

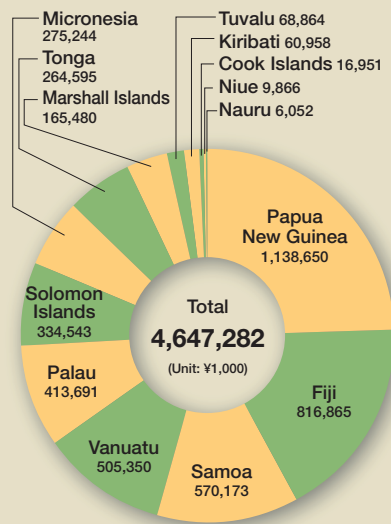
Oceania



Pillars of Aid

Human Resources Development for Economic Self-reliance and Sustainable Development of Small Island Countries

■ Cooperation results by country in Oceania (FY2006)



* This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to Oceania including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 4,916,140 thousands of yen.

The primary issue in Oceania is to develop societies capable of sustainable development. This region faces many factors that prevent development, including a vulnerable economic structure that depends on primary industries, impacts from environmental problems such as climate change, and limiting factors specific to island countries, such as isolation and small size. While providing cooperation with an emphasis on economic self-reliance and sustainable development in Oceania, JICA works to identify and formulate projects that have a large impact throughout the region. Collaboration with other aid agencies and regional international organizations with knowledge of island countries is also promoted.

With regard to economic self-reliance, in order to assist with the efforts of individual countries for achieving economic growth, dispatch of volunteers and receiving training participants are the core of the assistance for promoting tourism and agriculture and fishery.

With regard to sustainable development, cooperation to maintain the environment is implemented in addition to the expansion of

basic social services, including education and health.

In the education sector, basic education and vocational training are being enhanced with an emphasis on the areas of mathematics and science education, information and communication technology (ICT) education, and education for children with disabilities (special needs education). In order to expand education to rural remote areas, distance learning is provided utilizing ICT and various media. In the health sector, in addition to efforts for improving basic health services in individual countries, development of human resources in health is being promoted in cooperation with international organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), regarding infectious disease control as an issue common to the region. In the environment sector, in addition to cooperation that directly leads to environmental conservation such as social consideration for the environment and waste disposal, cooperation for the management of coastal resources that is necessary for proper resource management and

Current State of Development

Vulnerable Economic Structure

Developing countries in Oceania have small national territories, populations, and economies on the whole. The total population of the 14 countries and regions JICA provides cooperation for Oceania is approximately eight million, and most of those countries and regions are small island countries with populations of less than 200,000. Due to strong dependency on primary industries, these countries have fragile economic structures easily upset by weather conditions and fluctuations in international prices. Many problems remain to be tackled if these countries are to achieve economic self-reliance. These problems are related to the fact that the countries often consist of large numbers of islands, their domestic markets are small, they are far from international markets, and transportation and communication links to compensate for these disadvantages are inadequate.

Relations between these countries and their former suzerain states are generally close. In addition to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the US, etc., have become the major aid donors to devel-

oping countries in Oceania. Cooperation from new donor countries such as China has recently been on the increase. Following achievement of independence from the US, Palau, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands have been receiving financial aid in the form of "compact money" based on the Compact of Free Association with the US. However, affected by the outflux of human resources overseas and conflicts in some areas, assistance from those countries has not fully led to economic growth regionwide, and reliance on aid and financial assistance from overseas continues.

Issues Common to the Region

Establishing societies and economies that are no longer reliant on aid is an urgent issue for the small island countries in this region. There are many issues that affect Oceania as a whole: solid waste control; environmental problems, including climate change and rising sea levels; human resources development; and the development of inter-island transportation and communication. It is therefore essential to adopt a comprehensive approach

to the region.

Each country is taking steps to reduce its public sector, encourage private investment to promote primary industries, namely agriculture, fishery, and tourism, and promote regionwide cooperation to collectively deal with issues common to the region. The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), a framework for regional cooperation among the island countries, adopted a regional development plan called the Pacific Plan in October 2005, which actively addressed identified priority issues common to the region. Self-help efforts of the respective countries in the region and support from many aid agencies are expected for the concrete implementation of this plan.



JOCV's educational activity for local residents in a campaign to prevent diabetes (Micronesia)

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Regional Cooperation Policy of the Japan-PIF Summit Meeting

The Japan-PIF Summit Meeting (PALM) has been held among Japan and Pacific Island countries once every three years starting in 1997. In May 2006, the fourth PALM was held in Okinawa with the participation of national leaders and ministers from 16 PIF member countries and regions. The Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a More Prosperous and Safer Pacific, the declaration adopted at the summit, sets five priority policy targets in economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, security, and human interaction, based on common regional issues specified in the Pacific Plan. It also clarifies specific joint action plans per issue for Japan and PIF members. These issues should be addressed on medium and long-term bases in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. JICA has implemented cooperation in line with the priority policy targets adopted at the summit.

Directions of Cooperation

Every country in Oceania differs in respect of its national and economic size, ethnic composition, population, availability of natural resources, traditional social foundations, way of life, and the capacity of government to formulate and administer development plans. Therefore, finely tailored aid in line with development levels and specific development needs of each country is therefore



Incinerators for medical waste need to be installed at a distance in order to prevent infection through medical waste (the Project for Strengthening EPI in the Pacific Region in Solomon Islands)

required. However, since all these countries gained independence relatively recently and are dependent on primary industries, it is important to provide support that enables these countries to overcome the limiting factors that distinguish island countries (i.e., isolation, small size, and vulnerability) while keeping in mind the idea that developing human resources who will lead national development is urgently needed.

