MINUTES OF MEETING

OF

THE FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR

JAPANESE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES (J-PRISM)

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 30th September, 2014

Mr. Casten N. Nemra

(Chairperson)

Chief Secretary,

Office of the President,
Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

Mr. David Sheppard

Director General,

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Mr. Shiro Amano

Chief Advisor,

Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM), JICA

MINIUTES OF THE 4TH J-PRISM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS RESORT, ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Participants

Chairman - Mr. Casten N. Nemra, Chief Secretary, Office of the President, RMI

1. Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
2. Fiji
3. Kiribati
4. Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)
5. Palau
6. Papua New Guinea (PNG)
7. Samoa
8. Tonga
9. Tuvalu
10. SPREP
11. JICA (Tokyo Headquarters)
12. J-PRISM

Absentees

1. Solomon Islands
2. Vanuatu

Associated Members

1. Cook Islands
2. Niue

Others

1. Tokelau
2. European Union (EU)
3. Embassy of Japan in RMI

Attachments

1. Agenda
2. Regional Project Design Matrix (PDM)
3. Regional Project Plan of Operations (PO)
4. Presentation - J-PRISM Project Activities
5. Presentations - FSM, RMI & Palau
6. Participants List

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair officially declared the meeting opened and thanked the participating members for attending the 4th J-PRISM Steering Committee Meeting. He also expressed his appreciation of the participation from other countries and agencies. He then invited his Excellency, the Ambassador of Embassy of Japan in RMI for his opening remarks.

2. OFFICAL OPENING ADDRESS BY JAPAN EMBASSY IN RMI

Hon. Kazuhiko Anzai welcomed and thanked the representatives from the participating J-PRISM member countries as well as observers for attending the 4th J-PRISM Steering Committee Meeting. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the recent United Nations Small Islands Developing States Conference in Samoa, and his appreciation of its success with the message of required actions for the betterment of Pacific Island Countries (PICs). He reiterated the same message for the need of making real improvement on waste management in the Pacific region. He stated that waste management is one of the challenging issues in the PICs because of the islands remote location and isolation as well as limited resources. He mentioned that the Government of Japan has been supporting the PICs for some years including the present J-PRISM Project. He specifically highlighted some of the assistances provided to the Marshall Islands such as the supply of 2,400 wheeler bins, rubbish trucks, heavy machinery and others. He encouraged and requested the representatives from J-PRISM member countries for their continuing cooperation and support to J-PRISM project in order to produce real actions to improve solid waste management in the region.

Chairman - The chair thanked his Excellency for his opening address. He then invited the Chief Advisor of J-PRISM for his report of the implementation of Project activities.

3. REPORT OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The report at the regional level of activities being implemented by various countries was briefly introduced by Mr. Shiro Amano, Chief Advisor of J-PRISM. He highlighted some key achievements made in all the 11 PICs (Refer Presentation Copy for full details)

Chairman - The chair thanked the Chief Advisor of J-PRISM for his brief report of the Project Activities. He also highlighted the good progresses made and thanked the countries for their efforts. He then invited the presenters for the scheduled countries presentations.

4. COUNTRIES PRESENTATIONS

Presentations from three countries were invited and they were presented by the following presenters. (Refer Presentation Copy for full details)

- Ms. Patricia Pedrus, Sustainable Development Planner, Environment and Sustainable Division, Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM), FSM
  She introduced 3Rs and other waste management activities in each state of FSM including OEEM as a coordination agency to promote sharing information and lessons learnt with all states. She emphasized the effectiveness of the "Learning by doing" approach being taken by J-PRISM for the human and institutional capacity development.
- Mr. Calvin Ikesiil, Manager, Bureau of Public Works, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry and Commerce, Palau
  He presented a variety of activities in Palau including successful management of the Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) system and on-going discussion for the construction of a new landfill.

- Mr. Teliphen Neamon, Environmental Officer, Majuro Atoll Waste Company, RMI and Ms. Ayaka Kondo, JOCV/Environmental Officer, Education Awareness Division, Environmental Protection Authority, RMI
  They presented activities on environmental awareness and education at the grass-root level, and introduced the expansion program from Majuro to another atoll in RMI.

Chairman
The chair thanked the presenters from FSM, Palau and RMI for their presentations, especially for their activities conducted in their countries. He then invited the Chief Advisor of J-PRISM for the discussion of the Project Documents and the proposed amendments to be made.

5. PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO REGIONAL PDM AND PO

Mr. Shiro Amano highlighted the main modification to the Regional Plan Operation (PO), which highlights the emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures under Output 1.6. "Post Disaster Waste Management".
The proposed modification is *"Disaster Waste Prevention and Management as measures for Adaptation to Climate Change"*.

To reflect the new wording of 1.6, it is proposed to insert an additional activity *1.6.2. "Plan and implement pilot project(s) to integrate climate change adaptation into waste management and compile reports"*.

Also presented for the committee's consideration and approval were modifications to the wording of the indicators in the Regional Project Design Matrix (PDM). In order to reflect these indicators at the activities level, proposed wordings were also made to the indicators in the Regional Plan of Operations. Refer to attached modified Regional Project Matrix Design and Plan of Operations.

The committee was advised to submit any comments to the proposed changes within two weeks before the changes are considered final.

