

The Project for Upgrading of New Rabaul Airport (Tokua)

Project Sites

Tokua



1. Background of Project

A road network had not been established in Papua New Guinea because of its extremely steep topography and tropical jungles, so air transportation played an important role in connecting major cities. The old Rabaul Airport serviced East New Britain and neighboring islands, and was the principal means of transportation for both passengers and cargo.

However, Rabaul Airport suffered damage from the eruption of two volcanoes on the outskirts of Rabaul in September 1994. For this reason, the Papua New Guinean government closed the airport and used the New Rabaul Airport (Tokua Airport), situated 45 kilometers to the southwest, as an alternative airport. Tokua played an important role in improving the conditions of cargo and passenger transportation after the damage and in securing the means to transport materials necessary for daily life to the residents of East New Britain and neighboring islands. However, because the airport did not have proper passenger terminals, runways were not paved, and airport control facilities had not been established, it was necessary to quickly rectify issues of convenience and safety.

Under these conditions, the Papua New Guinean government requested grant aid from Japan in order to quickly upgrade Tokua Airport.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1995-FY1997

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

To improve conditions of cargo and passenger transportation in Papua New Guinea.

2) Project Purpose

To strengthen the function of Tokua Airport.

3) Outputs

- To construct airport facilities (such as passenger terminals, control tower, administrative buildings, runways, parking lots, and taxiways).
- To establish airport equipment (such as communications equipment, guidance equipment, and beacons)

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant total 2.597 billion yen (E/N amount)

Papua New Guinea Side

Land
Local cost

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Operating Conditions Evaluation:

Mr. Tomoyuki TADA, Follow-up Division, Grant Aid Project Management Department, JICA

Facilities Evaluation:

Mr. Masato ISHIMORI, First Project Study Division, Grant Aid Project Study Department, JICA

4. Period of Evaluation

5 April 1999-13 April 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

When construction started, the yen became weaker than estimated at the planning stage, which necessitated a change in the original plans to reduce costs. However, this project was able to establish the least amount of function and facilities necessary.

Also, although this project had to be implemented under extremely strict conditions of construction while still maintaining existing airport functions, excellent supervision enabled construction by the Japanese side to be completed within the scheduled period.

On the other hand, due to the worsening financial situation of the Papua New Guinean government, construction undertaken by the Papua New Guinea side (establishment of paths around administrative buildings and control tower, parking lots, and rainwater runoff facilities) fell behind schedule. Therefore, Tokua Airport opened eight months after it had been handed over by Japan, in October 1998,

(2) Effectiveness

Although there are facilities that are not being utilized sufficiently, such as the emergency room established in the passenger terminal and the control tower, most facilities and machines are being put to good use as planned. Because safety, reliability, and convenience of air transportation at Tokua Airport have all improved, and regular domestic flights are largely operating on schedule, this project has achieved its objective.

(3) Impact

By strengthening the airport's function, Tokua Airport revived the operation of the FK-28 aircraft. Tokua Airport, in the same manner as the now-closed Rabaul Airport, is fully functioning as a mode of transportation of everyday goods for the residents of East New Britain and neighboring islands, as well as serving as the main airport of Papua New Guinea.

(4) Relevance

In Papua New Guinea, air transportation plays a major role as a means of connection between major cities. Because the strengthening of the function of Tokua Airport is extremely important in order to maintain social and economic activity on East New Britain and neighboring islands, this project is judged to be relevant.

(5) Sustainability

Because construction materials were supplied domestically in Papua New Guinea and also from Australia, it is thought that their maintenance and repair will not be a problem. On the other hand, as aviation safety equipment was supplied from Japan, securing expenses to order parts of the equipment from Japan will be important in terms of sustainability.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

In order to increase the sustainability of a project, collaboration with AusAID, which has actively been providing aid for the rehabilitation of airport facilities, should be considered.

(2) Recommendations

It is necessary to urge the Papua New Guinea side to utilize the facilities and equipment that has not yet been used and properly maintain aviation safety equipment.

7. Follow-up Situations

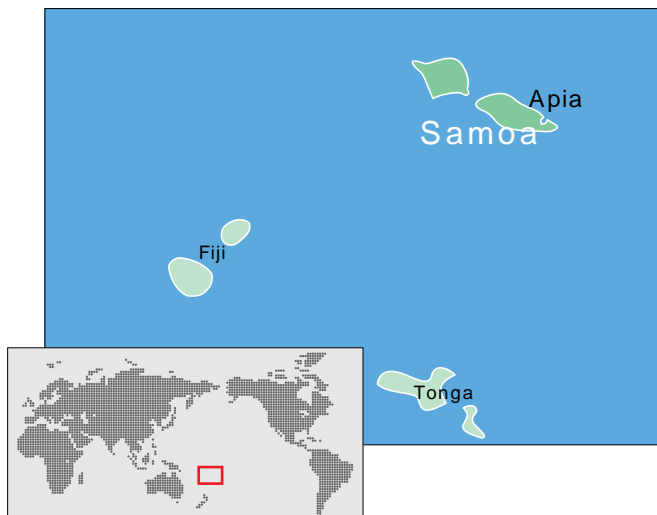
At present, the emergency room is being utilized with cooperation from the provincial health department and the control tower is also fully being utilized. In FY1999, three short-term experts were dispatched, conducting on-the-job training on equipment maintenance. In FY2000, a Papua New

