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ISSUE #7

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

## Solomon Recycle Association Launched



**Tomoyuki Kogawa**  
J-PRISM Expert

The launching ceremony of the Solomon Islands Recycling and Waste Management Association was successfully held on the 28th November 2019 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Mr. Lindsay Teobasi, Acting President of the Solomon Islands Recycling and Waste Management Association (President of Design & Technology Centre), thanked the invited guests for their support and participation. He expressed his aspirations that the association would like to create a circular economy society through public and private cooperation with their next five years strategy to overcome the challenges facing Solomon's recycling industry.

Mr. Motoyuki Uegaki, Resident Representative of JICA Solomon Islands Office expressed his appreciation of the accomplishment made by the association.

Mr. Georges Titiulu, Chief Environment and Health Inspector of Honiara City Council, expressed its full support for the establishment and activities of the association. He informed the daily generation amount of waste in HCC is 80 tons/day and their current recycling and recovery rate is about 7.2%. They therefore need to support the association activities and operations that contribute to raising the recycling rate and reducing the final disposal rate in HCC.

Dr. Melchior Matakai, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology, expressed his excitement during his support statement to formally recognize the existence of the new association. He stressed that a country that does not look after waste management cannot develop the country. Therefore the government is trying to step up a collaboration with other sectors and to create a mechanism that would work well in the context of the Solomon Islands.

At the end of the ceremony, members of the association gave a presentation on the recycling activities and techniques they are currently working on.

This launching ceremony was co-sponsored by Solomon Islands Recycling and Waste Management Association, J-PRISM Phase II and JICA.

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# Recycle Association Launched in Vanuatu

Tomoyuki Kogawa  
JPRISM Expert

The launching ceremony of the Vanuatu Recycling and Waste Management Association was successfully held on the 25th November 2019 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Honorable Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, expressed his excitement during his keynote address to formally recognize the existence and operation of the new association. Mr. Andrew Hibgame, Chair of the Vanuatu Recycling and Waste Management Association (President of Recycle Corp), thanked the invited guests for their support and participation in celebrating this milestone of the association.

He also called for their continuing support in the implementation of future activities of the association. Ms. Harumi Katsumata, Ambassador of Japan expressed her appreciation of the accomplishment made by Vanuatu recycling association and also encouraged the association to assist and share their success with the other Pacific islands who are yet to establish their recycling associations.

This launching ceremony was co-sponsored by Vanuatu Recycling and Waste Management Association, J-PRISM Phase II and JICA.



# Samoa National Waste Management Strategy Launched

Hiroshi Tsuruta  
JICA Expert

Samoa's "National Waste Management Strategy 2019-2023" (NWMS) was launched at the ceremony held at Malaefatu Park, Samoa on 4th November 2019 during the National Environment Week 2019. Resident representative of JICA Samoa office, Mr. Akihiko Hoshino attended the ceremony and cut the ribbon to launch the strategy officially. The NWMS is Samoa's first strategy developed for waste management which targets both Solid Waste Management and Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management in its scope. The formulation of the NWMS was initiated from June 2017 led by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of Samoa with funding and technical assistance from JICA through J-PRISM II as well as collaboration with SPREP. The formulation process consisted from baseline survey and series of discussions with stakeholders such as government ministries and agencies, private sector including public consultation with community people to reflect the different perspective and view points and the final draft was successfully approved by the cabinet in January 2019. This is the first year of the NWMS and MNRE is going to work on implementation of the action plan to realize "Clean and Healthy Samoa" which is the vision of the strategy.



Faafetai Sagapolutele  
J-PRISM Assistant Chief Advisor

A Training Workshop was conducted in Vanuatu to trial the use of the Draft Disaster Waste Management (DWM) Training Handbook that will be used by SPREP in the promotion of DWM in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The Workshop including the Draft DWM Training Handbook were funded by Canada. The Training Handbook was developed by the University of Newcastle in Australia based on the Draft Regional DWM Guideline produced by JPRISM II in collaboration with SPREP. According to Ms. Ma Bella Guinto, SPREP Solid Waste Management Adviser, the DWM Training Manual will provide a standardized approach in promoting DWM to PICs in the future. Both the Draft Regional DWM Guideline and the Draft DWM Training Manual once they are finalized, will provide the basis of future DWM capacity building in the region. Dr. Ifte Ahmed of Newcastle University indicated that his team will use the lessons and experiences learnt from the training to make some final adjustments to the training handbook. Dr. Sascha Fuller of Newcastle University also stated that the inclusion of Gender in the training handbook is encouraging and a great development. This will promote gender in future DWM developments in the region, which is a priority area of the Canada Fund. Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, JPRISM II Assistant Chief Advisor reiterated the importance of the training in testing the Draft DWM Training Handbook. "If the Vanuatu stakeholders found the training interesting and easier to understand, it is a good indication of the current state of the Draft Training Handbook". He emphasized the importance of having a good combination of both lecture and practical sessions in the handbook for easier learning by the countries. He also indicated that he will review the Training Handbook and make some adjustments based on the latest Revised Draft of the Regional Draft DWM Guideline. Mr. Sandy of the Port Vila Municipal Council stated that he found the training very interesting and useful for him as the responsible staff for waste management in Port Vila. He is now aware of what his agency should prepare for before a disaster strikes as well as the expected responses after a disaster. More than 20 staff and workers from other government and non-government agencies as well as businesses attended the training. They received a Certificate of Participation issued by the University of Newcastle.



