

## 1. Activity Report 2023

**We wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year, 2024.**

As the COVID-19 pandemic has finally diminished after almost 3-year rampage, JICA revitalized its activities here in Papua New Guinea.

As of January 2024, we are proud of the projects ongoing in cooperation with PNG counterparts as follows: 2 Loan Projects, 10 Technical Cooperation Projects, 3 individual Expert Projects, 2 Private Sector Cooperation Surveys, and 5 JICA Volunteers. And 32 Long term trainees are currently studying at universities in Japan. In addition, 1 Cultural Grant Aid Project is under preparation.

In the following, we review main progress and achievements of 2023.

### (1) Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport opened



Photo 1

The opening ceremony of Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport was held on 2 October 2023 (Photo 2). This airport was constructed under the support of ODA Loan. Although the project faced difficulties such as COVID-19 pandemic and the following price escalation, we could successfully complete the construction with the tremendous efforts made by all of actors both in PNG and Japan. Many guests including Hon. Marape, Prime Minister and Ministers of PNG have attended the ceremony. Hon. Marape stated that this airport is a symbol of friendship between PNG and Japan. In fact, *Tomodachi* means friendship in Japanese, and the airport was named with the idea of Hon. Marape.



Photo 2

Through this project, the safety and effectiveness of the airport were improved, and the carrying capacity of the airport, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> international

airport in the country, is expected to be doubled.

### (2) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers re-started

Although dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) had been suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has re-started with 3 new volunteers (Photo 3) in August 2023. These 3 volunteers are currently working as primary school or high school teachers at Sogeri town, Central Province.

JOCV program in PNG had started in 1980. And these 3 volunteers

commemorated the total number of 800 volunteers dispatched to PNG. In PNG, there are 5 volunteers as of today and there will be another 3 by the end of March.



Photo 3

### (3) Cooperation in education sector

The “Project for Strengthening Primary Teacher Pre-service Education in Mathematics and Science” aims at improvement of mathematics and science capacity of primary school children in PNG. In this Project, materials for prospective math and science teachers are developed, so that the capacity of schoolteachers is to be improved using these materials. In the former project carried out from 2016 to 2019, the first national standardized textbooks of math and science were developed for G3 to G6. At present, workbooks are also being developed in line with these textbooks in collaboration with Gakko Toshō Co. Ltd. Furthermore, JOCVs have also been involved in to maximize the impact of these activities (Photo 4).



Photo 4

#### (4) Improvement of operation and maintenance of infrastructure

JICA supports to improve the capacity of public officers to operate, manage and maintain infrastructure of power supply, roads, and ports in PNG. In the “**Project for the Improvement of Planning and Operation of Power System**”, JICA supports PNG Power Ltd. (PPL) to improve its capacity of planning, and operation and maintenance of substations and transmission lines for stable and trustful power supply. The equipment for O&M of transmission lines was supplied to PPL in November 2023.

#### (5) Cooperation in health

JICA works with the Department of Health in the “**Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2**” in which 7 provinces are targeted to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. In 2023, the first Mass Drug Administration (MDA) was carried out in West New Britain Province (Photo 5).



#### (6) Protection of the environment

With JICA’s support in solid waste management (SWM) in the past, development of SWM plan in National Capital District and improvement of Baruni landfill site etc. were conducted in PNG. For further promotion of SWM, the “**Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase 3**” has started in July 2023. In this Phase, the achievement of NCD will be disseminated to other cities of PNG such as Lae, and material recovery is also to be promoted. Besides, a student tour was conducted in October 2023, in which high school students visited Baruni landfill site and Port Moresby wastewater treatment plant to learn the importance of environmental protection (Photo 6).



In the field of forest protection, JICA supports PNG Forest Authority to prevent degradation of forests through improvement of monitoring system of commercial logging. In 2023, JICA supported PNGFA to train its officials to practice Logging Code of Practice (LCOP), and Planning, Monitoring and Control Procedure (PMCP) (Photo 7).



#### (7) Presentation of long-term trainees

Long term trainees who acquired degrees (mainly Masters) made presentations of their theses: 7 trainees in July and 6 trainees in November 2023. The themes of their studies vary from diplomacy and economy of PNG, sustainable forest management, nutrition status of children in COVID-19 pandemic, migrant policy of PNG and so on (Photo 8).



#### (8) JICA Chair

The JICA Chair, in which Japan’s modernization is learned, was conducted. In May 2023, Prof. Kato Hiroshi, Vice President of International University of Japan visited UPNG for his lecture. In this lecture, students and lecturers from other universities in Lae and Goroka also attended on-line.

