



# FLASH No.4



Samoa

## 1. J-PRISM 3rd Steering Committee Meeting

The 3rd J-PRISM Steering Committee meeting was held in Apia, Samoa in 17 September 2013 as a side event of the 24th annual SPREP Meeting. Participants were representatives of



project member countries, Embassy of Japan in Samoa, JICA Headquarters (HQ), SPREP and observers from different organizations. A delegation of Mid-term Review from JICA also joined this meeting to present the result of the review on J-PRISM activities since the beginning of the project started February 2011. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP, with his opening remark to emphasize the successful partnership between SPREP and JICA in the implementation of J-PRISM activities. Mr. Masami Fuwa, Director General of Environment Department, JICA HQ thanked SPREP for the good partnership established under the regional project in

collaboration with key agencies in the Pacific Island Countries to tackle solid waste problems in the region. He explained the objectives of the



December 2013, No.4

### Contents

1. 3rd Steering Committee Meeting
2. Best Counterpart Award 2012
3. Best Team in 2012
4. Voice from Expert
5. Mid-term Review for J-PRISM
6. Training of Trainers Workshop
7. Eco-School Programme Workshop
8. 3R Training in Palau
9. Reflections on J-PRISM

midterm review to assess the status of the project and make recommendations to better implement project activities in the future for the parties involved. He also asked for the continuing support from Pacific Island Countries as well as SPREP throughout the remaining project period.

Mr. Shiro Amano, Chief Advisor of J-PRISM, presented the progress of the project at the regional level highlighting the key achievements made as well as issues affecting the project. followed by the reports from FSM and Tonga presented by Ms. Christina Fillmed, Director, EPA, Yap State, FSM and Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM on behalf of Tonga Counterparts. Ms. Christina Fillmed was awarded as the “Best Counterpart in year 2012,” who initiated strong leadership to advance waste management activities in Yap, and Tonga Counterparts as the “Best Team in year 2012,” who successfully completed the rehabilitation of dumpsite in Vava’u and maintained it very well with their consolidated teamwork. Project Mid-term Review Outcome was presented by Mr. Hideo Noda, JICA Leader of the Mid-term Review Team. (See another article for details) Before closing, Mr. Sheppard highlighted some key points summarising the meeting. Finally, as the closing

remarks, His Excellency Mr. Kazumasa Shibuta, Japanese Ambassador to Samoa, expressed his wish for the Pacific Island Countries to make effort in protecting their beautiful islands for the sake of the environment and people and his appreciation of the

J-PRISM Project in addressing the islands waste problems, and being urged Pacific Island Countries to make good use of any lessons learnt from J-PRISM to solve their problems.



*Federated States of Micronesia*

## 2. Best Counterpart Award 2012



*By Ms. Christina Fillmed, Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia*

I am honored to be awarded J-PRISM's Counterpart of the Year and grateful to have received the award at the recent J-PRISM 3rd Steering Committee Meeting in Samoa, at the invitation and support of the J-PRISM project.

I am grateful for FSM Ambassador to Fiji, Honorable Gerson Jackson's support as he was also in attendance.

I am humbled at receiving this award, doing so on behalf of the countless people I continue to work with everyday in Yap in striving to improve how we better manage our waste.

My involvement with waste management began with a group of individuals several years ago led by then Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Director Al Ruwema with the simple aim of practical steps to improve waste management in the State, which led up to today.

Targeting waste minimization efforts, we were fortunate to receive UNDP assistance through Technical Advisor Alice Leney to improve our State Recycling Program following a Container Deposit model; the Recycling Program continues to be operated by Yap's own Island Paradise Company.

Improvement of Yap's public dump site into a sanitary, Fukuoka landfill is ongoing and led by DPWT Director Figir, the Division of Contracts and Engineering Management, and the SWM Coordinator with assistance provided by the JPRISM project, JICA, and JICA experts and funding assistance from the Embassy of Japan.

Yap Environmental Waste Solutions, Yap's local, private waste collector, is currently collaborating on



how to expand and enhance waste collection services in Yap. The targets we've set through the J-PRISM project and progress so far are being met due to wide ranging collaboration and dedication of these individuals, the people I work with at Yap EPA including our JICA Senior Volunteer Mr. Azuma, and many others, all of whom I draw inspiration and guidance from as we continue to move forward.

