3RD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries

Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Date: 17th September 2013
Venue: Convention Center, Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, Apia, Samoa
Chairman: Mr David Sheppard, SPREP Director General

Meeting Documents
Annex I: List of Participants
Annex II: Meeting Agenda
Annex III: Copy of Presentation, Regional Activities
Annex IV: Copy of Presentation, FSM Activities
Annex V: Copy of Presentation, Tonga Activities
Annex VI: Copy of Presentation, Mid-Term Review Team
Annex VII: Proposed Revisions of Regional PO/PDM

1. Opening Statements

- Mr David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP

In his opening remarks, Mr Sheppard acknowledged the strong partnership between SPREP and JICA in the implementation of J-PRISM. He explained that J-PRISM is a unique, large-scale multilateral project and it would be important for any lessons learnt from this project to be considered by SPREP. He specially thanked the Government of Japan on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries for this exciting solid waste management project and looked forward to briefings on the progress of the project activities at the regional and national levels. He acknowledged the participation of representatives from Pacific Island Countries involved, as well as the Government of Japan. He also briefed the meeting on its agenda and the tasks for the committee to complete by the end of the meeting.

- Mr Masami Fuwa, Director General of Environment Department, JICA Headquarter, Tokyo

Mr Fuwa, in his opening remarks, stated that JICA as an implementing agency for the Project would like to bring a fruitful result back to Japan as an outcome of the Steering Committee Meeting to share among related departments in JICA Headquarters as well as the Japanese people who support the Project. He thanked SPREP for the usefull partnership established under this regional project in collaboration with key agencies in the Pacific Island nations to tackle solid waste problems in the region. He highlighted the

mid-term review being undertaken to assess the status of the project for the Parties involved to consider and make appropriate improvements in the future. He also asked for the continuing support from Pacific Island Countries as well as SPREP in the implementation of the project during its remaining period.

2.0. Presentations and Announcements Made

- Project Activities Updates at the Regional Level

Mr Shiro Amano, Chief Advisor of J-PRISM Project, made a presentation of project activities at the Regional Level highlighting the key achievements as well as issues affecting some project activities (Refer Annex III: Copy of Presentation, Regional Activities). Some achievements highlighted in his presentation included:

- Training workshops on waste landfills improvement and management, occupational and health safety and waste minimization conducted to enhance the capacity of local counterparts;
- On-going projects and activities on waste minimization, dumpsites improvement and others;
- Post-disaster waste management pilot projects implemented in collaboration with government agencies and the private sector proven to be more effective; and
- The importance of commitment of counterparts and stakeholders to play different roles for capacity development

- Special Reports from Selected Project member Countries

FSM Report

Ms Christina Fillmed (who represented the FSM) presented the progress of project activities in the four FSM States (Refer Annex IV: Copy of FSM Presentation). Some key achievements and lessons learnt highlighted in her presentation were:

- Improvement of dumpsites in Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei States; and
- Good effect on waste minimization and funding support of the Container Deposit System being practiced in the FSM States.

Tonga Report

Mr Sagapolutele of J-PRISM Office, on behalf of Tonga counterparts (who were not able to attend), on behalf of Tonga counterparts (Refer Annex V: Copy of Tonga`s Presentation). Key achievements and lessons learnt from Tonga`s presentation were:

- Completion of rehabilitation works to upgrade Kalaka dumpsite on the island of Vavau with a monitoring system in place for leachate, as well as for the long-term management of the waste landfill;
- Waste minimization initiatives being practiced by communities on the island of Vavau; and

- A community driven and organized service for the collection of household waste and recyclable items on the island of Vavau.

- Project Awards

Individual Category

Mr Shiro Amano announced that the individual award for 2012/2013 was granted to Miss Christina Fillmed in recognition of her hard work and commitment to the project.

Project Team Category

For the group category, the Project Team from Tonga was awarded for their teamwork effort and commitment shown in the implementation of their project activities during 2012/2013. The award was presented to Mr Asipeli Palaki, Director of the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources of Tonga on behalf of the Team.