#### (9) Mr. Tanaka, JICA President, visited PNG

April 2023, Mr. Tanaka, President of JICA, visited PNG. He had meetings with Hon. Marape, PM, Hon. Rosso, DPM and Hon. Stuckey, Minister for Treasury (then), and visited JICA project sites. He also visited UPNG where JICA Chair was organized and had a discussion with students about the modernization of Japan and development of PNG (Photo 9).



#### (10) Activities in gender mainstreaming

JICA PNG Office has been promoting gender mainstreaming. As part of its activities, a seminar to prevent sexual harassment was held for JICA relating personnel, and introduction of females in FB, who are enthusiastically working in PNG society, and an event to promote gender mainstreaming with NDCD were conducted.

#### (11) Our New Year resolution, 2024

Japan’s ODA in PNG started in 1974 and this year commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We hope to continue our efforts with our friends in PNG for further development of the country, deepening relationship between PNG and Japan, and contribution to the prosperity of the Pacific region.

## 2. Introduction of JICA Experts, Volunteers and/or Office Staff Members

### Development Planning Advisor

#### Mr. OHARA Katsuhiko



I work with Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) and Department of Treasury (DOT). I assist DNPM for its development planning and effective implementation of Japan's technical cooperation and ODA Grant. As for DOT, I support the smooth implementation of ODA Loan projects and their repayment procedure.

### Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2

#### Mr. YAMAUCHI Masato, Chief Advisor



I was assigned as the Chief Advisor of this project working with the Department of Health in April 2023. This project aims to reduce the number of patients of Lymphatic Filariasis as many as possible by disconnecting the infection routes.

My relationship with PNG started 2010 when I came as a JOCV to reduce Lymphatic Filariasis and I also studied on Malaria of PNG at a graduate school afterwards. Even such a long relationship with PNG, I still enjoy new experiences here as the last paradise of the planet.

### 【JOVC/JICA】

#### Mr. TODAKA Masa (Primary Education)



I teach math to Grade 5 children at Sogeri Primary School. Students are very motivated and study hard. The photo shows they are learning how to find the area of a parallelogram. Each student divided the parallelogram into two parts and combined them to create a rectangle and found the area of it. It is very important that the children were able to solve the problem by themselves actually doing such activities. The classroom was filled with joy and satisfaction when they came up with the formula: "Area of a parallelogram = base x height."

#### Mr. UCHIYAMA Shota (Youth Activities)



I started working at Sogeri Primary School in September 2023. My main activity is to support the teachers for cultural exchange of students between Japan and Sogeri online, environmental education, and math education, etc. People in PNG are pure and friendly. They wave me with smile when they see me on streets. I hope to bridge between the two countries. On my holidays, I sometimes enjoy diving at a beautiful sea in PNG!

#### Mr. SUZUKI Kento (Vegetable Growing)



I teach agriculture mainly at the field of Sogeri High School since August 2023. PNG is rich in water resources and land, and has a lot of potential for agriculture. I hope to teach the students about it and increase the number of farmers in this country. My capability of Pidgin became better after 6 months, and I can now enjoy joking with my students in Pidgin. I want to make more effort to learn the local language, Motu.

#### Mr. TANAKA Satoshi (PC instructor)



I came to PNG November 2023, and will start teaching at IT classes at Kwikila High School from February this year. This country is warm and with lots of vegetation and nature. People are friendly and I feel comfortable when they talked to me even if they are strangers. I hope I can have nice experiences in the next 2 years.

#### Mr. NISHIGAKI Kaito (Community Development)



I started my activities in Kwikila, which is about 2 hour drive from Port Moresby, December 2023. My activities will be income generation of small-scale farmers and programs for youth. I will start my activities after the winter break. In a market of Kwikila town center, I can find bananas and vegetables and surprisingly wallabies which I have never seen in Japan.

## 3. Current Activities

### 3-1. Strengthening the Foundation of Economic Growth

#### (1) Economic Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

- **(YL<sup>1</sup>) Nadzab Airport Redevelopment Project**  
L/A<sup>2</sup> signed in October 2015, JPY 26,942 million  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity20.html>
- **(TCP<sup>3</sup>) The Project for Kokopo - Rabaul Infrastructure Development Plan**  
Duration: January 2022 to March 2024  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity27.html#:~:text=The%20Kokopo%20Rabaul%20Infrastructure%20Development,Water%20supply%20and%20Power%20sector.>
- **(TCP) Project for Capacity Development on Road Development Phase 2**  
Duration: March 2021 to March 2025  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity31.html>
- **(YL) Ramu Transmission System Reinforcement Project**  
L/A signed in August 2013, JPY 8,340 million  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity16.html>
- **(TC) The Project for the Improvement of Planning and Operation of Power System**  
Duration: March 2022 to March 2025
- **(TC) The Project for Capacity Development of DoT in Port Policy and Administration Phase2**  
Duration: March 2022 to March 2025
- **(EXP<sup>4</sup>) Development Planning Advisor**  
Duration: September 2019 to March 2024
- **(EXP) Public Investment Management**  
Duration: January 2022 to March 2024