Chairman
The chair thanked Chief Advisor of J-PRISM for his presentation and reminded the committee members to submit any comments to the Project Office within two weeks. He then invited the Chief Advisor for the announcement of the Project Special Awards.

6. PROJECT AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Chief Advisor announced the winners of the Project Special Awards:

- Best Counterpart of the Year 2013
  Mr. Roger Tari, Environmental Health Manager, Port Vila Municipality, Vanuatu
- Best C/P Team of the Year 2013
  Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM), FSM

Also included were Special Awards with the strong recommendation of the JICA Expert for FSM, which were awarded to crew members who have been engaged in a garbage collection enthusiastically in Chuuk, FSM.

- Special Award

Mr. Friden Ewen, Equipment Operator, Department of Transportation and Public Works, Chuuk State, FSM

Mr. Henning Narruhn Tradesman, Department of Transportation and Public Works, Chuuk State, FSM

Chairman

Following the announcement of the Project Awards, the chair congratulated the successful candidates for their great efforts and hard works. He also asked for their continuing support in the future. Following his comments, he then invited any general comments from the committee members as well as other participants.

7. GENERAL ISSUES RAISED

- Palau

  A Climate Change Coordinator, Office of Environment & Response, Office of President asked if the proposed modifications are at the national or regional level.

  - *Chief Advisor of J-PRISM responded that the all modification of regional PDM and PO are recommended at the regional level.*

- PNG

  A representative from the Department of Environment and Conservation thanked J-PRISM for the efforts being made in PNG for the improvement of waste management. He then expressed his concern on the sustainability of the current project activities when J-PRISM comes to an end in 2016. He suggested for some long term engagement to ensure the sustainability of important initiatives being promoted in PNG.

  - *Chief Advisor of J-PRISM responded that JICA will continue its south to south and triangular cooperation in the future. He mentioned the upcoming follow up regional project as continuation of J-PRISM.*

- Samoa

  The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has reiterated on the promotion of the refuse policy in order to control the importation of products that generate a great amount of waste.

- Tonga

  A Senior Environmentalist, Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communications stated that Tonga has benefited from a number of JICA waste related projects like the J-PRISM as well as the Mottainai Waste Minimization Project implemented in Vava'u Island. She also mentioned the on-going capacity development assistance provided through overseas training in Japan and other PICs on waste minimization, waste landfill, policy as well as public awareness and education. She also supported the suggestion by Samoa's representative on promoting the control of waste upstream by promoting the refuse policy.

- Tuvalu

  The Director of the Department of Environment in Tuvalu has requested J-PRISM for consideration of future application and demonstration of the Fukuoka method in Tuvalu.

- Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

The Director of OEEM thanked JICA for the continuing assistance provided to FSM through J-PRISM, Grass Roots Grants, and other programmes. He explained that there has been an increasing attention to waste management issues in FSM as a result of a number of JICA waste projects being implemented in FSM. He reiterated the implementation of real ground works as an effective way of getting leaders, communities and the public motivated and educated, as well as getting their support and participation. He also stated that J-PRISM project has improved the coordination and communication between its office and the four different states in FSM. While different states have the final decision on many waste management issues, there has been an improved communication from the central government office to the states level through the J-PRISM project.

- Palau.
  A Climate Change Coordinator, Office of Environment & Response, Office of President requested the extending of the project impact to the households level in order to realize any real outcome of proposed waste minimization measures.

- SPREP
  The Solid Waste Advisor has suggested for some assessment to check if the implemented waste minimization initiatives are working.

- The European Union (EU)
  The representative of the EU made a comment on some possible synergies to promote partnership among donors in the implementation of the Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Chairman
The chairman thanked the committee and observers for their comments and has asked J-PRISM to consider the comments and suggestions being presented.

Following the discussion of general issues, he then invited the closing remarks from the Director General of SPREP and Executive Technical Advisor to the Director General of JICA.

8. CLOSING REMARKS

- **Director General of SPREP**
  Mr David Sheppard emphasized the importance of Member country participation in the last stage of J-PRISM to ensure that long-lasting and tangible benefits are achieved in sustainable waste management practices through J-PRISM which will conclude in less than 18 months. He encouraged the continued South-South sharing information on the many cutting edge successes in improved waste management practices being carried out across the region, which are equally success stories of J-PRISM/SPREP activities in the region and in each country. He thanked the Government of Japan for the valuable, long-term partnerships between SPREP and JICA in the region, and also thanked the European Union (EU) for recently assisting improve hazardous waste management in the region through the PacWaste Project, Director General Sheppard also acknowledged the efforts of other development Partners for their efforts to develop work programmes focused on country needs and priorities, and developed within the context of agreed regional strategies for improved waste management.

- **Deputy Director General, Global Environment Department, JICA**

  Mr. Naoki Mori expressed his appreciation of the active participation and comments received during the presentations and meeting. He also noted some comments on sustainability of the project. He reiterated that it is a big challenge when talking about sustainability and how to secure funding for the continuation of a project. He highlighted the upcoming PALM 7 meeting in Japan to be held in May 2015 where the Japanese Government is seeking some new initiatives to assist PICs based on the outcome of J-PRISM. He encouraged the committee and project counterparts to continue working together and maintain the team spirit in order to successfully keep the momentum for the future.

9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Following the closing remarks by the Director General of SPREP and the Deputy Director General of JICA, the Chairman thanked all the participants and declared the official closure of the 4th J-PRISM Steering Committee Meeting.