



# FLASH No.10

Featuring activities in Pacific region

## 5th Steering Committee Meeting J-PRISM

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, J-PRISM held its 5<sup>th</sup> and final Steering Committee Meeting at the SPREP campus, Apia, Samoa. This meeting was held in the presence of all stakeholders so that both regional and member countries could share the lessons they had learnt over the project's last 5 years and furthermore to allow the results of the terminal evaluation of the project to be reported. The meeting chair was Mr. Suluimalo Amataga Penaia, Chief Executive Officer, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa.

Opening remarks were given by Mr. Hideyuki Suzuki, JICA's Resident Representative within Samoa and Mr. David Sheppard, the Director General for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), who both emphasised the importance of exchanging lessons learnt and knowledge gained.

Mr. Sheppard also brought attention to the fruitful partnerships between SPREP and JICA that have existed for more than 15 years and that recently lead to Cleaner Pacific 2016; a sustainable waste management strategy that will set the agenda for the next 10 years.

Around 50 participants from Pacific Island Countries (PICs), International Organizations, Donor Agencies, and Private Sectors participated in this meeting. Those present unanimously expressed that there was still much more to be done in the area of waste management in the Pacific and that JICA should continue its involvement beyond the J-PRISM Project's conclusion.

During the meeting J-PRISM reviewed the progress of regional and member countries' activities highlighting the wealth of knowledge and experience that has been gained and which can now be used to further improve waste management in J-PRISM's 11 PICs and beyond.



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Mr. Shiro Amano, Chief Adviser of J-PRISM reiterated the initial objectives and goals of the J-PRISM project and discussed tools such as the Solid Waste Management Guidebook and J-PRISM/SPREP's database for regional capacity development activities and human resources on solid waste management, known simply as the "Pacific Island Database of Capacity Development Activities (PIDOC)". Following this he announced the awards for 2014/2015.

### Award for the best counterpart/team Special 2014/2015

- **Best C/P Award :**  
- Contributors to "The Pacific Solid Waste Management Guidebook"

### January 2016, No.10

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# The sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on 3R

*Held at Maldives from the 16th-19th August 2015*

## 1.0. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The sixth regional Asia-Pacific Forum on 3R discussed:

- ◆ Innovative and smart solutions towards effective implementation of the Ha Noi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)
- ◆ Various economic and employment opportunities in 3R areas, taking into account the diverse socio-economic situation across the region as well as the limitations of Small Island Developing States
- ◆ The contribution of 3R towards increasing economic opportunities with more environmentally sustainable tourism

## 2.0. MY GENERAL OBSERVATIONS DURING THE PLENARY AND PARALLEL ROUND TABLE SESSIONS RELATED TO THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES

(i). Japan is still leading the Asia and Pacific region in the area of 3R implementation, with other Asian countries following its lead.

(ii). Implementation of 3R in Small Island Developing States like Samoa and other Pacific countries continues to be hindered by a variety of constraints and barriers. Dr. Sunil Herat (Griffith University, Australia) discussed how SIDS are being affected by a lack of waste management system hardware and software.

(iii). Waste generation in the region would be more manageable if industries took full responsibility for their produced goods/products through appropriate Extend Producer Responsibility mechanisms. However, how the EPR approach can become a reality in SIDS, given that most of the producers and manufacturers are in Asian countries and therefore beyond the SIDS legal jurisdictions is a great challenge.

(iv). Economic and legal tools to support 3R promotion/implementation in Asia at the municipal/local levels have been successful in Japan, Taiwan etc. These tools require political will and support in order to be implemented in Pacific countries and therefore a stronger approach that seeks out support/participation from countries is required.

(v). There are a number of 3R initiatives in the region that need research support such as the biodegradable plastic bags initiative in Maldives. A regional Research Centre was suggested (and is highly supported

by this paper), that would provide research support to policy decisions in the region and would ensure that countries would make decisions based on scientific evidence.

(vi). There is a lack of 3R in Pacific countries. Most of the existing initiatives are on a temporary basis and under pilot projects e.g. J-PRISM,

PACWASTE etc. 3R needs to be promoted through applicable economic and legal instruments that have been proven and successful in other countries.

(vii). 3R in the Pacific region is considered a waste management issue and as a result little consideration is given by other development areas like water, resource use, electricity, tourism etc. Therefore, the promotion of 3R in non-waste areas is important in line with the resources efficiency objectives for the conservation of water, minerals and other resources that are being consumed at a rapid rate.

