

### MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JPRISM II CHIEF AD VISOR MR. MIMURA SATORU

Talofa friends! I am glad to work with you for the Pacific environment. I was stationed in Samoa from 1999 to 2002 as the Deputy Representative of JICA Samoa office. At that time I was engaged in the Grant Aid Project of the SPREP Training Centre and the start of the technical cooperation on waste management. The experience at that time became the basis of my career.

Since then, the trees on the SPREP campus have grown and now I am back on the island. Those 20 years, Waste Management in the Pacific has been incrementally improved. However, plastics, scrapped cars, household appliances and other difficult-to-treat waste, pose a threat to the environment.

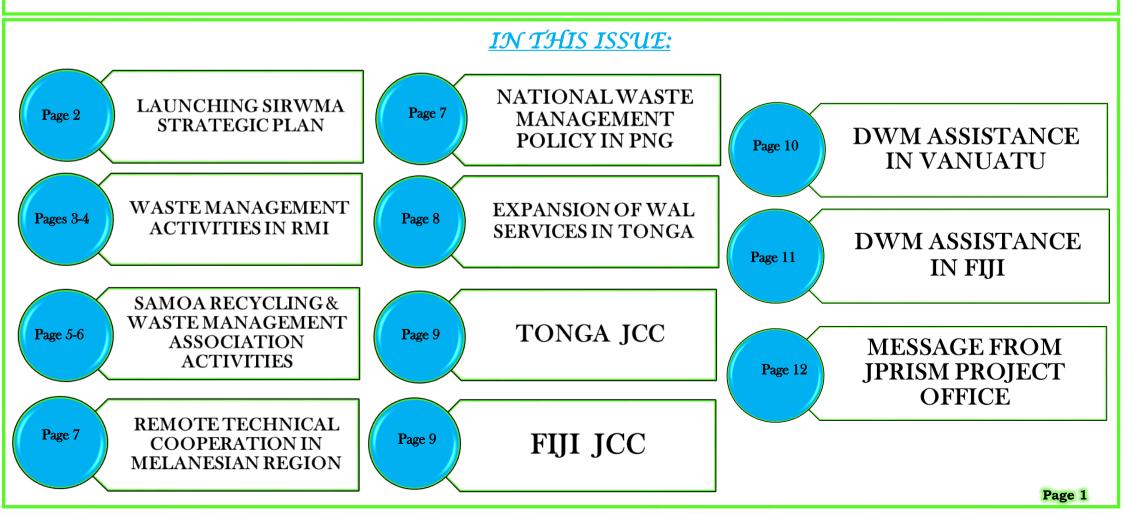


In addition, COVID-19 has made it difficult for people to come and go around the world. J-PRISM II encourages countries in the region to learn from each other. While the exchange of people, which is indispensable for the technical cooperation, has stopped, a different method of capacity development is required.

We are trying to solve the problem by using methods such as distance training. Although it is not an easy task in the region where the communication environment is not good, this effort will benefit for the Pacific Islands even after the infection has ended.

There are many challenges in front of us, but I would like to work with you resolve them.

Faafetai and thank you very much for your cooperation.



### LAUNCHING OF THE SIRWMA 2021-2031 STRATEGIC PLAN



### FAAFETAI SAGAPOLUTELE

### JPRISM ASSISTANT CHIEF ADVISOR

On Thursday, 18th February 2021, the launching ceremony for Solomon Islands Recycling & Waste Management Association(SIRWMA) Strategic Plan 2021–2031 was taken place at the Mendana Kitano Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Honourable Titus Fika, the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECCDM) delivered the keynote statement as the Patron of SIRWMA. He commended SIRWMA members for the accomplishment achieved after one year of its existence. In his statement, he recognized SIRWMA's effort to align its strategic plan and the National Waste Management and Pollution Control 2017 – 2026, with a common vision for a Cleaner Solomon Islands.

The supporting statements and congratulatory remarks were delivered by Honourable Wilson Mamae, Honiara City Council Mayor; His Excellency Mr. Morimoto Yasuhiro, Japan Ambassador for Solomon Islands; and Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP. What was common in their presented statements is the importance of private sector's engagements in promoting and implementing better waste management measures in the country. The statements from Mr. Motoyuki Uegaki, JICA Solomon, Resident Representative and Dr. Melchoir Mataki, Permanent Secretary of MECCDM, summed up what should be the focus in the future with an overall suggestion for enhanced collaboration between SIRWMA and the government through MECCDM and other government agencies, as well as Solomon Islands development partners.

