

# J-PRISM II HIGHLIGHTS Palau



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



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

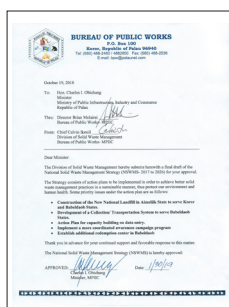
J-PRISM II is the five-and-a-half-year Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (2017-2022), assisting nine member countries (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Region in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project was commenced in February 2017, following the previous phase from 2011 to 2016.

## Formulation of National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS)

With the support of SPREP, formulation of a national strategy was already underway in Palau when J-PRISM II started. However, the strategy being formulated lacked the latest data, so the decision was made to conduct a solid waste management (SWM) baseline survey as in other countries, and reflect the results in the strategy.



The National Solid Waste Management Strategy of Palau, approved by the Minister for Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce (2019)



Bureau of Public Works (BPW) within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce (MPIIC) worked with J-PRISM II experts to conduct a series of SWM baseline surveys. These included waste amount and composition surveys (WACSS), as well as incoming waste amount surveys at landfill sites, time and motion surveys, and public opinion surveys. The results were summarized as waste flows, which were used to identify the urgent SWM issues and challenges in Palau technically as well as quantitatively and share these among key stakeholders.



BPW officers investigate how residents discharge waste (2017)

## Step 2: Incorporating the essential data into the NSWMS and finalizing it

Based on their shared understanding and perception of urgent waste issues and challenges, the key stakeholders updated the NSWMS with the latest data and information, and finalized it. The NSWMS was officially approved by the Minister of the MPIIC on January 30, 2019. (Available on the SPREP website at <https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Palau/palau-national-solid-waste-management-strategy.pdf> and <https://www.sprep.org/j-prism-2/report-and-materials>, or via the SPREP Virtual Library at <https://library.sprep.org/>)

## Step 1: Understanding the current SWM situation technically as well as quantitatively

In 2017, officers in charge of waste management at the



## Inter-state collection system in Babeldaob

In Palau, a new landfill site was constructed in Aimeliik state on Babeldaob Island with the assistance of Japanese grant aid, and has been used since February 2021. Waste from Koror, where 70% of the population resides, as well as from the 10 states in Babeldaob Island, is now being transported to the new site. Until recently, each state in Babeldaob had its own collection and transportation system, and collected waste was disposed of at small-scale state-run dump sites. However, as such community dump sites had not been properly managed due to lack of heavy machinery, they are now being closed down, which is expected to contribute to improving the hygiene level in Babeldaob. The Solid Waste Management Division of the Bureau of Public Works (BPW-SWM) in MPIIC took the initiative to develop and introduce an inter-state collection and transportation system with the technical support of J-PRISM II.

### Step 1: Monitoring collection and transportation in Babeldaob

In order to gain an understanding of collection routes, distances, and times in each state of Babeldaob, Global Positioning System (GPS) data loggers were installed in collection vehicles and the data was analyzed. As a result, it was found that all the states were providing households with weekly collections. Maintaining this level of collection service therefore became a basic requirement for the inter-state collection system as well.

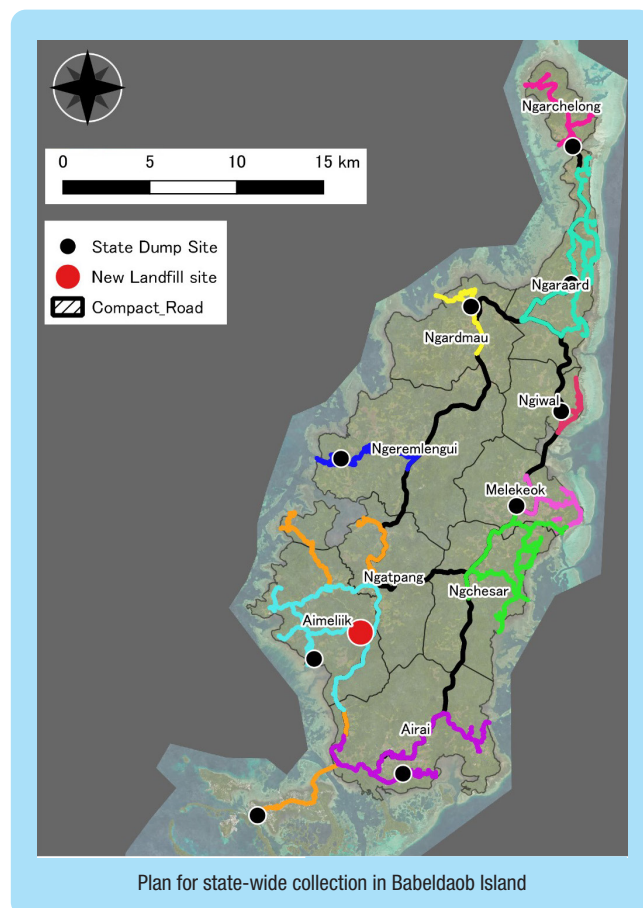
### Step 2: Developing an inter-state collection plan and selecting a private contractor