# Master Plan Workshop for Municipal Councils in Fiji

Shinnouske Oda  
JICA Expert

In response to the amendments of Local Government Act and the Public Health Act of Fiji, almost all of the Municipal Councils are required to undertake waste management in rural areas that are outside of their municipal boundaries. To tackle this challenge, Waste Management Master Plans are under development by each of every municipal council with the initiative of the Department of Local Government in close communication with Department of Environment. The workshop was held in Suva and Lautoka with the participation of all municipal councils in each region to share their status, efforts, and way forward in waste management. Master Plans will be drafted in the early next year with the technical assistance of J-PRISM2 experts. Seven Municipalities from Central, East and North division met at the Suva Civic Centre on 11th Sep and 6 municipalities from Western division met at the Lautoka City Council Chamber on 13th Sep as the work on building a master plan that will cater for rubbish disposal gets underway. Director for Local Government Bindula Prasad said the challenges were many especially with the amalgamation of the Public Health Act with the Local Government Act. "The municipal councils have a responsibility to take care of the rural area," Ms. Prasad said. "This is something that was governed by the public health act but it has all gone now to the municipal councils. This is to ensure a cleaner Fiji. The SWM Masterplan will be completed by 2020 where each municipality will have their own plan including the plan of extended waste collection service to rural area.

According to statistics submitted from municipal councils, Suva City Council dealt with 22,530 tons of solid waste annually, followed by Nasinu which carted 16,782 tons to the landfill. Labasa had the third highest with Nadi being the fourth.



## Samoa Waste Oil Management Program Launched

Dr. Yoko Onuma  
JPRISM 3R+Return Expert

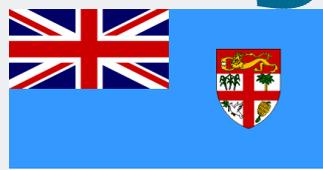
One of the activities that J-PRISM project office is currently working on is to support the establishment of Recyclers associations and the development of their strategic plans. One major achievement of this activity is the start of a new voluntary recycling initiative in Samoa. On August 30th 2019, Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) announced the launching of the Waste Oil Management Program (SWOMP) for Samoa at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) Noumea Convention and the Informal 10th Waigani Convention at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel.

During this ceremony, Nissan Samoa, a member of SRWMA who is leading the SWOMP explained the details of this program for the proper management of waste oil (used lubricant oil). In Samoa, approximately 200,000 liters of waste oil is discharged annually, and there has been no usage so far, so it was stored in the backyard as a stock pile. Since waste oil is difficult to handle, it is necessary to pay close attention to storage methods and other factors, which can cause fire. To address this environmental issue without a current solution in Samoa, SWOMP, a unique voluntary public-private Partnership arrangement, where leading local suppliers and lubricant oil consumers in Samoa joined forces with MNRE, JPRISM, SPREP, SWIRE Shipping Company, and Blue Scope Fiji to find a proper and healthier waste oil solution in Samoa

To support the success of the program \$0.20 sene collection fee will apply to every liter of waste oil collected which will aid in the sustainability of the program and the continued export of waste from the region.

JICA believes that this waste oil management program is the first 3R + Return system supported by JPRISM as a regional suitable model for the Pacific Island Countries, and it will become a very important advanced successful model for JPRISM project as well.

# Samoa Team's Experience On Study Tour



Setoa Apo  
Principal Waste Management Officer,  
Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

The study tour, on waste management experiences of, in particular, the Lautoka City Council in Fiji, Port Vila in Vanuatu and Tongatapu in Tonga, was a great opportunity for Samoa to learn from the practical experiences on various aspects of waste management development and financing in those Pacific island countries. The experiences shared from Vanuatu regarding its yellow bag system in Port Vila Municipal and the red bag system in Luganville revealed some advantages and disadvantages of the two systems. The challenges and issues observed were considered, as we develop a more appropriate user-pay system that is feasible for Samoa.