The event was a success with the attendance of two Government Ministers (MECCDM and Ministry of Health), three Heads of International Missions to Solomon Islands – Ambassador of Japan, New Zealand High Commissioner and British High Commissioner as well as Heads and senior managements of Government Agencies, Development Partners Offices and Businesses. According to Mr Lindsay Teobasi, Acting President of SIRWMA, it was a good day for promotion waste management to that high level of government, development partners and businesses for their support. A total of 49 participants attended due to the Government Covid19 restrictions. There was also a good participation from participations who were participating remotely through the online link provided for the ceremony.



### WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN RMI

### JACQUELINE LAKMIS

### MAJURO ATOLL WASTE COMPANY

For the past thirteen years, Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC) have been providing waste collection services and managing the landfill of the Majuro Community of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Like other PICs, the waste problem is one of the biggest environmental issues in RMI, too. In order to tackle ever-growing waste problems, MAWC along with partnership organizations have taken innovative and practical approaches, especially for past several years.

Firstly, the RMI in collaboration with J-PRISM II formulated the Solid Waste Management Plan for Majuro 2019-2028 (SWMP-M) and this is now endorsed by the Minister of Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MWIU). Also, the container deposit scheme was newly introduced in 2018 and it is working well till now. MAWC also considers increasing awareness of the general public is a key for cleaner environment. Innovative programs were implemented to educate and raise awareness among the public on waste management. 3Rs are promoted through community awareness and the Clean School Program in partnership with stakeholders such as Public School System, RMI Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), JICA Volunteers, NGOs, Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGOV). **Continued next page...** 





























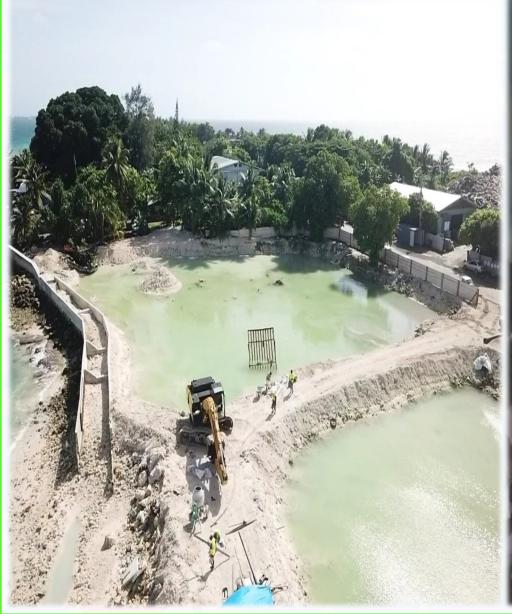
# WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN RMI CONT'D

### ▶ from page 3

Greatest efforts have been made towards collection and landfill management, the essential and most important activities of SWM. Collaborative works between MALGOV and MWIU among others grew stronger bringing what limited resources we have combined to assist in waste collection and landfill management. Yet, these efforts were not enough compared to daily waste generated and collected from the public. According to the survey result presented in the SWMP-M, 34 tons of waste is disposed daily at the final disposal site which MAWC manages in 2017. With this large consumption, the landfill space have become limited and mountain trash continues to grow. Thus it raises concerns from the public as the volume and height itself is seen as threat.

Early last year 2020, the RMI Government declared an Emergency Proclamation for the Majuro Dumpsite due to the need to address its dire situation. By responding to this proclamation, short-term plans were set in motion moving waste to a temporarily site to decrease burden on current landfill while other options are explored for long term plan, that is securing new landfill site. Moving plan forward to use lagoon site adjacent to current landfill to use the waste and reclaim land. An estimation of 21,000 cubic yard of waste is to be used. Work is in progress, a seawall have been eradicate 8ft high from the seabed, 4ft wide thickness of the wall. Structure design is to ensure strong protection and safety for longevity.

MAWC is working in collaboration with MWIU and RMI EPA for constructing strong and resilient seawall and ensure compliance to environmental health and legality. Of course, there are challenges faced during construction. Frequent equipment break-down either by mechanical problems, electrical issues or other equipment system failure. Work progress slows down when parts are needed but not readily available on island and take time before receiving. Limited equipment resources also affect the work progress as it is shared between MAWC and the MWIU. Other factors contributing to the work challenge is the weather as during high tide, no work is carried out except during low tide. However, despite all these challenges, construction works progressed. With dedications of key stakeholders, Majuro finally took an important step towards the fundamental improvement.





