



BUZZ No.5

MAY 2019

Sub Regional Disaster Waste Management Workshop in Palau 18th-20th February

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM II

The 2nd Sub Regional Disaster Waste Management

Workshop was conducted in Palau from the 18th - 20th February with the primary goal of getting the inputs and contribution from the Northern Pacific Island Countries – Federal States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands. This is part of the regional consultation for the development of the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guide in line with Output 3 of JPRISM II.

Officials and representatives from both the Disaster and Waste Management Agencies in three countries shared issues and challenges that affect Disaster Waste Management in their countries. JPRISM II in collaboration with SPREP, ILO, IOM and Kyoto University conducted presentations on different aspects of Disaster Waste Management as well as facilitating the discussions during the development of the countries National DWM Actions Plans. This 2nd Sub-regional Workshop followed the 1st similar Sub-regional Workshop that was conducted in Samoa in October 2018 for the Southern Pacific Countries.



Countries presentation session



Palau officials working on their National DWM Plan

CONTENTS

Disaster Waste Management in Palau	pg. 1	JCC Solomon Islands	pg. 5
Recycle Association Set Up in Vanuatu	pg. 2	Upcoming Events	pg. 6
Plastic Ban in Samoa	pp. 2-3	Welcoming	pg. 6
3RINCS	pg. 4		
3R Forum	pg. 4		
Plasticity	pg. 5		

Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association Setup Meetings, Port Vila: 18th-23rd March

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM II



First Meeting for the Setup of the Association, Port Vila Vanuatu



Under Output 4 for Strengthening of 3R+ Return in the Pacific Island Countries, a JPRISM II mission led by the Chief Adviser and the Assistant Chief Adviser was in Port Vila, Vanuatu to begin consultation meetings with the primary goal of establishing a Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association in the country. Following earlier discussions with the business communities and individuals, there was a strong interest and support to form the association. A meeting was conducted for all the interested businesses, individuals, organizations and stakeholders, where a consensus was reached to assign an Acting Committee to work on the legal setup processes. Two members of the Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association joined the mission. They were invited to share their experiences on any advantages and benefits of having an association based on any learnt lessons from the Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association. This had motivated the Vanuatu stakeholders to move forward with their proposed association. The Acting Association Committee is chaired by the only Recycler in the country and remote assistance is provided by JPRISM II during the remaining setup legal process.

Samoa has Joined the Global Fight Against Plastics

Mr. Setoa Apo, Principal Waste Management Officer, MNRE

Plastic pollution is a fast emerging environmental issue in the world due to its adverse impacts especially to the marine environment.



MNRE staff during monitoring and enforcement

The United Nations Environment Programme launched the Clean Seas “turn the tide on plastic” campaign in 2017 with the aim of engaging Governments to develop legislations, incentives to tackle marine litter, public awareness and utilizing of best practices. At least 8 million tonnes of plastics are dumped in the oceans every year which harms marine resources through laceration, suffocation and even death. From a recent study, if no actions are taken now, there will be more plastics in the ocean than fishes by the year 2050.

Social, Economic and Environment impacts of plastics worldwide:

1. Aesthetic mechanism:

Wastes and plastics have the impact on tourism industry which is obvious in a sense where no tourist will ever want to visit a country where wastes are everywhere. In addition, it also affects the trade all from the presence of wastes.

2. Physical mechanism:

This is the main impact especially to island nations where they highly depended on fishes for protein. Marine resources have suffered from the presence of plastics in the oceans through wounding, entrapment and even death. It also contributes to infrastructure damage and hazard to navigation and safety at sea.

3. Financial burden:

It is obvious that cleaning operations cost millions of dollars with the right technology and efforts that are involved.

4. Chemical mechanism:

Contribute significantly to ecosystem and species damage coupled with effects on human health. It also affects with contamination of food supply, absorption of heavy metals and organic contaminants.



Paper bags replacing plastic shopping bags



Medical packing bags created out of magazine pages

In Samoa, about 28% of wastes generated every year are plastics. This is a significant amount for such a small nation. Littering is the most obvious impact with the illegal dumping of plastics in river ways and are being washed down to the ocean. A recent study highlighted that 97% of fishes study contains micro plastics and thus are already present in our food chain.

Samoa is the latest Pacific Island country to enforce a ban on shopping bags and straws in a bid to address the growing issue of plastic pollution. The Waste (Plastic Bag) Management Regulations 2018 was officially passed in 2018 to manage the plastic problem in Samoa with commitment to protect the country’s oceans and marine environment.