Furthermore, the program included a visit to the importer of the yellow bags, observing the waste collection while on the run, discussions with the community and the local people to gain their perspective, which yielded critical information for us to assess, as we progress into developing the user-pay system.

Leading up to the study tour, while many options were explored, the electricity and mobile phone applications were readily available, but the disadvantages far outweighed the advantages. However, from the experience sharing with hosted countries, their systems worked well for them. The host countries believed, their current systems worked well for them. The visiting members conceded that the use of pre-paid bags was more applicable. An important point suggested specifically to Port Vila, was to use pre-paid bags as an avenue to introduce waste segregation, by using a separate bag for small recyclable materials like cans and plastic bottles. The advantages of the pre-paid bag system from the visiting team's perspective are as follows:

- Fair system meaning more waste you generate, the more bags you need to buy;
- The system self-finance itself;
- Easy to monitor;
- Opportunity to promote waste minimization through waste segregation (separate bag for small recyclables)

Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is currently developing the user-pay system in collaboration with stakeholders.

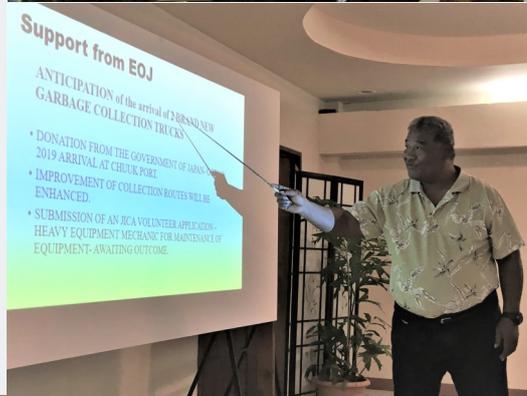
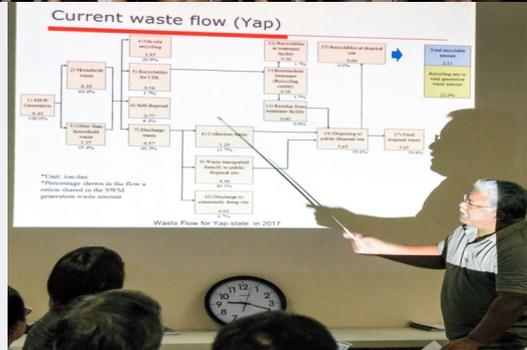


# Solid Waste Management Workshop in FSM

Misa Oishi  
JICA Expert

FSM is a country consisting of four highly independent states with different languages and cultures. Naturally, the SWM problems each state has faced and the countermeasures each state has taken differ substantially. That is the reason why the J-PRISM II promotes inter-state knowledge and experience sharing by organizing the SWM workshops at the time of the four-state joint JCC Meetings. Since the four-state joint JCC Meetings are held in every two years, the SWM workshops are also held in every two years. With the great initiatives and commitment of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), the national-level counterpart agency of J-PRISM II, two such workshops had been held so far in 2017 and 2019. At the first SWM workshop in September 2017, counterpart officials of all four states gathered together in Pohnpei and shared the current SWM issues technically as well as quantitatively by using "Waste Flows" which were formulated based on the SWM baseline surveys conducted in 2017 in each state. "Waste Flows" clearly illustrate the urgent SWM issues which each state should tackle soonest, and some of them have been decided to improve under J-PRISM II. In September of this year, two years after the first SWM workshop, the second SWM workshop was successfully held with being participated by counterpart officials from all four states once again. At this second workshop, state officials presented the waste collection situations of each state as well as their efforts to improve the situations. Such efforts include the main activities of J-PRISM II, namely a collection improvement pilot project in Yap and introduction of inter-state collection system (IMCS) in Kosrae. This thematic discussion on waste collection provided all the participants the opportunities to deeply think how important and difficult to expand waste collection coverage and secure financial sustainability simultaneously.