An inter-state collection plan has been developed for the 10 states in Babeldaob, specifying collection routes, collection points, and transportation routes to the new disposal site. The selection of a contractor to collect waste in Babeldaob was based on this plan.

Currently, the contractor regularly collect waste in Babeldaob and transport the collected waste to the new landfill site.

## Knowledge-sharing among three countries in the Micronesia region

J-PRISM II is actively promoting the sharing of knowledge and experiences among participating countries. Provision of regional training as seen below is one such effort under J-PRISM II.



### Training on landfill management in Palau, February 2018

On-site training on sanitary landfill design and operation using the Fukuoka Method was conducted in Palau by Fukuoka University and the NPO SWAN Fukuoka from February 5 to 10, 2018, in collaboration with J-PRISM II.

JICA has been conducting a training program in Japan named "Design and Maintenance of Semi Aerobic Landfill Site (Fukuoka Method)," and representatives from Pacific Island Countries have been participating in the training every year. The training in Palau was designed as follow-up training for previous participants in JICA's landfill training in Japan, but landfill management officers who had no experience of the training in Japan were also able to attend the training this time. Of around 30 participants from the Micronesia region, more than 20 officers were from Palau, and many of them were from BPW. They were trained by Japanese experts headed by Professor Matsufuji of Fukuoka University, and gained technical knowledge, alongside brushing up their landfill operation skills, through a half-day seminar and four days of on-site training. Utilizing skills and knowledge gained from the training, participants have subsequently dedicated themselves to improving the management of disposal sites in each country.





Demonstrating how to make a drainage pipe from used tires (2018)

## Disaster waste management (DWM) workshop in Palau, February 2019

Senior officials from 16 states of Palau attended the regional consultation workshop conducted from February

18 to 20, 2019 at the Koror State Constitutional Hall. It was one of two regional stakeholders' consultations for the development of the regional DWM guideline conducted by J-PRISM II in collaboration with SPREP and the Japanese team that developed the Disaster Waste Management Guideline for Asia and the Pacific. The workshop represented a change of tactic, whereby officials from both waste management agencies and disaster management agencies were invited to attend from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in an effort to promote the working relationship between these two key DWM stakeholders. The status of DWM in Palau was jointly presented by officers of BPW, the National Emergency Management Office, and Koror State. The presentations provided crucial information for the purposes of regional DWM guideline development.

<sup>\*1</sup> <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110165.pdf>

## About Us: J-PRISM II in Palau

In Palau, day-to-day activities have been conducted in line with the project framework below in close cooperation with the counterpart agencies:

- Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce (MPIIC)
- Bureau of Public Works-Solid Waste Management (BPW-SWM)
- Koror State Government-Solid Waste Management (KSG-SWM)

## Country Activities in Palau

Purpose	With a view to commencement of a new landfill site, a solid waste management system is improved.
Output 1	New NSWMS and its action plan prepared in line with the Cleaner Pacific (2016-2025) are officially submitted to the Minister.
Output 2	Good practices of solid waste management /3R <sup>2</sup> are promoted in country and the region.
Output 3	Waste collection is improved in 10 states of Babeldaob Island and in Koror.
Output 4	Transition from M-dock landfill to a new landfill is appropriately carried out.

All the member countries are also assisted under the regional project framework to enhance the regional monitoring mechanism, south-to-south cooperation, disaster waste management, and the 3R+Return system in the region.

## Regional Activities including Palau

- Output1: Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025 is strengthened
- Output2: Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region
- Output3: Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened
- Output4: Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined

<sup>\*2</sup> Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

## Contact Us:

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