The development of the Regulations, a Task Force was appointed consisted of representatives from J-PRISM project, SPREP and MNRE with their expertise in the initiative. After several meetings of the Task Force, three items were then identified to be ban from visiting the problems arise from them. These items are; plastic shopping bags, plastic packing bags and plastic straws. With confirmation of availability of alternatives for these items, consultations were then conducted with various Government agencies, business sector and the general public. From these exclusive consultations on both Upolu and Savaii, the support was tremendous.

The ban prohibits the import, manufacture, export, sale and distribution of plastic shopping bags, packing bags and plastic drinking straws. The prohibition of these came into effect on 30 January 2019. Alternatives to replace shopping bags, packing bags and straws include paper bags, paper straws, cloth bags and traditional woven baskets.



Reusable shopping bags in supermarkets

The exemptions are granted for purpose of food safety and in consideration of food items here plastic packaging is necessary, such as plastic bags used exclusively to pack or repack frozen goods like meat, ice cubes, locally produced chips kekesaina, kava local biscuits and repacked coffee, tea, sugar flour and cocoa. Fine to the maximum of SAT 10,000 is provided for any noncompliance. Styrofoam cups and food packaging containers is proposed to be banned in 2020.

3RINCS International Scientific Conference on Material Cycles and Waste Management, Bangkok, Thailand 27th February - 1st March

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM II



JPRISM II and SPREP participation was invited by the organizers of the 5th 3RINCS International Scientific Conference on Materials Cycles and Waste Management, which was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand. JPRISM II was requested to present on the Pacific Regional Disaster Waste Management Guide development process, which was delivered by JPRISM II Assistant Chief Adviser, Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele. Ms Ma Bella, SPREP Solid Waste Management Adviser on the other hand was requested to present on the status of Waste Indicators for Monitoring purposes.

Pacific Countries Consider Transitioning to the Circular Economy

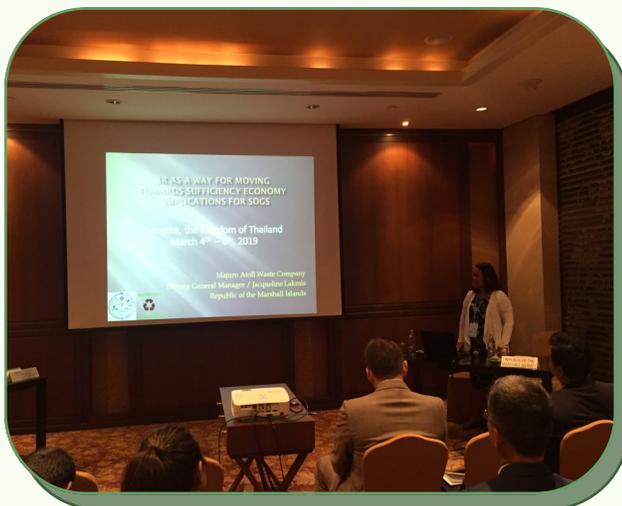
Ms. Ma-Bella Guinto, Solid Waste Management Adviser, SPREP



In the recently held 9th 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific held from the 4th to the 6th March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Pacific delegation were among the 500 participants who gathered and discussed the transition to a circular economy and sufficiency economy. The Pacific Island countries who made a strong presence were Kiribati, FSM, RMI, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.

They were joined by the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association, SPREP and J-PRISM.

This year's theme, "3R a Way for Moving towards Sufficiency Economy—Implications for SDG's", is very relevant considering the global issue on plastic wastes which, if not managed well, is polluting over our valuable oceans and marine resources. The challenge now is to put the circular economy and sufficiency economy philosophies in the Pacific context. The PICs reported the progress on the implementation of the Hanoi 3R Declaration and made a strong impact on initiatives such as the Container Deposit legislations and banning single-use Plastic Products which have yet to be considered by bigger counterparts in the Asian region. SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme Director, Dr. Vicki Hall, and JICA'S Global Environment Department's Director overseeing the



J-PRISM Project, Mr. Mimpei Ito, acted as resource persons in some of the plenary sessions.

The PICs and our recycler also had the opportunity to network with waste-related businesses across Asia and explored and assessed relevant technologies working well for our Asian counterparts during a roundtable dialogue to advance 3R through Public Private Partnerships in both regions.

