their own countries by learning and sharing

climate risks and vulnerabilities and adaptation and mitigation measures, such as technologies and measures to prepare for climate risks and reduce greenhouse gas emission, suitable for the Pacific region. Moreover, participants will gain basic knowledge about the guidelines and requirements of climate finance in order to access funding for climate change projects and learn a wide range of tools and knowledge from project formulation to operation. JICA is promoting this project with PCCC so that the training programs will be continuously updated and implemented by the PCCC.

Establishing a hub for climate change information and learning resources



Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy
Pacific Climate
Change Centre
(PCCC)

In our efforts to respond to climate change, it is important to work closely and cooperate with the government, researchers, and the general public. The courses offered at the PCCC have been expanded to include open lectures for the general public and programs for children. Through these courses, the PCCC is strengthening cooperation between providers and users of climate change information.



A lively exchange of opinions takes place during training group work.

Case Study 4

Ramu Transmission System Reinforcement Project / Papua New Guinea
(Loan Agreement signed August 2013)



This page is in Japanese

Contributing to economic development through stable supply of electric power to 3.4 million people in the region

Overcoming project challenges with JICA staff



Mildred Hayaku
Papua New Guinea
PNG Power Limited

Lae, the second-largest city in Papua New Guinea, is the center of commerce and industry and it is also an important domestic base for logistics. However, as power demand is increasing along with economic development, chronic power shortages are occurring as a result of obsolete power generation equipment and inadequate maintenance. JICA's cooperation, which began in 2011, started with a study of medium- to long-term power demand forecasts and power development plans. At present, we are at the stage of laying 138 km of power

transmission lines (132 kV), and we are almost done constructing, expanding, and refurbishing substation equipment. The biggest challenges to the project are identification of landowners, resolution of disputes, and negotiations to acquire land necessary for construction work. However, with ideas and methods learned from JICA, we are seeing progress. No matter how complex a project may be, JICA is demonstrating that if plans for budgeting and resource management are carefully drawn up and carried out, the project will succeed.

5 People-to-People Exchanges and Human Resource Development

Promise 5

Key points of cooperation:

- Accepting international students and officials from PICs to foster future leaders
- Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to support at the community level
- Support for local exchange to promote mutual understanding between the PICs and Japan

The foundation of the friendly relationships between the PICs and Japan is people-to-people exchange over the years. Japan announced the promotion of people-to-people exchange and human resources development for more than 5500 people in three years based on the commitment at PALM9, with the aim of training leaders to drive sustainable development and

strengthening ties between the PICs and Japan. Multiple frameworks are available to provide high-level education opportunities and practical training in problem solving for administrative officers as well as for people in the private sector in each country. Also, expectations are high for the promotion of JOCV cooperation at the grassroots level and mutual understanding through a local exchange.

Case Study 5



This page is in Japanese



Edward Maru
Solomon Islands
Meteorological Services

My study in Japan contributed to the national disaster response capabilities, especially tropical cyclone preparedness and decision making

Pacific-LEADS (now SDGs global leaders) is a JICA education support program to enable young administrative officers and private citizens to study in Japan. Starting



On completion of a master's degree at the Graduate School of Science and Engineering within the University of the Ryukyus, Mr. Maru (second from left) was awarded the President's Honorary Award.

in 2016, I studied tropical cyclones at the University of the Ryukyus. After returning to the Solomon Islands, I carried out joint research with associate professor ITO Kosuke into high-resolution weather forecasting systems specializing in the Solomon Islands. Currently, operations have commenced.



ONOUE Kaori ARAI Setsuna KATO Miki HARAGUCHI Fuka KOBAYASHI Mako
JOCV

A picture book about what we learned from the local people

Ms. Kato: "JOCV members who were dispatched to Tonga but had to return to Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic created the picture book." Ms. Kato, who worked as a registered dietitian to combat obesity and NCDs in Tonga, and Ms. Haraguchi, who taught art classes at schools

Read more



Banana paper made with reused fibers from banana stalks was used for the picture book.

near the capital, initiated the making of the picture book. "The picture book introduces the lifestyle of Tonga, which is rooted in nature. I would like to convey to Japan that their lifestyle gives us ideas for achieving the SDGs," said Ms. Haraguchi.

Cooperation by Various Partners and JICA

Applying the expertise and technology acquired globally to international cooperation

JICA is actively collaborating with both Japanese and international organizations to respond to the diversifying needs of developing countries. Initiatives with cooperating partners are contributing to solving problems at all levels, from community to country. JICA and its cooperating partners are developing activities by applying their respective fields of expertise.

Collaboration with International Organizations

Japan is actively collaborating with bilateral and multilateral development partners all over the world. Collaboration with development partners has the advantage of achieving efficient results by accumulating technology and funding. Through regular consultations with related organizations, JICA is promoting joint analysis of social issues and expertise sharing.

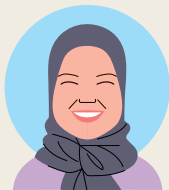
Case Study

WCO (World Customs Organization) × JICA

Project name: WCO Customs Capacity Building Project (from July 2021 to June 2024)

Target countries: Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji (and Timor-Leste, outside the Pacific Islands region)

Enhancement of economic activity and security through human resource development in customs



Noha Shaltout
WCO

Customs have three major roles to play; trade facilitation, collection of duties and taxes, and protection of society. Together with JICA, we at the WCO are implementing the Master Trainer Program for customs offices in six countries and strengthening the customs activities of each country. In addition to developing an original training curriculum related to issues facing the customs offices, we are training instructors (Master Trainers) so that the countries can continue to provide training by themselves. This program was initiated by JICA with the support of WCO in East

Africa in 2009, and since 2016, it has been officially implemented based on the Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Project Agreement between JICA and the WCO. From 2018 onwards, the program was launched in Western and Southern Africa. To start off the program in the six countries, a leading Master Trainer from East Africa was invited to share his training expertise. Training participants are demonstrating leadership and a high sense of ownership to strive for sustainable capacity development of Customs Administrations in their countries.

