

# J-PRISM *FLASH* SPECIAL ISSUE

## 5th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

### - Multilayer Partnerships and Coalition as the Basis for 3Rs Promotion in Asia and the Pacific -



Continuing on from the last Forum in Viet Nam in 2013, J-PRISM supported the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 25-27 February 2014. This is a high level Forum co-organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Indonesia, Ministry of Public Works of the Government of Indonesia, Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MoEJ), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), with support from various international organizations, donors and partner institutions, and including SPREP. More than 300 participants attended this Forum from over 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific, UN organizations, aid agencies, private sectors, and NGOs. Ten Pacific PICs participated in the Forum.

## 1. Background

One of main objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was to discuss possible regional cooperation among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in addressing issues of common concern and challenges in waste management, including plastics in the coastal and marine environment. At the last Forum, the concept of 3R + “Return” was introduced for the first time at the international meeting, and was included as a goal of the “Ha Noi Declaration”. We all recognize the importance of promoting 3R + “Return”, which means “Returning recyclable materials for environmentally sound recycling” and “Returning organic material back to the soil”.

2014 is a very important year for SIDS as the Third International SIDS Conference will be held in Samoa in September. Due to geographical locations and vulnerabilities, and other limitations, SIDS face a number of issues such as increase in volume and diversification of waste streams, plastics in the coastal and marine environment, lack of resource recovery and waste recycling facilities, lack of space for waste-disposal or land-filling, contamination of scarce water supplies, and damage to marine ecosystem due to inappropriate waste treatment. In this context, a SIDS Session was considered at the 5th Regional 3R Forum to tackle such constraints. The outputs of the discussion will be submitted to the secretariat of SIDS conference for the further discussion.



Source; Presentation Slide by Mr. Ikuro, JICA

## 2. “SIDS Session” is Open

On Day 3 of the Forum, the SIDS Session (Plenary Session 6) titled “Measures to scale-up the implementation of the Ha Noi 3R Declaration (2013-2023) in SIDS” was chaired by Hon. Faamoetaulua Lealaialoto Taito Dr. Faale Tumaalii, Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Government of Samoa. In his opening remarks, the Minister emphasized the importance of further development and strengthening of the regional waste management framework to allow collaboration with all stakeholders to cope with the waste management challenges facing SIDS, and also the need to ensure that self-sustaining waste management activities including the 3Rs were adopted throughout the region. After his remarks, the session facilitator, Dr. Sunil Herat, Senior Lecturer, Griffith University, Australia, briefly explained the background of the Pacific region, and introduced each presentation as follows:



- Regional Model of Cooperation in PICs (Including Regional Recycling Network - JICA Reverse Logistics Report)  
Mr. Nobuhiro Ikuro, JICA
- CDL and Product Stewardship Programmes  
Ms. Esther Richards, SPREP
- Issue of plastics in the coastal and marine environment and possible solutions  
Prof. Hideshige Takada, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan
- Expanding lessons learnt – in the case of Solomon Islands  
Ms. Wendy Polo Beti, Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu's multilayer partnership for sustainable composting  
Ms. Touasi Tiwok, Vanuatu
- Importance of Regional Training and Capacity Building towards successful 3R implementation in SIDS  
Dr. Sunil Herat, Griffith University, Australia

*(The presentation documents are available from the UNCRD webpage: [http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/spc/5th\\_3r\\_forum\\_f.htm](http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/spc/5th_3r_forum_f.htm))*

## 3. Presentation Summary

### 3-1. Regional Model of Cooperation in PICs (Including Regional Recycling Network - JICA Reverse Logistics Report)



*Mr. Nobuhiro Ikuro*

J-PRISM has carried out a variety of regional and national activities in the Pacific based on the regional and national strategies. J-PRISM is a unique platform implemented in collaboration with SPREP, which aims to expand the regional learning network through regional and sub-regional training, developing and dispatching local experts, on-the job training, and regional study visits. Such a regional platform should be strengthened and expanded to support further development of sustainable waste management in PICs. The 3R + “Return” concept is a valuable one for SIDS. The CDL system at the national level, establishment of a Recycling Information Platform at the regional/inter-regional level, discussion on the possibility of establishing a regional recycling center in collaboration with all stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific (especially for bulky waste, end-of-life vehicles, E-waste), and developing a regional capacity database are recommended strategies to promote 3R + “Return”.