For more information, please visit <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/?page=view&nr=1174&type=13&menu=198>

Plasticity Pacific Conference in Suva, Fiji, 12th - 13th March

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM II



Presentation by the Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association



The Plasticity Pacific Conference was conducted in Suva to promote solutions for plastic pollution for the Pacific Island Countries including smaller communities. It has brought from other part of the world companies and individuals who have demonstrated potential practical and affordable technologies and practices for the management of plastics by creating value from plastic in its 2nd life. The Plasticity Forum was launched at the Rip +20 Earth Summit in 2012, and has been hosted around the world since then. This conference in Suva was the first event of its type in the Pacific. JPRISM II participation to this conference was represented by the Chief Adviser, Mr Nobuaki Miyata and Assistant Chief Adviser, Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele. During the same event, a meeting was also conducted for the Pacific Regional

Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to discuss the next stage of the proposed Regional Recycling Hub Concept. Two representatives of the Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) - Ms Marina Keil of Waste Management Company and Ms Nua Vaai of Samoa Pure Water were supported by JPRISM II to participate this conference. It was an important opportunity for SRWMA to explore the available opportunities to support the association's recycling and waste management activities. Both members made presentations during this conference. A presentation from JPRISM II was conducted by Mr Nobuaki Miyata and Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele discussing the regional concept of the project – purpose, objective and expected outputs.

Second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting for J-PRISM II in Solomon Islands

Mr. Tomoyuki Kogawa, Project Coordinator/3R+Return (Melanesian Region) J-PRISM II

The Second Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting for J-PRISM II was successfully held at the Honiara City Council (HCC) Chamber Conference Room, Honiara, Solomon Islands on the 28th of February 2019.

In Solomon Islands, activities under the J-PRISM II has been implemented through our key partners from the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECDM), Ministry of Health and Medical Service (MHMS) and HCC with the goal to strengthen Institutional capacity for SWM at the national and provincial levels. There are three major outputs under the project.

During the Second Joint Coordinating Committee meeting, Mr. Charles Kelly, the City Clerk of Honiara City Council, was the acting chair and presider over the meeting. The goal of the JCC meeting was to endorse and agree on



any modification of the Project Design Matrix (PDM), Plan of Operation (PO), and human resource changes amongst other discussions.

Based on the mutual consent of both Solomon side (MECDM, MHMS and HCC) and JICA, progress of each outputs were updated during the 2nd JCC meeting for J-PRISM II Project.

Upcoming

EVENTS

Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

July, TONGA

J-PRISM II Steering Committee Meeting

September, TBC

Welcome Aboard!



Ms. Mayu Nomura started on April 4, 2019

Talofa from Samoa! I'm really excited to be joining the team J-PRISM2 and SPREP community as an expert on solid waste management training and monitoring. I just relocated from Tokyo, where I worked for the Environmental Management Group, JICA. I've always been interested in trash since my childhood wonder came up in my mind, staring leftover in a single-use bento box, "Where are these things going after throwing away?" Growing up, I had worked at a recycling company dealing with material recovery of disaster waste generated from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011, so joining J-PRISM2 seems like fate and great opportunity to contribute to waste management in the Pacific. Outside of my work, I enjoy reading, exploring around town, watching movie and I am actually non-professional dancer!



Ms. Yoko Onuma will start in June

Hello, my name is Yoko Onuma. I'm the newly appointed JICA Expert for Monitoring/3R+Return. I'm responsible for assessing and strengthening that monitoring mechanism for solid waste management and enhancing Regional 3R+Return system. I worked for a consulting firm for 10 years to establish recycling system for used products with manufacturers and stakeholders. After joining JICA in 2014, I managed waste management projects in Asia-Pacific and worked as JICA waste management expert in Sri Lanka in 2017 to 2019. I'm very honored to be part of J-PRISM and excited about challenges ahead in my new role.

J-PRISM II BUZZ

For the Sustainable Cooperation on Waste Management among Pacific Island Countries

J-PRISM II Project Office SPREP
Apia, Samoa

J-PRISM II

Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II

Project Office Members

Chief Advisor: Nobuaki Miyata

Assistant Chief Advisor: Faafetai Sagapolutele

Regional Cooperation/Project Coordinator: Ayako Yoshida

Solid Waste Management Training & Monitoring: Mayu Nomura

Project Assistant: Pulemalie Habiri

Project Coordinator/3R+Return Micronesia (Palau branch): Hiroyuki Negoro

Project Coordinator Melanesia (Solomon Islands branch): Tomoyuki Kogawa

Address

J-PRISM II Project Office

c/o P.O Box 240, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Apia, Samoa

Telephone: (685) 21929 ext. 397

Website

www.sprep.org/j-prism-2/home



J-PRISM II always stands beside you to promote and support PICs initiatives!