## 3.0. RECOMMENDATION

3R is the answer to problems facing the region in regards to solid waste generation and the high costs involved with solid waste management. Therefore, every effort must be made through this Forum to push and promote 3R policy in Pacific countries by:

- Incorporating 3R policies in the countries' national development strategies through appropriate regional agencies (SPREP, SOPAC etc.)
  - Providing technical and financial support to countries in developing appropriate 3R initiatives and supporting economic and regulatory mechanisms e.g. EPR, CDL etc.
- Using a sub-regional platform through existing regional agencies in the Pacific (SPREP, SOPAC etc.) to push 3R policy for waste and other development areas in the Pacific region such as water, marine resources etc.



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

# PIC showcased recycling initiatives during the Maldives 3R Forum

Representatives from most of the Pacific Island countries (PICs) who attended the recent 6<sup>th</sup> 3R Forum held in Maldives presented their outstanding initiatives towards sustainable waste management and the challenges in dealing with the unique waste issues faced in the region. The forum was held from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015. There were around 300 attendees to the forum. The Japanese Technical Cooperation for the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM) is one of the numerous co-sponsors of the event.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) through its Solid Waste Management Adviser, Ms. Ma. Bella Guinto, delivered a plenary presentation on the benefits of 3Rs for marine ecosystem services and tourism industry in the Pacific Island countries. Significant waste management initiatives by the 21-member countries were highlighted during the presentation.

It is a good opportunity for the PICs to rub shoulders with fellow solid waste practitioners in neighbouring regions in Asia and the Caribbean, among others. The wealth of experiences in bigger countries and other small island developing states can provide PICs the grounding to initiate similar programs suited to the unique conditions of the Pacific Island condition. In the same way, getting the compliment from other countries in the way PICs manage their wastes, to a certain extent, also provided government counterparts the eagerness to strive harder in battling waste issues.

The significant achievements in the waste sector coupled with the ability to address challenges have been the subject of country reports presented by each country representatives. A parallel roundtable discussion was also dedicated to the Small Island Developing States with the intention of recognising the need to attune 3R initiatives

with the goals and aspirations underlined in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway with the view to help countries attain sustainable development. Certain capacity building initiatives were highlighted in this roundtable discussion with the aim of promoting south-south/triangular cooperation within these countries and sustain the knowledge base in solid waste management within the region.

J-PRISM and SPREP shared their programs in empowering PICs in the pursuit of a Cleaner Pacific. Further enhancement of the capabilities of PICs will be backed up by the Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (Cleaner Pacific 2025) which has just recently been developed by PICs through the support from JICA and SPREP. It is hoped that the proposed Cleaner Pacific Roundtable will come into fruition to enhance sharing of information and address common waste and pollution issues in the Region.

The Government of Maldives also treated participants to a variety of island tours, one of which showcased how wastes in an island resort is managed. The tour provided participants insight on the challenges faced by resort operators in addressing waste issues considering the remoteness and isolation of these islands – conditions which PICs can very well relate to.

The PICs are very grateful to the support accorded by the Japanese government and the United Nation's Centre for Regional Development in allowing their representation in this 3R Forum.



*Ms. Ma Bella Guinto, Solid Waste Management Adviser*



# 5th Steering Committee Meeting J-PRISM

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- **Best Team Award :**
- Team PNG and Team Fiji
- **Special Award :**
- Jaffa's Sanitary Systems Limited (Samoa)
- Pacific Recycle Company Limited (Samoa)
- Gio Recycling (Tonga)
- Island Paradise Recycle Company (Yap, FSM)
- Micronesia Eco Inc. (Kosrae, FSM)



The results of the terminal evaluation were then reported by the chief of the final evaluation mission Mr. Naoki Mori, Executive Technical Advisor to the Director General, JICA HQ. Mr. Mori delivered the following recommendations and discussed lessons learnt.

**Recommendations for the remaining period**

- Utilization of the trainers and trainees database
- Following-up recommendations in each country

- and with SPREP
- Communication between SPREP and Japanese counterparts

**Lessons learnt**

- Cooperative approach applicable to PICs
- Collaboration from the initial stage of RS 2010
- Capacity development of the trainers who have the experiences as practitioners
- Disaster waste management by the local experts trained by J-PRISM
- Necessity of high level commitment

The integrated terminal evaluation report was endorsed by all member countries, signed by Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Mori and witnessed by the chair of the meeting, Mr. Penaia.

Mr. Mori and Mr. Sheppard then drew the meeting to a close, reiterating JICA and SPREP's eagerness to continue supporting the improvement of waste management in the Pacific region even after the completion of J-PRISM in February 2016.