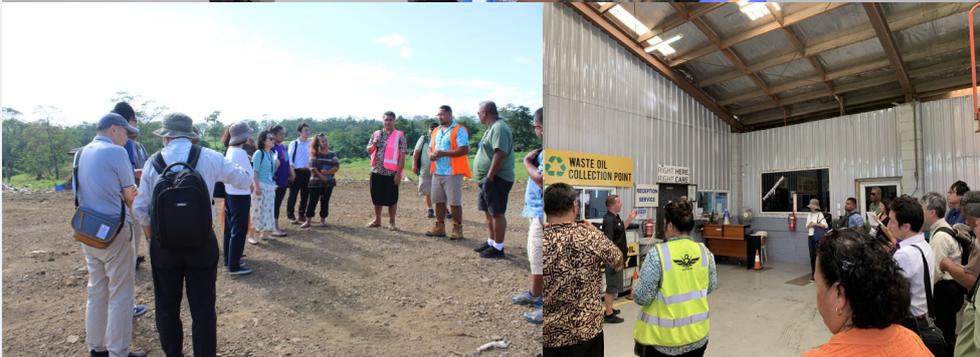
In collaboration with DECEM, J-PRISM II in the Micronesia region is willing to continue this effort to enhance knowledge and experience sharing in FSM. Also, we really hope that these opportunities contribute counterpart officials to learn from neighboring states and improve SWM works in each state.



# JPRISM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

## JPRISM Project Office

The 3rd JPRISM Steering Committee Meeting was successfully held in Apia, Samoa on September 6th, 2019. Country counterparts, donor representatives, JICA experts and SPREP representatives were among the participants. Each of the nine member countries reported the progress of the JPRISM II Project within their respective countries and shared challenges encountered when implementing their scheduled activities. It was a great opportunity for all participants to learn from each other the potential problems and possible solutions to waste management especially for those planning to implement Container Deposit Legislation, User pay system among other initiatives. Each representative of the Recycling Associations in Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon and Fiji shared activities and progresses made and future plans that revealed some great ideas for other countries yet to establish Recycling Associations of their own. Leading up to the Steering committee meeting, the country representatives toured the Tafaigata Landfill Site and local Recycling companies where the majority of Waste Management and Recycling activity took place in Samoa. The visit was a hit with the participants who shared that it has given them new ideas to try when they return to their home countries. With almost 20 years' waste management Assistance experience the Region, Mr. Shiro Amano expressed how proud he was of the country counterparts and their achievements regarding waste management in the Pacific region. Each one had grown confident over the years and became great assets to the region.



# Message from the Project Office.

## MID-TERM REVIEW: MICRONESIAN REGION

Miyata Nobuaki  
JPRISM II Chief Advisor

It is almost two and a half years since the inauguration of the J-PRISM II project in February 2017. It is just the middle of the project period for five years. On this context JICA decided to conduct a kind of confirmation survey on the progress of the Project by Headquarters and J-PRISM II project office in Samoa sharing the area to survey. The project office takes charge of three countries in the Micronesian region, Palau, FSM and RMI. On behalf of the project office, Chief Advisor, Miyata Nobuaki made two trips to conduct surveys on these countries from August 6th to 15th in Palau and from September 20th to October 9th in FSM and RMI. After the completion of the survey in these three countries, it was found that the project progress in each country was going well so far. There were some challenges faced to solve earlier in three countries, but these were considered not serious to interfere with the progress of the project. The good progress was due to the commitment work carried out by short term experts' teams in the region. The project will enter the later half of the project period and most of the activities by short term experts were heading towards the final stages as well. To this end, the project office will make every effort to work with these experts in charge of the respective countries in the Micronesian region and other regions to successfully complete the project.

## Farewell Kogawa-san



My contract ends on the 2nd of January 2020 and I will be traveling to Japan on the same day. Finally, I'm going back to Japan for the first time in 4 years. I sincerely thank you very much for being able to work with you all under the J-PRISM project for the last 2 years. I was able to learn a lot of things from my colleagues in the Melanesia region, and I do have great respect for their dedication to waste management issues. I wish you all the best and hope to see you again.

Thank you very much.  
Tomoyuki

## UPCOMING 2020 EVENTS

JCC IN  
PALAU  
JANUARY

JCC IN  
VANUATU  
FEB

JCC IN  
SOLOMON  
FEB

JCC IN  
RMI  
FEB

JCC IN  
SAMOA  
MARCH

JCC IN  
PNG  
MARCH

It has been a very remarkable year for the JPRISM Project, our country counterparts and partner organizations. Congratulations to everyone for all the accomplishments made this year thanks to your hard work and tremendous support. There are now three established Associations in the region and we all look forward to see the great plans each group has in store to tackle Waste Management in the Pacific. The JPRISM Project team would like to express our utmost and sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your support and assistance throughout this year. We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Cheers!  
Project Office

### 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  
3R+Return/Monitoring: Dr. Yoko Onuma  
Project Assistant: Evangeline Potifara  
Project Coordinator/3R+Return Micronesian Region:  
Project Coordinator/3R+Return Melanesian Region: Tomoyuki Kogawa

### J-PRISM II PROJECT OFFICE

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
P.O.Box 240, Vailima  
Apia, Samoa

Website: <https://www.sprep.org/j-prism-2/home>