# Samoa Recycling & Waste Management Association (SRWMA) Celebrated Global Recycling Week In Samoa

### YOKO ONUMA JICA EXPERT

On the 18th March 2021, the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) launched the Official Opening Ceremony of the Recycling Day, at Tafaigata. The Keynote address of the ceremony was given by Hon. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, Patron of SRWMA.



SRWMA celebrated its establishment of 3rd anniversary on March 18th, Global Recycling Day, and held a Global Recycling Campaign from March 15th to 20th 2021, with the global theme of "Save the Planet, Support Recycling!" in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE), JPRISM Project (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and other partners.

This year's event targeted the improvement of public awareness campaign, educational promotional materials to put emphasis on innovative actions to improve recycling initiatives in Samoa.

The week consisted of 3 main activities which hopefully would create opportunities that would spark true interest and education of the youth of Samoa to make a change and recycle for a better Samoa.

- 1. Recycling Collection bulky waste collection (1 week activity)
  - River Clean Up There was a river clean-up for one selected river. In this activity, interested environmental organizations and youth groups engaged to clean and collect all/any recyclable materials from river channels. **Continued next page...**



### Samoa Recycling & Waste Management Association (SRWMA) Celebrated Global Recycling Week In Samoa, Cont'd

### ▶ from page 5

• Coastal Clean Up (Apia Seawall) – This activity targeted all government ministries, business and private sectors to clean and collect rubbish and recyclables within the town area and along the sea wall.







### 2. 3R Competition for Primary Schools

• SRWMA ran a fun recycling competition and call out to schools (private primary schools) to be the "3R Warriors" to collect the most recyclables (from the provided list) that were weighed throughout 4 weeks beginning 18th February- 18th of March. The 14 primary schools to collect the most waste to be weighed by category will win the prizes accordingly. The final weigh in was onsite at Tafaigata in Apia on the 18th March







### 3. "3R" Family Fun Day (20th March, Saturday)

• Besides river and coastal clean-ups a Family Fun Day was held at Malaefatu Reserve and Park to promote "3R" purposes. The opportunity was given to any interested parties who wanted to De-clutter from their homes and set up a "garage sale" style market day that included food vendors, organizations who support the green initiative as well as vendors who wished to sell recycled and reused products.

SRWMA is the first recycling association established in the Pacific Island Countries in 2018, and which has a history of advanced challenges on collecting various types of problematic wastes. SRWMA has applied for Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) by Embassy of Japan in 2020 and will proceed with the construction of the recycling facility at Tafaigata which is next to the today's ceremony venue. The year 2021 will be a huge step forward for the SRWMA, and once the new recycling facility is built, SRWMA will accelerate recycling plastics and glass locally with the cooperation of the J-PRISM project, the US Embassy and the UNDP. For more information, please refer to the following contact: Marina Keil, President of Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association wastemanagementapia@gmail.com









### Seeking a New Scheme of Remote Technical Cooperation in the Melanesian Region

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is having a massive impact on the project progress of the J-PRISM II. Even in such difficult circumstances, we are continuing our technical support remotely from Japan. The key factor for remote technical cooperation is the effective utilization of online tools and local resources. The figure below shows an implementation scheme of remote technical cooperation in Vanuatu. After September 2020, J-PRISM II hires a national coordinator as a focal point in Vanuatu to fill in the information gap caused by the online communication and provide inland support to the counterpart organization, which enables us to expand our activities. Currently, J-PRISM II has restarted the full-feasibility study for

introducing the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in Vanuatu by networking with four countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Vanuatu.

In Solomon Islands, related to development of solid waste management plan of provincial level, it has been discussed with the CPs of Tulagi and Auki.

In PNG, J-PRISM II is consciously supporting a development of the National Waste Management Policy (NWMP) and a regional consultation workshop was held by remote cooperation in September 2020.