All of these efforts would not be possible if not for the support of our State government and communities, and the exchange and lessons we learn from one another across the FSM, Micronesia, and the Pacific. I remain thankful and appreciative of the invaluable support, guidance, and encouragement from the J-PRISM team led by Mr. Amano, JICA and experts (coaches) Ms. Muranaka and Mr. Haseyama, and the men and women I am fortunate enough to work alongside;

I am thankful and pleased that this award has recognized our collective efforts moving forward.



### 3. Voice from Best Team in 2012

Solid Waste Management to protect the Environment of Tonga

*by Ms. Feauini Veikoso Laumanu, Officer-In-Charge, Vava'u, Ministry of Lands, Environment and Climate Change and Natural Resources (Co-National Project Manager, J-PRISM)*

Vava'u Dumpsite known as Kalaka was fortunate to be selected by the Kingdom of Tonga and rehabilitated in February 2013 under the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM), the 5-year regional project implemented by the Japan International Cooperation 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.

Vava'u is the second largest island to Tongatapu in which the capital Nuku'alofa located.

The citizens of Vava'u (approximately 15,000 as of 2011 census) settled on 31 villages on the main land and 17 outer islands. In 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan for Vava'u was developed and recyclable collection started.

The target of the year 2013 is to improve domestic waste collection system to the whole Vava'u base on the designed system of individual community initiative. About 6 communities (4 in the main island, 2 from the outer island) out of 48 communities of Vava'u are willing to take the pilot project of community solid waste collection system and 6 schools (1 pre-school, 3 primary school, 2 secondary school) are currently piloting Clean School Program. Communities and Schools waste minimization 3R system are integrated and recycling stations in the communities and schools under pilot project are designed to have close collaboration with local NGO (VEPA & GIO).



#### What to share with other PICs

It is effective to involve younger generation who can easily adapt the innovative approaches toward Clean school program carried out for preschools is proven to be more effective than those for the primary and secondary level. This is the way forward to influence the very young age for clean village and environment for any island in the future.

More support from all level of Government, Business, Communities and Institutional to the solid waste management issues especially when the Government support comes from high level. From Tonga SWM project we approached the Vava'u Development Committee for financial support of Rehabilitated Kalaka Dumpsite after the project rehabilitated our Kalaka Dumpsite and they approved with a request of more update from Solid Waste Management.

Lastly, sharing of experiences among communities is the best approach to learn each community's weakness and strengths on solid waste collection system. First communities and schools sharing experiences workshop was held in October 2013, in which just

sharing really encouraged the others or challenged the other communities to strive to on their solid waste collection plan and be happy do make a difference in their own communities.

## 4. Voice from Expert

J-PRISM Tonga's efforts - Turn a weakness into a strength!



By Ms. Yurie Kawabata (J-PRISM Expert in charge of Tonga and Fiji)

### Planning with Waste Management Committee

Lack of manpower, equipments and money?? J-PRISM Tonga Team had faced same difficulties and weaknesses as other Pacific countries do. One of the expected outputs of J-PRISM Tonga is "to improve a solid waste collection service in Vava'u". In fact, there was no garbage collection system in place in Vava'u, so that the Project had to establish the system from zero.

The Project initially planned that the government would provide a garbage collection service in the same way that other countries do, however, it seems it would be difficult for the government to implement as their technical, institutional and financial capacities are very limited. So, what can we do? Should we give up??

### Garbage collection by VEVE Committee

After a series of discussion with community groups, J-PRISM Tonga team found that community has the potential to implement a garbage collection by themselves.

The Project selected four pilot communities, and requested each community to establish a "Waste Management Committee". The Committee planed their own garbage collection plan with the Project members.



On the collection day, the Committee implements a garbage collection using trucks owned by some residents who belong to the



community.

The operation cost is covered by waste levy which is paid by households (around US\$3/month/household) or community funds which has been pooled by community for their community activities.

The collection work is smoothly implemented as everyone knows everyone else in such a small community.

The Committee's collection work is really appreciated by community to keep their community clean and beautiful!

The Pilot Project has just started in Sep. 2013, and J-PRISM Tonga Team is working hard to monitor community's activities and provide technical advice when needed.

The Vava'u garbage collection system is expected to become a showcase for other outer islands not only in Tonga but other Pacific islands.

Can JICA Tonga Team really overcome their weakness? Keep your eyes on us!