- Project Mid Term Review Outcome

Mr Hideo Noda, JICA Team Leader of the Midterm Review, presented the findings and outcomes of their evaluation (Refer Annex VI: Copy of Presentation, Mid-Term Review Team):

- A Draft Report has been compiled consisting of 11 national reports and 1 regional and 1 integrated report and annexes to be finalized;
- There is a high potential for the project to achieve its Project Purpose;
- With the strong sense of ownership and commitment by the project counterparts in 11 PICs, there is potential for most national projects to achieve their set outputs in the remaining period of the project if PICs follow the recommendations indicated in the mid-term report;
- Some good practices are being demonstrated on waste minimization, landfill management and others to share;
- About 29 counterparts were considered and recognized by the review as trainers based on their current capacity to perform training for counterparts at the national and regional levels;
- Need to discuss the 3R + Return wording to have an agreeable wording consistent throughout the region. Return has been recently proposed given the capacity of most PICs to practice actual recycling on the islands. Return seems to be more appropriate as most PICs have to return their waste to overseas countries for actual recycling;and
- Necessity of strategic allocation of limited resources in the latter half of the project period based on the progress and prospect of achievement in PICs

- Amendments to the Project Documents

Mr Shiro Amano of J-PRISM Office explained some minor amendments to the Project Documents. (Refer Annex VII Proposed Revisions of PDM/PO)
J-PRISM Office would consider the proposed changes approved if no comments are received within 14days.

3.0. General Issues Raised and Discussed

- Solomon Islands

Dr Melchior Mataki highlighted the importance of SPREP in strengthening the issue of waste despite the existence of other competing environmental areas in the region. He emphasized the need to promote composting and consideration of other difficult and hazardous waste. He mentioned the priority should be placed on waste management under its Government`s National Development Strategy. He also gave assurance of Solomon Islands`s effort to improve its J-PRISM Project progress during the remaining period of the project

- FSM

Mr Gerson Jackson indicated his office was not receiving the information and documents of the Meeting and suggested the inclusion of all FSM States when circulating the Project Documents in the future. He also requested a copy of the Project Midterm Review be circulated.

- Palau

Ms Charlene Mersai indicated the same issue as FSM on the Project Documents and asked for the direction of the information to its focal point including the Midterm Review Report. She also raised the necessity of inclusion of some activities at the regional revel as proposed. The response from the Project Office indicated that the need was to reflect activities implemented in the first half of the project period which were not anticipated at the time of project formulation; for example, activities related to post waste disaster management were required to quickly restore the quality of life of communities after disasters and these experiences were too important not to share among the region.

- SPREP

Mr David Sheppard suggested that J-PRISM utilized the same focal points for communication as SPREP to ensure the widest distribution of information.

- Samoa

Mr Taule`ale`ausumai.L.Malua highlighted the importance of Samoa`s preparation for the upcoming SIDS Conference next year, and he indicated Samoa`s appreciation of any

initiatives from J-PRISM targeting this important Conference. He also expressed the appreciation of the Samoan government to JICA and the Government of Japan for the continuing support to Samoa in addressing its solid waste problems.

- Fiji

Ms Saverio Baleikanacea thanked the Government of Japan and the J-PRISM for its ongoing activities in Fiji. She highlighted some good lessons learnt from the activities of J-PRISM in Fiji for other countries to learn from. She also reiterated the concern for sustainability which is the main issue affecting many projects and good initiatives by donors, something she urged the Pacific islands to consider in the future once J-PRISM comes to an end.

4.0. Closing Remarks

- Embassy of Japan

His Excellency Mr Kazumasa Shibuta expressed his wish for the Pacific Island Countries to make effort in protecting their beautiful islands for the sake of the environment and people. He expressed his appreciation of the J-PRISM Project in addressing the islands waste problems and urged Pacific Island Countries to make good use of any lessons learnt from J-PRISM to solve their problems.

- SPREP

Mr David Sheppard thanked the participating representatives from Pacific Island Countries as well as the Government of Japan for the successful meeting. He highlighted some key points as outcome of the meeting. These included:

- It was clear that J-PRISM has achieved significant outcomes during the last two and a half years.
- There was good collaboration from PICs which has resulted in the achievement as discussed and presented in the meeting.
- Noted some challenging issues as highlighted in the Midterm Project Review and expected project counterparts to improve on the highlighted areas by the Review Team.
- Some more general observations noted from J-PRISM progress included:
  - Getting hands dirty would improve learning by counterparts
  - Awareness and communication as well as focusing on young people are vital.
  - Involvement of the private sector is important for sustainability.
  - Monitoring and evaluation is important for measuring project progress
- He reminded J-PRISM to circulate the project revised documents and draft Midterm Review Report for comments through the focal points.

- He encouraged J-PRISM and SPREP Waste Team to continue to work together to make further improvement in the future.
- He emphasized the importance of sustainability for the project activities at PICs as raised by the Fiji representative.

Finally, he wished good luck to the Pacific Island Countries delegates and J-PRISM and expressed his confidence that continued good project progress would be reported at the Steering Committee meeting next year.

He concluded by declared the 2013 J-PRISM Regional Steering Committee Meeting officially closed.

End