JPRISM II Experts in Melanesian Region

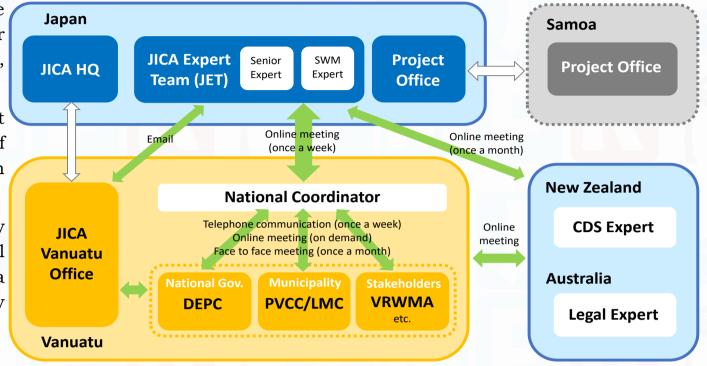


Fig.1 Implementation Scheme of Remote Technical Cooperation in Vanuatu

\*Online meetings are held by Zoom and/or Google Meet \*\* Communication frequency is not actual (showing as an example)

### Development of the National Waste and Chemical Management Policy in PNG



Reported by Mr. Veari Kula, Manager, IUC Branch, Environment Protection Division, CEPA and Ms. Boga Biru, J-PRISM/CEPA

The JPRISM 2 project for PNG was launched in 2017 with one of the key outputs of having to strengthen institution capacity in selected Urban Local Level Government's (ULLG) and key stakeholders through development of a national policy on wastes and chemicals and to be in line with the Cleaner Pacific 2025. The project is also supported through the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Special Programme Project. The policy framework is intended to provide guidance to ULLG's in developing their waste management plans as well as provide a framework for development of a legislation on wastes and chemicals. The 2nd regional consultation for Southern Region was convened in November 2020 in Alotau. Stakeholders from government, private sector in the province including representatives from three provinces. The consultation was found to be very useful in guiding Conservation & Environment Protection Authority(CEPA), Department of National Planning & Monitoring(DNPM) and JICA in revising the draft policy. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in early 2020, activities were delayed with lockdown sessions held between CEPA, DNPM and JICA to revise the policy format to be in line with the government policy structure and existing national policies.

It is expected the next regional consultation workshops for Momase and Highlands regions, will be conducted in 2021. It is clear, national consultations have brought together multiple stakeholders from different ministries, academia, and civil society organizations, to ensure development of the policy framework is a multistakeholder process with input from various sectors. The CEPA and the project plans to engage other key stakeholders in the future, through Technical Steering Committee meetings, workshops, and to further strengthen collaboration with other stakeholders including the private sector, donors and bilateral partners recognizing the importance of institutional strengthening as a way forward to address our waste management challenges in the country.

# EXPANSION OF THE SERVICES BY WASTE AUTHRORITY LTD IN Tonga

#### **HITOSHI KATAYAMA**

#### JICA EXPERT

Although Coronavirus, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is continuing its spread across the world, Tonga Waste Authority Ltd (WAL)'s new challenge, namely the expansion of its waste management services to remote islands is progressing.

Toward the launch of waste management services in remote islands in Tonga; Ha'apai and 'Eua, official opening ceremonies of branch office were held respectively, in 'Eua on the 10th October 2020, and in Ha'apai on 3th November, 2020. Each ceremony was a grand occasion in the presence of the Prime Minister of Tonga Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, and other important stakeholders

To these days, WAL conducted a status survey on waste management in each island and developed a business plan and action plan, etc. with JICA expert team.

According to survey conducted at the time, the population of Ha'apai is approximately 3,600 people, and 12.7 tons of waste is generated per week. Meanwhile, in 'Eua, the population is approximately 2,150 people, and 7.6 tons of waste is generated per week. In response to this, waste collection service by WAL is provided once a week.

Before the initiation of service in Ha'apai and 'Eua, there was no regular waste collection service and it had caused illegal dumping on each island. However, it is expected that illegal dumping will be demolished and removed, and the sanitary environment on the island will be kept with WAL's service.

This waste management service imposes a waste management fee of 15 TOP (≒ 7USD) from each household in both Ha'apai and 'Eua. Thus, WAL collects a fee for garbage and provides a waste management service, which has been implemented in the Tongatapu, the main island of Tonga and Vava'u, a remote island J-PRISM has supported. The fee is paid together with the electricity bill, which makes it easy for service users to take advantage of the service.

With the expansion of the service area to Ha'apai and 'Eua, J-PRISM believes the system will surely become more established and serve as a model for other countries.



The newly opened Ha'apai Branch Office.