## 5. Mid-term Review for J-PRISM

J-PRISM project saw its mid-term point come around for five years term after being launched in February 2011. The Mid-term Review Team (hereinafter referred to as “the Team”) was organized by JICA/SPREP to review the progress of activities, to examine the achievements of each output and project purpose and to discuss the issues and concerns for the rest of the project period.

The results of the Mid-term Review will be shared through J-PRISM experts or J-PRISM project Office to all counterparts.

The members of the Team from Japanese side were divided into three groups which are Sub-Team 1 in charge of Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, and Regional activities, Sub-Team 2 in charge of PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and Sub-Team 3 in charge of Palau, FSM and RMI.

The Team conducted questionnaire surveys and interviews with the counterparts, the Japanese experts as well as those officials concerned with the Project.

They also made visits to the project sites. Teams’ visit to respective countries was carried out from August 15 to September 19, 2013. They analyzed and evaluated the Project from the viewpoints of the five evaluation criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impacts and Sustainability) according to the method of Project Cycle Management (PCM). Members of the Team from the Pacific side include Mr. David Sheppard, Director General, Dr. David Haynes, Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control and Ms. Esther Richards, Solid Waste Management Adviser, Waste Management and Pollution Control. The both sides have shared, discussed and elaborated their process of the review, regional outputs, challenging issues, recommendation, documentation and so on. Brief result of the review from the Team was presented by Mr. Noda at the stage of J-PRISM 3rd

Steering Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2013. It is recognized that the project has been contributing to capacity development for both individual and organizational levels.



This has been realized mainly through the sharing of knowledge and skills by individual counterparts as well as good practices developed from previous JICA technical cooperation projects since the year 2000.

The Team made recommendations to the Project (including counterparts), SPREP and JICA for the better implementation of the project in the latter half of the project period.

As is expressed by one of the Team members it may take a while for some counterparts to realize the benefits of JICA’s technical cooperation, of which purpose is capacity development, until they recognize the benefits underlying this approach. The project can assist in promoting self-reliance of the recipient country.

One example is that several counterparts informed the Team during the Mid-term Review saying, “We did not initially fully understood the meaning of each survey and activity, but, through technical guidance from JICA experts, OJTs and workshops/trainings, we clearly understood the picture of waste management and the linkage and rationale behind the surveys and activities. We are very confident in our understanding of what actions are necessary, how to plan, and how to proceed. We also feel that J-PRISM is our project, not JICA’s.” This illustrates as a positive example of the promotion of “Do-It-Yourself” attitude among PICs.



## 6. Training of Trainers Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health in Waste Management

Training of Trainers Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health in Waste Management for Pacific Island Countries was held jointly by J-PRISM and the International Labor Organization (ILO) with the

support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Samoa from the 8-12 July 2013. The workshop focused on training the key people from responsible government agencies and various organiza-

tions in increasing capacity on how to address safety and health in waste management and to ensure healthier workplaces with a view to reducing accidents and diseases.



Issues discussed include the introduction of J-PRISM project activities, OSH in Waste Management and Green jobs and decent work. Also in the agenda was the OSH in the Pacific, legal and policy framework with OSH relevant to the waste management sector. Discussions on the household waste collection and transport, safety waste handling and community co-operation brought interesting feedbacks from participants. For example, those who work in the area of collection of wastes are faced with serious safety risks including exposure to hazardous materials. Waste segregation, sorting and recycling of wastes, storage and transport of waste has to be conducted in a well monitored method. The risks faced by workers are attributed to the lack of awareness about the importance of safer work practices and methods especially in failure to address health issues in contracts. The whole week training provided the participants with the knowledge and skills on how to carry out the work more safely and efficiently in wastes management. It is expected that with skills and knowledge acquired through the training, the participants would be able to conduct the similar trainings in their own countries.

The participants were selected from organizations

involved in occupational safety and health as well as in waste management from countries including Fiji, Nauru, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa. Participants had the opportunity to observe waste management practices in Samoa including waste collection and disposal operation, recycle activities and waste discharge at households. Facilitating experts were Dr Ton That Khai and Ms. Ingrid Christensen from the ILO regional office in Bangkok. The guests attended were Mr. Katsuhiko Sasaki of JICA Samoa Office, Mr. Satoshi Sasaki of ILO Fiji Office and Mr. Auelua Samuelu Enari of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor, Samoa.



