

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. What has taken place over the past 4 years of implementation?

(Review of Progress in implementation of the Samoa Pathway, Achievements, Linkages to other key regional and global processes, Partnerships for SIDS)

Over the past 4 years, in order to strengthen the partnership between Japan and SIDS in the following three regions, the Government of Japan has been convening conferences at the summit-level and ministerial level and made considerable pledges at these conferences. Japan makes its utmost effort in implementing follow-ups of those outcomes.

1. Pacific region

In order to further enhance the partnership with the **Pacific island countries (PICs)**, Japan has been hosting a Summit-level meeting named Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) every three years since 1997. Japan and PICs have been building close cooperative relationships, forging the bond of friendship through candid discussion at PALMs. Leaders openly discuss various issues such as the challenges regarding their small size and land distribution over a wide area, distance from major international markets, and the vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

The 7th **Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) was held in Iwaki, Fukushima, Japan, on 22 and 23 May, 2015**. At this summit, under the slogan of "We are Islanders - Commitment to the Pacific from Iwaki, Fukushima: Building Prosperous Future Together -," the Leaders discussed a wide range of possible cooperation from 2015 to 2017. During the summit, Prime Minister Abe announced "a beacon for Japan's diplomacy toward PICs," which includes commitment of assistance of more than 55 billion yen and reaching out to 4,000 people through human resource development and people-to-people exchanges from 2015 to 2017. Japan has steadily implemented its cooperation and commitments.

At the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Iwaki, Fukushima again, on 18 and 19 May 2018, the Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continuing cooperation towards the universal implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement adopted

under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

The Leaders expressed their appreciation to Prime Minister Abe stating that Japan had fulfilled its pledge at PALM7 by providing more than 55 billion yen, and implementing human resource development and people-to-people exchanges of 4,000 people with the PICs over the past three years.

Prime Minister Abe announced Japan's commitment to continuing implementation of development assistance which is as robust as before, and also pledged Japan's intention to implement human resource development and people-to-people exchanges of more than 5,000 people from the PICs over the next three years, based on the recognition that investment to human capital is the most effective, efficient and enduring mode of support for the bright future of those countries.

The leaders decided to hold the fourth Ministerial Interim Meeting before the PALM9 in order to follow-up and evaluate the implementation of the key PALM8 outcomes and to progress preparation for the PALM9. They welcomed Japan's proposal to host PALM9 in Japan in 2021.

2. Caribbean region

The Japan-CARICOM relationship has been steadily strengthened, and Japan's commitment towards CARICOM has increased in recent years. At the First Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting in 2014, Prime Minister Abe announced "Japan's CARICOM Policy" consisting of three pillars (① "Cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to small island states." ② "Deepening and expanding bonds founded on exchanges and friendship." ③ "Cooperation in addressing challenges of the international community.").

Prime Minister Abe stressed Japan's active engagement in international discussions concerning vulnerabilities particular to SIDS and Japan's recognition of the importance of assisting SIDS from perspectives other than those based on per-capita income. The CARICOM member states expressed their appreciation to the strengthening of the relationship between Japan and CARICOM, and the broad array of assistance being extended by Japan, and also expressed gratitude for and expectations over Japan's serious consideration of CARICOM's long-standing concerns and the concrete progress that is being made in this regard. In order to follow-up the Summit Meeting, the Fourth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference was held in Tokyo in November 2014 and the Fifth Ministerial-Level Conference was held in NY in September 2016,

respectively.

At the Fifth Ministerial-Level Conference, Foreign Minister Kishida explained Japan's steady in effort implementing support for CARICOM based on the aforementioned three pillars of Japan's policy toward CARICOM. He also explained that Japan would continue to promote exchanges at various levels and cooperation that helps the CARICOM member countries to overcome the vulnerabilities they face in the fields of the environment, disaster risk reduction, fisheries, and energy, including assistance for ODA graduate countries.

The CARICOM side expressed gratitude for the Japanese assistance extended to ODA graduate countries and voiced their expectation that cooperation in the field of environment would continue. In addition, the CARICOM side noted that Japan understood well that SIDS have particular vulnerabilities, and that traditional income-level categories do not reflect the actual circumstances of these small island states.