## Message from J-PRISM experts

**Experts in Solomon Islands, PNG & Vanuatu**



**Mahmoud Riad**

I have been very fortunate to work in the four Pacific Island countries of PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon and Samoa during the last three years as part of the JPRISM expert team. I would like to believe that at the end of the JPRISM project, the counterparts I worked with are now in a much better position to explain SWM conditions and identify issues both qualitatively

as well as quantitatively, and they are well trained to interact with the general public and stakeholders on SWM affairs. But most important I feel that our counterparts have a deeper respect for SWM and their duties/responsibilities. Solid waste continues to be generated every day so please always keep abreast with the SWM conditions at hand, exchange information and experiences through our regional experts and keep the public informed of the challenges ahead. Take care all!

operation toward proper waste disposal. I appreciated the continuous efforts of counterparts and JOCV members working on this project.



**Akihiro Osada**

Thank you for all the work you've done during J-PRISM. I spent this very precious and exciting time with you, especially in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Of course it was not an easy path and there have been many challenges and stories, such as the change of counterparts and the lack of resources etc. However, thanks to your big and continuous contribution to J-PRISM I feel that we have found ways to improve solid waste management. Some of the work was really impressive and even surprising

for me. I really appreciate it. We are still on the way to our goal in the area of solid waste management and I hope all of you continue to work together as a team.

**Experts in FSM, Marshall Islands & Palau**



**Hiroshi Abe**

I was in charge of landfill improvement in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. J-PRISM was my first experience working on a regional project covering several countries. I participated in the project from June 2013 and started discussing with counterparts how to improve. Since that time, landfill sites have been very much improved in both countries through the efforts and hard work of counterparts. But still it is middle of the way and it is necessary to continue daily



**Akira Haseyama**

For our very good slogan which I'd like to suggest is "We can do it!" There are a plenty of issues on solid waste management at every country, such as Prioritization, Budget, Machinery, Human resources, Understandings and so on. Please keep your high motivation, mind and will. Never give up! Please don't stop your efforts! Your efforts make change meaningful. Although the Project was terminated, we experts never forget the memories in Pacific Island Countries. Good luck!

### Experts in FSM, Marshall Islands & Palau



**Risa Muranaka**

This Project was for 5 years, which was the longest Project that I had joined before. When I look back over the last 5 years, I can say that it was long, hard and a sometimes precious time. Actually I could say that I did all my best in these 5 years, although sometimes it might not be helpful to C/Ps. However, spending time with C/Ps became a precious and irreplaceable time for me in my life.

There are no more words than this “Mesulang” “Kinisou” and “Kammager” to my C/Ps, “ありがとう” to J-PRISM Project Office members and “Thank you” to other members in other Pacific Island Countries.

### Messages from J-PRISM Office



**Fa'afetai Sagapolutele**

I would like to thank everyone who has played a part and role in the successful implementation of J-PRISM project during the last five years period – our Project Director in all 11 Countries, Project Managers and Counterparts; our JICA Experts; J-PRISM Office; JICA Offices and Japan Embassies in the region, JICA Headquarters in Tokyo; Government and people of Japan. We have done and learnt a lot from this project and I am confident that our islands environment and people have gained a lot from the progress made by your hard work, commitment and great effort. Whatever lessons and experiences gained from this project, let us use it for the betterment of our Pacific Islands and people in the future. Remember the future of our islands and people are in your hands. I wish everyone luck and hopefully we will meet again someday.

### Experts in Fiji, Tonga & Kiribati



**Yurie Sakai**

Bula and Malo e lelei to all of the J-PRISM family! I was the happiest one among all Japanese Experts as I was blessed with very motivated counterparts in these two beautiful paradises, namely Fiji and Tonga (Vava'u). We made various achievements, but I can say that one of the most wonderful achievements was to build great “joint-ownership” that means combined efforts of you and stakeholders. We

shared the same emotions like a real family through the 5-year project period and the strong teamwork made a big difference! Our 5-year Project is ending soon, but I believe you can do it as long as your teamwork lasts! You might sometimes struggle with work and feel lonely. At such a time, please remember that there are many J-PRISM friends in the Pacific working with the same spirits. Keep up the good work and look forward to seeing all of the J-PRISM family again in future!!



**Keiko Kani**

People from South Pacific countries are very friendly and open. I could enjoy my work and life in Fiji and Kiribati during the project period. In addition, under J-PRISM I basically needed to manage the projects by myself within assigned countries/councils and this made it possible for me to learn a lot about project management. Our counterparts worked hard and I really appreciate having had a chance to work with them and to see them start new activities while deepening their knowledge and improving their skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work, and your support throughout my 3 years with J-PRISM. It was an amazing 3 years, and it was such a pleasure to be able to work with you all. I will always value your smiles and support. Continue the good work and God bless. See you around the Pacific.