Waste Authority Ltd's Ha'apai staff



OJT for newly hired staff



Vehicle for waste collection



Scene of waste collection

## 3<sup>RD</sup> TONGAN JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

### HITOSHI KATAYAMA JICA EXPERT

On October 22nd, 2020, the 3rd Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting was held in Tonga, in the midst of a worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. Unlike before, this was a completely new JCC meeting which was held by connecting Tonga and Japan over the Internet due to the COVID-19.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Siale 'Akau'ola, Chief Executive Officer of Ministry of Health, who is a Project Director and the meeting concluded successfully with the great cooperation of the JICA Tonga Office.

The 3rd JCC meeting brings together JCC members to discuss and to get approval for additional output, namely Output 4; "Waste Authority Limited (WAL)'s capacity on implementation of sustainable SWM in the Tongan outer islands is strengthened through providing waste management service in Ha'apai and 'Eua".

At the 2nd JCC meeting, members confirmed the smooth operation and management of the project in Vava'u, one of the remote island in Tonga (Output 2). Almost a year has passed since then, and now WAL is trying to expand their service to Ha'apai and 'Eua. The service in Vava'u has been well received by Tongan government officials and residents, and which led to the expansion of the waste management service to Ha'apai and Eua. And it has been a great desire of Tongan government to develop waste management services there.

Mr. Malakai Lomu Sika, Chief Executive Officer of WAL, who is the project manager, delivered a presentation on the business plans for Ha'apai and 'Eua. Apparently, the JCC members from Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Ministry of health (MOH), WAL, and JICA agreed with the addition of Output 4.

At present in Ha'apai and 'Eua, WAL staff, who have implemented the project together with JICA experts in Vava'u, provides on-the-job trainings to newly hired staff in Ha'apai and 'Eua. It shows a good practice in the expansion of WAL's waste management services to remote islands. In the next JCC meeting, it is expected that WAL will share good practices and report that waste management in Ha'apai and Eua is progressing well.

# FIJI JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

### RINA KURUMISAWA

### JICA FIJI

The Joint Coordinating Committee meeting on J-PRISM II was held in Suva on 25th November 2020. It was to share the update of the activities carried under the project and to discuss a way forward.

The Meeting was led by PS of Ministry of Waterways and Environment and Ministry of Local Government. Around 30 project members from Department of Environment, Department of Local Government, Ministry of Economy, Cities and Town Councils attended this meeting via online connecting with JICA consultants and experts from project office in Japan and New Zealand.

One of the activities highlighted was "Waste Management Master Plans" drafted by all the 13 Municipal Councils. It is quite important to have Master Plan in each council to understand current situation and set a vision and target to 2030, as well as showing pathway to achieve them. J-PRISM will soon start monitoring for waste management with Municipal Councils for understanding and evaluating daily operation.

Another progressive point which was shared was on recycling situation survey in Fiji, which will be the basic data for making policy for promoting recycle.

JICA would like to commit continuing its cooperation to take steps forward for developing sustainable society in Fiji through this project.

Page 9

# DONATED EQUIPMENT TOOLS TO ENHANCE VANUATU'S CAPACITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE DURING DISASTER EVENTS

#### **FAAFETAI SAGAPOLUTELE**

#### JPRISM ASSISTANT CHIEF ADVISOR

Vanuatu's response to the management of waste during disaster events was boosted by the provided assistance by JICA, under the Japan Technical Cooperation Project on the Promotion of Regional Solid Waste Management Initiatives in Pacific Island Countries (JPRISM II). In a short Handover Ceremony, Mr. Takechi Naoki, the Resident Representative of JICA Vanuatu Office, presented the sets of equipment and tools like electronic tablets for data recording, chainsaws and sets of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) like overalls, safety boots, ear protection gears, googles, helmets and gloves.

	Equipment	Quantity	Proposed Uses
1	Tablets	5	For Data Collection
2	Chainsaws	5	To be used for the management of fallen trees
3	Personal Protection Equipment (Overalls wear, safety boots, helmets, googles, gloves and ear protection).	51/PPE	For the safety of staff and workers that will be involved in post-disaster waste management operations.

According to Mr. Takechi Naoki, the presented equipment and tools should support the implementation of the National Disaster Waste Management Contingency Plan, which has been developed by JPRISM II with close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Adviser of JPRISM II, stated that JPRISM II along with PacWaste Plus (PWP) provided technical support and guidance to DEPC with regards to the management of the generated waste during the Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020. He also highlighted the ongoing technical support to the development of Disaster Waste Management(DWM) Contingency Plans provided by JPRISM II at the national and provincial levels, and PWP at the community level. He echoed the significance of the combined technical support from JPRISM II and PWP, which should lift the level of preparedness for Vanuatu to response when disasters strike.