At the conference, a discussion also took place on other issues such as climate change, sustainable use of living marine resources, international cooperation for disaster management and risk reduction, and Japan and CARICOM confirmed that they would continue to cooperate in the international arena.

3.African region

Japan co-hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) with UN, UNDP, World Bank and AUC (from 2013) since 1993 (TICAD I), and it has conducted TICAD II in 1998, TICAD III in 2003, TICAD IV in 2008, and TICAD V in 2013 in Tokyo.

TICAD VI was the first TICAD to be held in Africa, the Republic of Kenya, in 2016. TICAD was launched to promote high-level policy dialogue between African Leaders and development partners. Since its inception, TICAD has provided fundamental and comprehensive policy and guideline on African development. Prime Minister Abe announced in Nairobi that from 2016 to 2018, Japan would invest in the future of Africa through implementing measures centering on developing quality infrastructure, promoting resilient health systems and laying the foundations for peace and stability, amounting to approx. USD 30 billion under a public-private partnership. These measures include human resource development to 10 million people ("Empowerment") by making use of the strength of Japan ("Quality").

Japan reiterates its commitment to continuing implementing measures under the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017. As Japan shed light on the recent emerging

challenges and developments, TICAD participants have also committed to promoting the measures, as described in the Nairobi Implementation Plan, in support of the priority areas under the three pillars described in the Yokohama Action Plan adopted at TICAD V (① Promoting structural economic transformation through diversification and industrialization; ② Promoting resilient health systems for quality of life; and ③ Promoting social stability for shared prosperity).

The Nairobi Implementation Plan in 2016 provides additional measures to address newly emerging priorities stipulated in the Nairobi Declaration. Japan has committed to steadily promoting this process to effectively reflect Africa's developmental needs based on their overall ownership of the development agenda.

2. Part A

(1) Is there a Focal Point/ Unit dealing with implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?

Yes. In **Japan, the Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a Focal Point of the SAMOA Pathway.**

(2) Is the Focal Point/ Unit supported by an enabling policy and/or legal framework?

Yes.

(3) Please give an indication of the percentage of national budgets allocated to supporting SAMOA Pathway thematic priorities over the last fiscal year.

N/A

(4) (Only for SIDS or International/ Regional Institutions)

(5) Please provide an overview of the work that your Government is implementing or plans to implement in support of the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs for the biennium 2017-2018.

For PICs, Japan will implement human resource development and people-to-people exchanges of more than 5,000 people from the PICs from 2018 to 2020.

For CARICOM, Japan will continue to promote cooperation that helps the CARICOM member countries to overcome the vulnerabilities they face in the fields of the environment, disaster risk reduction, fisheries, and energy, including assistance for ODA graduate countries.

For African countries, Japan will implement measures centering on developing quality infrastructure, promoting resilient health systems and laying the foundations for peace and stability, amounting to USD 30 billion under a public-private partnership from 2016 to 2018.

3. Part B

(1) What challenges have you encountered in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, or can be adopted to address these challenges?

No particular challenges are observed.

(2) To what extent is your country capable of meeting the human and financial resource requirements for implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?

Japan is making its utmost effort to meet the requirements for implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

(3) To what extent has your country been able to access international development assistance required to implement the key aspects of the SAMOA Pathway?

N/A

4. Part C

For the year 2017, please describe any key results achieved as a result of ongoing work being implemented by your Government in the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway. What impact, if any, has this had at national and/or regional level.

Japan announced its project “Training of 5,000 personnel in SIDS” from 2015 to 2017 at the third International Conference on SIDS held in Samoa in 2014. Japan has accomplished this target within only two years. The result of this project exceeded 5,000 and reached 6,038 personnel at the end of Japan’s fiscal year 2016, while Japan is still continuing this project.

5. Part D

Indicate the extent to which the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration in conferences or similar processes organized or supported by your organization during 2017.

As mentioned above, at PALM8 held in May 2018, Japan gave due consideration to the concerns of Pacific Island Leaders and pledged further contribution.

6. Part E

Have you implemented any new partnerships during the year 2017?

Not particularly.

7. Part F

Please include any other information you may wish to share.

No particular information to be added to the above.