#### (2) Industrial Promotion

- **(TCP) the Project for Improving Resource Related Revenue Management Phase 2**  
Duration: under preparation  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20231018\\_42.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20231018_42.html)
- **(PSC<sup>5</sup>) Survey for Creation of Outboard Motorboat Market by Connecting Small Scale Fishers to Value Chain in Papua New Guinea**  
Duration: November 2023 to February 2026
- **(PSC) Survey for smoked skipjack manufacturing**  
Duration: March 2023 to December 2023

### 3-2. Improvement of Social Services

#### (3) Education

- **(TCP) Project for Strengthening Primary Teacher Pre-service Education in Mathematics and Science**  
Duration: September 2020 to April 2025  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity21.html>
- **(EXP) Education Policy Advisor**  
Duration: February 2022 to January 2026
- **(PSC) Survey for Improving Math Performance Utilizing the Mathematics Workbook for Primary School Students**  
Duration: July 2023 to October 2024  
[https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/priv\\_sme\\_partner/document/1536/Bz22104\\_5\\_summary.pdf](https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/priv_sme_partner/document/1536/Bz22104_5_summary.pdf)

#### (4) Health

- **(TCP) The Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2**  
Duration: April 2023 to May 2025  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2023/1526224\\_16866.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2023/1526224_16866.html)
- **(TCP) The Project for Improving Basic Medical Services for Infectious Disease Control in Health Facilities**  
Duration: July 2021 to March 2024  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2023/1526671\\_16866.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2023/1526671_16866.html)

### 3-3. Environment and Climate Change

#### (5) Environment and Climate Change

- **(TCP) Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase 3 (J-PRISM3)**  
Duration: July 2023 to June 2028  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/activities/issues/env\\_manage/pamphlet/ku57pq00002nmuph-att/recycling\\_society\\_e.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/activities/issues/env_manage/pamphlet/ku57pq00002nmuph-att/recycling_society_e.pdf)
- **(TCP) Capacity Development Project for Reducing Carbon Emissions from Forest Degradation through Commercial Logging in PNG by Improving Monitoring System of Forest Logging Operations**  
Duration: April 2022 to April 2025  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/png/english/activities/activity28.html#:~:text=This%20project%20aims%20to%20enhance,low%20emission%20logging%20in%20PNG.>

### 3-4. Training Courses

- **Knowledge Co-Creation Program**  
In Japanese Fiscal Year, 69 trainees in 69 courses are to be trained.
- **Long Term Training**  
In JFS 2023 (April 2023 to March 2024), the following trainees are under Master's or Doctor's degree courses as of January 2024.  
**SDGs Global Leader:** 11 graduated and 21 studying  
**KIZUNA Program:** 1 graduated and 3 studying  
**Agri-Net Program:** 2 graduated and 2 studying  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/dsp/course/index.html>

### 3-5. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer

Currently, there are 5 volunteers are working in PNG, and another 3 will be coming in March.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/topics/2023/152677\\_16867.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/topics/2023/152677_16867.html)

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/topics/2023/20231120.html>

### 3-6. JICA Chair

Although the course had been conducted on-line in 2022, it was realized in-person in May 2023. The classes were held in UPNG and connected online with other universities like UNITEC. The students who attended the course learned the history of Japan's modernization through the course.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/index.html>

### 3-7. Gender Main Streaming

JICA PNG Office conducts various activities to promote gender main streaming, such as seminars against sexual harassment to JICA relating personnel, PR activities to promote female status, and an event co-organized with NCDC, etc. The logo on the top right of the 1<sup>st</sup> page was designed by JICA PNG Office to promote gender mainstreaming.

### 3-8. JICA Alumni Association

The JICA Alumni Association consists of more than 4000 ex-trainees and carries out various activities such as publishing newsletters etc.

JICA Papua New Guinea Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, PWC Haus, Harbour City  
Port Moresby, NCD, Papua New Guinea  
P.O. Box 1660  
URL: <https://www.jica.go.jp/overseas/png/index.html>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/jicapng/>  
E-mail: [pn\\_oso\\_rep@jica.go.jp](mailto:pn_oso_rep@jica.go.jp)

<sup>1</sup> YL: Yen Loan Project

<sup>2</sup> L/A: Loan Agreement

<sup>3</sup> TCP: Technical Cooperation Project

<sup>4</sup> EXP: Expert

<sup>5</sup> PSC: Private Sector Cooperation