## 7. Eco-School Program Workshop for teachers in Honiara assisted by Fiji Counterparts

A two day Eco-School Program (ESP) workshop was conducted on the 26th -27th September in Honiara. Around 17 teachers from 9 selected schools attended the Workshop that was held at Ministry of Health &

Medical Service, RWSS-EHD Conference room in Chinatown, Honiara.

The Eco-School Program workshop was jointly organized by Honiara City Council (HCC), Ministry of

Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorological Service (MECDM), Ministry of Health & Medical Services (MHMS) and Japan Technical Cooperation Agency (JICA). The workshop is organized into two parts which includes a fieldtrip to the Botanical and Ranadi dumpsite on the second day of the workshop. This is a pilot project program under the JPRISM project.

The program is aimed at educating the younger generation and enhancing their knowledge on environmental issues and ways to address them and also for the teachers and students to develop behavior of being stewards of the environment.

The Solomon Team was fortunate to have Two Health Inspectors from Nadi Town Council in Fiji who are currently involved in implementing the “Clean School Program” in Fiji to provide support and share experiences learned. The team was also supported by Two Japanese volunteers working under the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) also facilitate the workshop. They presented the environmental knowledge of composting and nature games activities during the fieldtrip session of the workshop.

After the successful implementation of the Clean Schools Program from 2010 at Nadi Town Council, this program was expanded to other towns of the Western Division from 2012 with the support of the Ministry of Education and Department of Environment in Fiji. Since the program successfully helped schools initiate good waste management practices, practicing schools established 3R committees which monitor the schools activities based on the Action Plans developed by the schools. Schools carried out various awareness activities such as art & craft using waste materials, 3R poster competitions, field trips to landfill sites, use of reusable lunch containers, and doing clean up campaigns both at school and in the community. Composting was found to be very effective in many schools and the use of finished compost eliminated the need for chemical fertilizers. Schools also stopped using the incinerators for burning rubbish and instead liaised with the council for collection of all unwanted waste. Some schools found it effective to have students take their waste home in reusable bags as it helped them foster a sense of responsibility and to generate less waste.



The Nadi Town Council with the assistance of their JOCV also developed a Clean Schools Program Guide book which is on its 3rd edition now.

J-PRISM after the success story of Nadi Town Council in their Clean Schools Program invited 2 Officers Ms Premila Chandra and Ms Nafiza Ali to assist the Honiara City Council in the Solomon Islands to facilitate and implement the Eco-Schools Program from the 24th – 27th of September 2013. The two officers had a pre-meeting with the Honiara City Council counterparts and shared their activities, achievements and lessons learnt in their program. Ms Chandra and Ms Ali also did a presentation to the school teachers at the Eco-Schools Workshop for Schools which was organized by the Honiara City Council on the 26th-27th September 2013, having the theme: “Eco-School for a Cleaner Solomon Islands”. They also shared the contents of their Clean Schools Guidebook which was distributed to each participant of the workshop. At the end of the presentations the teachers were able to develop draft Action Plan as their practical exercise on how to develop Action Plans based on the comments and advice of the facilitators.



## 8. J-PRISM Regional Training on Promotion of 3R in Palau

“Sustainable financing” is one of the highest priorities under the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy (2010-2015), and the concept of 3R+“Return” which highlights as “Return” to outside recycle markets by collecting and exporting recyclables and “Return” to the nature (soil) by composting biodegradable waste.

(Please refer J-PRISM Flash Special Issue.) Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) is one of effective measures to establish sustainability for solid waste management with reducing the negative impact on final landfill site by returning containers off-island. From this viewpoint, the Regional Training on Promotion of 3R was held in Palau from 4th to 7th November 2013 co-organized by Palau counterparts of Bureau of Public Works, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry and Commerce, Koror State Government, SPREP and J-PRISM.

Mr. Alice Leney, Director of Pacific Reef Savers Ltd, who has been engaged in developing CDL in many countries also joined as a resource person.

Objective of the Training is sharing, improving and promoting 3R activity in PICs, especially focused on the CDL being operated in the Micronesia region and various ways of composting organic waste as effective approaches to sustainable waste management following the concept of "Return."

Participants from respective states in FSM provided information and statistic data of CDL system in advance for the discussion at the workshop in order to improve the operation and management of the CDL program. Samoa counterparts also attended this training, who are in the near future to develop the CDL system, to learn practical skill and knowledge from the experts and countries who have already implemented this system..