Online training. Through human resource development, customs procedures are being streamlined and this is contributing to further trade facilitation.



Collaboration with Private Companies

JICA is developing a vast array of support for Japanese companies to contribute to problem solving in developing countries. This includes basic information gathering and research required to examine and formulate business plans, as well as the funding necessary to put business projects into effect. By supporting the business of private companies, JICA will contribute to the economic development and stability of local people's lives.

Case Study

Palau International Airport Corporation (PIAC) × JICA

Project name: Renovation, Expansion and Management Project of Palau International Airport

April 2019: Signing of an overseas investment loan contract for the project

Contributing to economic development by boosting the country's core industries through airport maintenance



YOSHIDA Manabu
PIAC
(Assigned by Sojitz Corporation)

Tourism in Palau is the backbone of the country's economy. This project is contributing to meeting increasing passenger demand and improved convenience through the expansion and refurbishment of passenger terminal facilities and proper management. JAMP^{*1}, a joint venture of Japanese firms, and PIAC^{*2}, established through joint investment with the Palauan government, drive the project as the main business owners. The overseas investment and loan support provided by JICA was strongly requested by the Palauan government in launching the project. Having

The expansion and refurbishment of terminal facilities have been completed and the improvement of the airport operation system is in progress.



provided cooperation to Palau for many years, JICA is highly trusted and was requested to take part. Negotiations with the Palauan government were not easy, as this is the first public-private partnership airport operation project in the Pacific region. However, in order to realize a project that would drive the country's economy, commitment was strong on both sides and agreement was finally reached. The know-how accumulated in this project is a strength possessed by no other company, and we plan to utilize our expertise in future business development.

*1 JAMP: Japan Airport Management Partners Company Limited
A joint venture between Sojitz Corporation, Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd, and Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development

*2 PIAC: Palau International Airport Corporation

Now that we know more about the background of cooperation, we can get a better picture of the future partnership between the PICs and Japan. Let's go and visit the PICs and experience the local life and culture!



Collaboration through JICA Partnership Program

JICA Partnership Program is a form of cooperation whose projects are implemented by Japanese NGOs / local governments / universities / private companies. Each partner submits proposals to JICA based on their accumulated knowledge and experience. After screening by JICA, the project begins through an outsourcing contract. Every year, international cooperation projects in a variety of fields are launched throughout the world.

Case Study

Tokyo University of Agriculture × JICA

Project name: Improvement of Livelihood and Health Conditions of Tongan People by the Effective Utilization and New Processed Products of Breadfruit
March 2017 to February 2023

Aiming at improving health and livelihood using traditional ingredients



SUGIHARA Tamae

Tokyo University of Agriculture
Department of International Agricultural Development

In Tonga, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are spreading because of the modernization of lifestyles including eating habits. Various problems can be traced to NCDs, and the situation is serious because social life is restricted due to the progression of symptoms. Medical costs in the country are a heavy burden on the government as well. Our project team at Tokyo University of Agriculture considered that the use of breadfruit, a traditional food rich in dietary fiber and minerals, would be effective in health improvement, and we started research in 2013. Four years later, our team decided to transfer

At the workshop, women learned that the use of breadfruit was linked to health and livelihood improvement.



the research results to social implementation and applied to JICA Partnership Program. In the project, cooking workshops were held for local women for the purpose of reviewing eating habits, and processed breadfruit products were also developed. Recently, beyond expectation, many orders came from overseas for frozen and processed powder and new employment was created for processed food production. These achievements have attracted attention to value-added food processing, and the Tongan government has shown interest in new investments in agro-processing facilities.

Collaboration with Local Governments in Japan

Local governments in Japan possess human resources and expertise to provide services to local residents in a variety of fields such as education, health and sanitation, and water supply and sewage. Currently, a transfer of this knowledge is being requested by developing countries where decentralization is proceeding. With the aim of collaborating with the local governments, JICA has set up a platform for exchanging information and opinions, and is promoting understanding of and collaboration for international cooperation.

Case Study

Entities in Okinawa Prefecture × JICA

Project name: Capacity Enhancement Project for Samoa Water Authority in Cooperation with Okinawa Phase 2 November 2021 to November 2024

Contributing to the stable supply of safe water by transferring the water technology of Okinawa



KINJO Susumu
Nago Yanbaru Partnership

In Samoa, due to leakages resulting from the aging of pipes and insufficient plumbing, and muddy water resulting from inadequate management of waterworks, a stable supply of safe water was not possible. In this project, multiple organizations engaged in water supply businesses in Okinawa Prefecture are proceeding with the transfer of plumbing construction technology, leakage investigation and countermeasures, and waterworks maintenance expertise. Okinawa's cooperation with the Samoa Water Authority started as a grassroots technical cooperation in Miyako-jima in 2010. In

Mr. Kinjo said, "It warms my heart to see Samoans being so kind to nervous Japanese technicians."



Okinawa, water outages due to insufficient water resources occurred every year until approximately 30 years ago and the development of water resources and efforts to counter leakage were pursued vigorously. The entities in Okinawa participated in the JICA Partnership Program to apply their expertise in international cooperation. In 2014, a technical cooperation project was launched in the capital city of Apia, and from 2021 it was expanded to other parts of Samoa. Going forward, there will be more focus on training personnel so that the communities can sustainably operate water supply.



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