Based on the above, JICA works on cooperation for economic self-reliance and sustainable development and strives to identify and formulate cooperation projects that can have positive effects throughout the region while implementing grass-root cooperation activities that directly benefit local communities, mainly by dispatching volunteers such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV). Coordination and collaboration with other donors and regional international organizations that possess knowledge of island countries is also promoted.

Economic Self-reliance

In order to assist each country's efforts for achieving economic growth, cooperation for the promotion of tourism, agriculture, and fishery is primarily being provided through the dispatch of volunteers and the acceptance of training participants. One example is human development training targeting the core human resources in Oceania for diversification of fishery and sustainable tourism development in Micronesia. Also, in order to develop infrastructure for industrial development, infrastructure in response to the needs of island countries, including communication and broadcasting, transportation, and power, are being built with grant aid in combination with technical cooperation for improving maintenance and operation capacity.

Sustainable Development

In addition to cooperation in the education and health sectors leading to the enrichment of basic social services, JICA implements cooperation for sustainable environmental conservation. In the sector of education, basic education and vocational training are enhanced with an emphasis on areas such as mathematics and science education, IT education, and education for children with disabilities (special needs education). In order to widely expand education to rural remote areas, distance learning is provided utilizing ICT and various media (such as TV and radio). The Project for Enhancing Quality in Teaching through TV Program in Papua

New Guinea is one example of ongoing support to expand basic education utilizing various media. In the health sector, in addition to the improvement of basic health services in each country, development of human resources in health is promoted in cooperation with international organizations including WHO and UNICEF, regarding infectious disease control as an issue common to the region. In the sector of environment, cooperation for coastal resources management is implemented in addition to cooperation for coral reef conservation, an environmental impact study, and waste disposal. One example of such cooperation is the Project for Promotion of the Grace of the Sea in Coastal Villages in Vanuatu, a project that aims for improved livelihood of coastal fishermen through community participatory coastal resources management.

Promotion of Regional Cooperation Program

Regional cooperation targeting a set of countries in the region is promoted in collaboration with other aid agencies and international organizations in Oceania. One example is Infectious Diseases Control Program (Regionwide) targeting 14 Oceania countries. At the heart of this regional program is the Project for Strengthening EPI in the Pacific Region targeting 13 countries in the region, which aims to improve policies and planning related

to the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in each country and nurture EPI field workers. In parallel with this enhancement project, JICA provides medicine and examination kits based on WHO's Pacific Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF) and dispatches volunteers to support HIV/AIDS control. These cooperation projects are collaborations and coordination with Australia and New Zealand as well as WHO and UNICEF.

In the Regional Program for Proper Management of Solid Waste, which aims to formulate and plan national policies for waste management, construction of disposal sites and waste reduction cooperation activities are ongoing in collaboration with a regional international organization called the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). In addition to Samoa, where a waste disposal site is present as a cooperation model, similar projects are being implemented in Vanuatu and Palau, making this program an example of regional cooperation benefiting the region on the whole.

Oceania is vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, and floods. Regional cooperation in disaster prevention is also a priority issue that should be addressed in the future.

Front Line Fiji

Dispatch of Individual Expert (Management of Marine Life Resources)

Economic Utilization of Coastal Fishery Resources Using Fish Beds

Aiming for efficient catches of coastal fishery resources

Fiji is a country of many small islands surrounded by coral reefs, and is more developed, attracting many tourists from overseas, including Japan, every year. However, because remote areas and islands have yet to catch up with other areas in terms of construction of basic infrastructure and limited employment opportunities and cash income sources, coastal fishing is an important source of income, especially for people living on islands with limited agricultural land.

Fish bed is a technique widely used for attracting fish, and is especially popular in Southeast Asia and Okinawa. Although the reason fish beds attract fish is not fully understood, all fishermen have to do is go to a fish bed. They don't need to sail around searching in vain for schools of fish. Therefore, the utilization of fish beds is gaining attention from the standpoint of energy conservation and efficiency of labor.

Installing fish beds in coral reef areas

Gau Island is one of the places in Fiji where JICA experts and the School of Marine Studies, the University of the

South Pacific, work together to carry out activities related to marine life resources management. Gau is a typical remote island located approximately 50km east of Viti Levu, which accommodates the capital city of Suva. Local people earn their living by fishery and agriculture. Water off the west coast of Gau is very deep and accommodates a wide area of coral reef. JICA installed five fish beds in this location in 2006 upon a request from local people. All the fish beds were hand made by the local people. Partly because these fish beds were installed in coral reefs with low waves at depths of less than 50m, the cost of making and installing one fish bed was less than one tenth of one made by the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests.

Installation of fish beds not only contributes to energy conservation and labor efficiency in fishery but also enables fishermen to catch migratory and cannibalistic fish, which feed around resident fish that stick to the coral reefs, thus leading to economic and sustainable utilization and management of valuable coastal resources. Around the fish beds, many cannibalistic Spanish mackerel and petos are caught, and an 80kg yellow fin tuna was

once caught as well. Big resident fish such as emperor and cabrilla are also caught, thrilling the local people. JICA has requested that the local people keep records of their catches as preventive actions against indiscriminate exploitation of resources. The next challenge is to establish a system to achieve sustainable utilization of resources based on these records and to connect those resources to the improvement of earnings of fishery villages obtained by selling the caught fish.

(JICA Fiji Office)



Local people making fish beds