Palau has been implementing the CDL since 2011. One of the unique features of CDL in Palau is the higher amount of deposit per container (US\$0.1), which allows the government to refund, operate and



save extra money at the “Recycling Fund” in order to cover the expenses of waste management activities. Although the scheduled program for the last two days of training was canceled due to the strong typhoon Haiyan, which hit the northern part in Palau, consultation meetings were conducted by Mr. Leney with each delegation of the respective States in FSM and Samoa one by one.

On the last day, a site visit to the compost facility in Koror State was kindly arranged by the Koror state. Workshop documents will be made available to the public at the J-PRISM webpage. (<http://www.sprep.org/j-prism>)



## 9. Reflections on J-PRISM

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. This is one of my favourite proverbs which illustrates that developing human capacity is key to sustainability and independence. These are the principles behind J-PRISM and the mode of assistance that it delivers to Pacific Island Countries to improve solid waste management. The emphasis on teaching Pacific Islanders core waste management skills and supporting them to apply these new skills to improve waste management reiterates a learn-by-doing approach.

The human element is the single most important factor in achieving sustainable waste management in the Pacific islands. In an ideal world, we need supportive political leaders, capable technical staff, and an environmentally-aware population to implement and support waste management initiatives.

Political leaders have the power to enact policies and legislation that apply user-pay, polluter-pay, and extended producer responsibility principles so that everyone pays a fair share of the cost of preventing and managing waste. If waste management were compared to a vehicle, then political leaders are the drivers who: determine the direction and speed of travel; guide the vehicle safely to avoid hitting pedestrians or crashing; set the fare or tariff for the journey which pays for refuelling the vehicle; and decide when to accelerate or apply the brakes.

A capable technical work force can implement and maintain solid waste management infrastructure and systems, establish and maintain professional and mutually beneficial relationships with peers in other countries, enforce the law, etc. Using the vehicle analogy, the technical team is equivalent to the team of mechanics who keep the engine and other parts of the vehicle in good working condition to give the driver and the passengers confidence that they will reach their final destination provided they keep driving. The populace is better able to demand and comply with environmentally safe and sustainable

*Ms Esther Richards, Solid Waste Management Adviser, SPREP*



solid waste management systems and programmes, if they are made aware of the requirements and understand the benefits of compliance and the negative consequences of non-compliance, and if they are able to relate these benefits and dis-benefits to their every-day lives. An environmentally-aware population is equivalent to the passengers in the vehicle that help to keep the driver awake and focused during a long trip.

They obey the safety rules such as wearing a seat belt and pay the fare, to help ensure that the vehicle reaches its destination.

In the recent mid-term review of J-PRISM, it was clear that the countries demonstrating the most progress and achieving the highest ratings had the engagement and cooperation of the driver, mechanics, and passengers congratulations! I want to encourage all J-PRISM counterpart personnel to stay motivated, to act on the recommendations of the mid-term review, to improve on past performance, and to strive to achieve the goals you set for yourselves at the beginning of the project. You, your family, your neighbours, and your country, stand to gain the most from the successful implementation of J-PRISM. Special congratulations to the 2013 recipients of the Best Counterpart Team of the Year (Vava'u Tonga), and the Best Counterpart of the Year (Ms Christina Fillmed). Christina is a shining example of a female excelling in a non-traditional role for women and I hope that she will serve as an inspiration to the female counterparts in J-PRISM, and encourage other women to get involved in waste management.

As we pass the mid-way point of J-PRISM, I look forward to another 2½ years of success stories, such as the ones contained in this newsletter, and we will continue to work closely with JICA to ensure the successful implementation of J-PRISM at the regional and national levels.

### **New J-PRISM webpage now Available!**

J-PRISM webpage has just been renewed under the SPREP homepage. Please access the following web address and we welcome feedback, send your comments to the Project Office. We are eager to expand and develop it more as one-stop knowledge hub for 3R and Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Islands Countries.

Please circulate this page to the world for sharing our lesson learnt for all of us.

J-PRISM Webpage <http://www.sprep.org/j-prism>

### About our project

Japanese Technical Corporation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM), the 5 years, 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 (Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Fiji Islands, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Independent States of Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu).