Guinean counterpart of this project is scheduled to be sent to a group training course called "Airport Manager's Seminar for Oceanic Countries", implemented in Japan.

The Project for the Upgrading of the National University of Samoa

Project Sites

Apia



1. Background of Project

Since becoming independent in 1962, the government of Samoa has been putting effort into education. In order to cultivate human resources with the essential expertise and skills for Samoan economic independence, it is necessary to expand advanced education; therefore the Samoan government is treating the construction of university organizations and facilities as a particularly important issue.

The National University of Samoa was established in 1983 and is the country's only national university. However, because the establishment of organizations, facilities, and equipment was lagging behind, the country's needs for human resource cultivation were not being adequately addressed. For this reason, the Samoan government formulated the "20-Year Development Plan" to the year 2015 for the National University of Samoa with aid from Australia and New Zealand, and requested grant aid from Japan to implement Phase I (until 2000), the transfer of the university's function and the expansion of university buildings and teaching materials.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1995 and FY1996

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Department of Education and the National University of Samoa

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

To cultivate human resources that will contribute to Samoan socioeconomic development.

2) Project Purpose

To improve the level of education at the National University of Samoa.

3) Outputs

- a) To construct university facilities (including lecture halls, administration and laboratory facilities, a library,

a resource center, meeting facilities, and facilities for the welfare of the students).

- b) To provide education-related materials (including LL teaching materials, materials for use in experiments, and audiovisual materials).

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant	1.72 billion yen (E/N amount)
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Samoan Side

Land	
Local cost	

3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA Samoa Office
(Commissioned to Bioglobal Pacific Consultancy)

4. Period of Evaluation

1 February 1999-31 March 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

In the basic planning stages, this project surveyed over 30 educators, asking them to identify the specific needs of higher education in Samoa. As a result, the facilities and materials provided accorded with the make-up of the university's departments. Also, with the establishment of the "Fale", a traditional Samoan meeting-hall, Samoa's unique culture was reflected in the plan. In terms of maintenance, it was considered appropriate that the Samoan side bear the smallest burden.

Concerning construction, the heavy rain and humidity characteristic of Samoa's rainy season affected the concrete placing and work was delayed six months. However, the facilities and equipment were completed in August 1997 and handed over to the Samoan side.

(2) Effectiveness

Classes began at the National University of Samoa the day

after the handover ceremony, and the constructed facilities and equipment have, for the most part, been well-used. It is difficult to determine the degree to which the new classrooms and equipment have contributed to an increase in the level of education at the university, but the university staff and instructors are excellent and highly motivated, increasing the reputation of the university.

(3) Impact

Because the project ended only very recently, it will take more time for any effects concerning an improvement in the educational environment to appear.

(4) Relevance

Samoa is an island nation with a population of only 170,000 and no particular resources and leading industries, so the cultivation of human resources will be crucial for its development. Therefore, as the government has allocated a priority budget for education and is promoting advanced education at the country's only national university, the relevance of this project is high.

(5) Sustainability

In FY1998 university administrators underwent training in Japan, working towards a transfer of technology in facility maintenance, and in FY1999, there was a plan for even the University president to receive training in Japan¹⁾. From a long-term point of view it is expected that the university will be managed efficiently.

However, the level of maintenance of audio-visual equipment, computer facilities, and drug-counteraction facilities is low; this must be improved in the future. Also considered in the planning stage, was the idea that the maintenance costs are not borne only by the university budget, but also by contributions from the government.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

By taking the needs of the beneficiaries and the cultural background of the partner country into consideration during the planning stage, smooth progress of the following project implementation and management by the partner side will become possible.

Because progress on construction is controlled by seasonal conditions in countries which have remarkable rain and humidity in the monsoon season, the time period of construction works must be considered.

(2) Recommendations

Although university buildings and equipment at the National University of Samoa were improved, it is hoped that technical improvements and funds for future maintenance can be secured.

¹⁾ In FY1999, the principal secured an opportunity to visit Japan on training, inspect facilities at universities and how they are run, and consult on tied-cooperation between universities.