Mr. Satoru Mimura, Chief Adviser of JPRISM II highlighted that Enhancing DWM in Pacific Island Countries including Vanuatu is under JPRISM II Regional Output 3. The inclusion of DWM in Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Plan is the overall expected outcome for JPRISM II support to ensure future good national coordination and implementation of DWM measures. He confirmed that Vanuatu is the first country to receive the DWM technical support for its DWM Contingency Plan development due to the country's high level of risk from natural hazards. He also emphasized the need for these plans to be endorsed by both DEPC and NDMO as the responsible agencies for the management of waste and coordination of disaster management operations. This will improve the national coordination of DWM in the country in the future and should contribute to improved preparations before disasters and responses after disaster events.

JPRISM II is providing the technical support for the DWM Plan development, reiterated the challenges in areas without any basic waste management services – collection, disposal site, recycling services, etc. The situation is worse at remote areas with difficult access. For example which can only be accessed with small boats, etc. It is not easy to deal with Disaster Waste in those complicated conditions and careful considerations must be made in recommending applicable and practical measures. The importance of understanding these conditions for appropriate measures are practical to Vanuatu.



# DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TO FIJI

#### **RINA KURUMISAWA**

### JICA FIJI

On 7th and 8th April 2020, Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Harold hit Fiji. This devastated cyclone brought heavy rain, strong winds with sever impact not only to Fiji but also to Vanuatu and Tonga. This time the response operation to this TC in Fiji was quite difficult and complicated since Suva was under lock down since several COVID-19 cases around Greater Suva Area were found at that time.

In addition, People were still recovering after TC Harold when Fiji was affected by infectious diseases such as Typhoid, Dengue Fever and Leptospirosis. JICA Fiji Office was approached by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Ministry of Local Government to provide some assistance for disaster waste management due to an increase in these infectious diseases. It was decided that the best option would be through collection of disaster waste at Nasinu Town, the biggest Bed Town in Fiji where these infectious diseases were increasing.

As such, JICA provided six trucks and one grabber for collection of waste from Nasinu and transfer to Landfill. This operation was carried out from Monday to Saturday to clear huge heaps of waste every 100 meter on all the road in Nasinu and for a month.

It was quite tough period for Nasinu Town Council (NTC) as they worked for mosquito control as well as attending to cyclone damages with only two Health Inspectors who are looking around 98,000 residents in Nasinu Town. Mr. Shovneel Ram, one of the Heath Inspectors of NTC, started work very early morning for mosquito control and attend to waste management operation from 8:00-17:00. He hardly had time to attend to any of his work in the office and always stayed late to complete his work. With all his hard work for few months, all the waste on the street was cleaned up.

Through this operation, J-PRISM2 found many lessons learned for disaster waste management. These were summarized and shared to the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline.





Dear Waste Management Colleagues:

Wishing you all a Happy New Year 2021 with hope for better days ahead. Regardless of the current conditions we are experiencing, we can still make progress through innovations and change of tactics. Stay safe and look forward to working with you this year. Do not hesitate to ask for any support if needed.

Faafetai Sagapolutele

Greeting from Samoa!!! I hope all of you are doing well during this difficult time.

Finally, I returned to Samoa in Jan. 2021. Things are still tough for all of us. I really hope that this time will end soon. But we still can see each other online now. I am looking forward to seeing you more often than last year.

Ayako Yoshida





I hope you are all well. The world has been tired of COVID for a year, but the vaccine news is announcing daily, so I think the goal may be just around the corner. We will get through this, together in 2021. I look forward to seeing you again. Keep safe!

Yoko Onuma

Being one-year away from the Pacific, I miss the time when traveling to J-PRISM's counties to visit your sites, learn from you, discuss with you, and think further, to move things forward for tackling waste issues under J-PRISM. My passion is still the same even though the world changed. Let's eat well first for our health, and keep going. I always look forward to discussing what J-PRISM can do with you.

Mayu Nomura





Talofa from Samoa!

Your JPRISM team is available to assist our countries with Waste Management matters even though we are facing difficulties now with the ongoing pandemic. Have a blessed year and Stay safe!

PNG JCC
APRIL
TBC

MICRONESIAN REGION JCC MAY TBC CPRT 2021 OCTOBER TBC



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