### J-PRISM Project Office

c/o P.O. Box 240, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Apia, Samoa Tel: +685 21929 (ext 324)

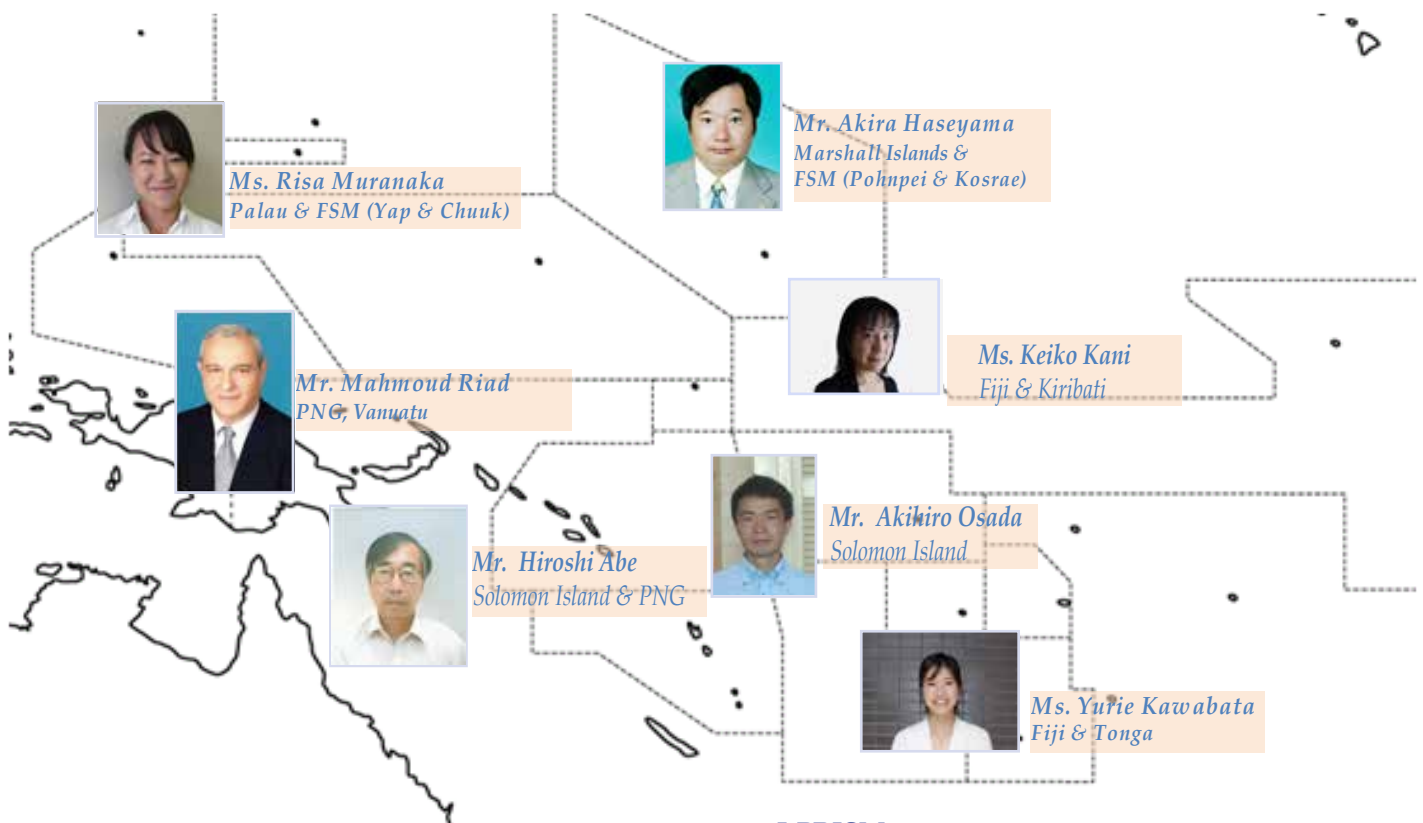
### Members (as of May 2013)

Mr Shiro Amano : Chief Advisor  
Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele : Assistant Chief Advisor  
Mr Makoto Tsukiji : Project Coordinator  
Ms Pueina Parkinson : Project Assistant  
For other JICA experts in each country : Please refer to the map below

### SPREP

Ms Esther Richards : Solid Waste Management Adviser

### J-PRISM Experts in 2013



### J-PRISM

Edited by J-PRISM Project Office  
Makoto Tsukiji: tsukijimkt@gmail.com  
Pueina Parkinson: pueinap@sprep.org  
<http://www.sprep.org/j-prism>