**Pueina Parkinson**

I am so fortunate to have been able to work with colleagues from the Pacific Islands. I am thankful for the close acquaintanceships I have with my colleagues and the Japanese experts, who engage people in a healthy lifestyle and protect the environment. You always encourage me to continue working on waste management issues! At the end of J-PRISM, I would like to emphasize the importance of your waste management duties. Nowadays, lifestyles are changing and there is a limit to the amount of waste that you can deal with in your backyard. We need collection services and certain places to deposit our waste. Routine operations like landfill management or rubbish collection might seem boring, but these are key parts of waste management. Without those of you who work on waste management we would be flooded with waste... We are linked; let's continue working together for our better future!!



**Reiko Shindo**

It has been a great honour to be a part of the J-PRISM team and to have been able to work with you all. Although my assignment was only one and half years long, I feel that I have learnt a lot throughout the project. Particularly, how each country works tirelessly to tackle waste issues on the ground. I hope that the coordination role that I have played has been able to contribute to improving the situation. I was also very happy to see all of the J-PRISM members around the Pacific. I wish you all on-going success, and I hope to see you all around the Pacific in the future.



**Ayako Yoshida**

# Your journey goes on.....

It is my honest impression that time flies very quickly. Not from the start of J-PRISM but from the first visit to Samoa in the year of 2000. There are overflowing memories of the Pacific, both good and bad. I have become acquainted with a number of people in PICs. Unfortunately some of them are in heaven and waiting for me to join, but I still have some things to do with others in this world.



**Shiro Amano,**  
*Your Chief Advisor*

As frequently repeated, it is my firm belief that any positive changes have to be brought about by our counterparts and the local people, not by the foreign experts from outside. The primary objective of J-PRISM, or any other JICA technical cooperation project, is to develop and increase your capacity so that you will be able to contribute to improving the quality of life for the people in your country.

During the last five years particularly, I have been able to observe a significant increase in your capacity, which made me very proud of with great happiness. I am sure your coaches are very proud of

you too. This is the best reward to all the J-PRISM coaches.

As the number of family members increase, the number of people who can provide help will also increase. This is the theory of interconnection. The wider and deeper your network connections become, the better your chances of solving problems.

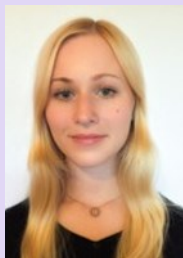
During the project, J-PRISM has provided quite a number of opportunities for you to expose yourself to other people who have various expertise from different countries. You now have a good knowledge of who can do what and who knows what. A significant number of interconnections have been established. If you further expand this network and deepen the interconnections among the Pacific in the future then you will be able to help yourself in a sustainable manner.

We will assist you to do this during the next phase. Prepare and make yourself ready to help.

In the meantime, your journey goes on and on to transplant a seed into others. Remember the journey is more important than the destination. So long my friends.

## Messages from J-PRISM Office

Hajimemashite, talofa and hello. My name is Kayla Rain Williams and I am an Australian university student, currently studying a double degree consisting of a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Writing and Cultural Studies) and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (Japan), at the University of Technology Sydney. I was recently awarded a prestigious 2016 Australian Government New Colombo Plan Scholarship, which will allow me to study in Japan and intern across the Indo-Pacific in 2016/2017. I have been interning with the J-PRISM Project since September 2015 and will continue to do so in 2016. I would like to thank the J-PRISM team for being so welcoming and inspiring me to pursue a career in international development assistance.



**Kayla Rain Williams**

When I am asked to choose one really memorable experience from my 3 and a half years with J-PRISM, I don't think of "Kava" in Vanuatu, or "Sakau" in Pohnpei (of course, they really are wonderful), but instead I think of children picking through waste at disposal sites. I was truly shocked when I saw a naked baby crawling across the ground of a disposal site, surrounded by all kinds of mixed waste including sharps, glasses, waste that was being burnt and the smoke that it caused. I also saw a girl atop a pile of waste. She was picking through it with bare feet. What I really want to say here, is that I hold great respect for the work done by J-PRISM's counterparts who strive to tackle these kind of issues on the ground. It is their efforts that help to take waste from children's hands and to replace it with pens and notebooks. I wish you all the best and ask you to please keep up your efforts and your wonderful Pacific Islander Smiles, in order to change the situation for yourself, your family, your community, country and region.



**Makoto Tsukiji**

## About our Project

Japanese Technical Corporation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM) the 5years, regional project implemented by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) officially commenced in February 2011. The purpose of J-PRISM is capacity development on waste management in the eleven (11) member countries in the Pacific. Member countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu.) \* Cook Islands, Nauru, and Niue are associate members.

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