3-2. CDL and Product Stewardship Programmes



*Ms. Esther Richards*

CDL (Container Deposit Legislation) is an example of an economic instrument for facilitating recycling of consumer goods in the region such as aluminum cans. Kiribati, Palau, and FSM have adopted CDL programmes. This creates jobs and local incomes, and reduces pressure on landfill space. The CDL model could also be adopted for management of other Pacific waste streams including E-waste and end-of-life vehicles. Priorities for improved recycling in the Pacific region include expansion and fast-tracking of the CDL system at the national level, establishment of regional information and a regional recycling platform and improved collaboration with Asian markets for recyclables. The unique challenges in the Pacific region also represent opportunities to promote waste avoidance, mainstream 3R + “Return” concepts, investigate alternative options for 3Rs and to develop local recycling solutions. There is also a need to establish a network of Pacific island recyclers, and to explore and develop long-term partnerships with Asian importers and recyclers.

3-3. Issue of plastics in the coastal and marine environment and possible solutions



*Prof. Hideshige Takada*

Plastic litter is a major pollution issue in Pacific coastal and marine environments. Plastics are a modern waste stream which is typically discharged from the land during runoff events. Plastics in the marine environment progressively break-down into micro-plastics, making their management increasingly difficult. Plastics can have a range of impacts in the marine environment including smothering, entanglement, physical effects arising from plastic ingestion, and from the transfer of hydrophobic, persistent organic pollutants (including PCBs, DDTs, and HCHs) from the plastic when it is ingested. The transferred POPs may cause endocrine disruption and reproductive impacts in affected animals and birds. As a consequence, marine plastics should be classified as a hazardous waste. Reducing the loss of plastics from the land is essential to manage this threat. This can be practically influenced through promotion of the 3R + “Return” concept.

3-4. Expanding lessons learnt – in the case of Solomon Islands



*Ms. Wendy Polo Beti*

The Solomon Islands' priorities to reduce waste production include promotion of the 3R + “Return” concept, improvements to waste disposal sites and waste management education and awareness rising. A communication strategy promoting the 3R + “Return”, waste segregation at source, and promotion of the eco-bag concept to reduce the national use of plastic bags are all important national waste management initiatives. The Eco-school Programme is adopted in both Honiara and Gizo through the lessons learnt from Fiji's “Clean School Programme”. Challenges for improved waste management in the Solomon Islands include the lack of trained personnel, lack of waste management equipment, poor institutional frameworks, no current source separation, no recycling facilities and the limited availability of finance to implement activities. The promotion of good communication and interagency collaboration is essential for future success in improving waste management in the country.

3-5. Vanuatu's multilayer partnership for sustainable composting



*Ms. Touasi Tiwok*

The biggest waste stream in Port Vila is waste generated from the city markets. This organic waste stream creates considerable pressure on the land fill capacity. A multi-stakeholder approach to this problem was undertaken which involved cross sectional collaboration among the municipality, NGOs, volunteers, private companies, and market vendors. Market vendors are encouraged to separate waste at source through the variety of awareness raising activities undertaken by NGOs and JOCV volunteers. Facilities to allow this segregation to be carried out were installed and within 2 months a significant amount of organic waste was diverted from landfill to a composting facility. This has reduced landfill operation costs, and is an excellent example of a low tech, low cost solution. Improved PPP and multi layer partnership among stakeholders will help sustain this programme.

3-6. Importance of Regional Training and Capacity Building towards successful 3R implementation in SIDS



*Dr. Sunil Herat*

There are many waste management training needs in PICs. These include development and implementation integrated and sustainable waste management strategies, increasing knowledge about institutional, business and financial models that have been successful in addressing specific waste problems, awareness raising and capacity building programs targeting LAs and other stakeholders, increasing knowledge about innovative projects, appropriate technologies, accessing expertise, promoting waste exchange and waste-resource related opportunities, and developing Public Private Partnerships. In response to these needs, SPREP in partnership with AFD has contracted Griffith University to conduct a regional Train-the-Trainer Program in Solid Waste Management. The training is completed in two annual modules covering Waste Management Techniques and Landfill/Dumpsite Management respectively. The comprehensive and effective implementation of variety regional and sub-regional trainings will need to be financed through coordinated donor funding.

## 4. Outcomes & Recommendation for SIDS

### Country Level

- ✓ Encourage national government to place a priority on coordination of 3R programmes within national policies,
- ✓ Promote 3Rs through education and the integration into projects dealing with climate change, tourism, public health, etc., in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including donor-supplied equipment,
- ✓ Establish a regular national forum (or use an existing waste/environment forum) to share 3R lessons learnt in the country,
- ✓ Promote the engagement of the private sector through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for sustainable 3Rs programmes, including the provision of support from donors and governments to finance start-up waste management operations,
- ✓ Recognize the potential role of faith-based groups as an avenue to raise awareness with families and communities to improve community-based management and segregation of waste.



### Regional Level

- ✓ Strengthen the regional cooperative framework and partnerships on 3R + “Return”,
- ✓ Provide opportunities for (and facilitate) more information and experience sharing between donors and development partners, particularly with respect to technical engineering training, and research in waste management solutions for the PICs,
- ✓ Develop and maintain a Regional Human Resources Inventory of capacity in the 3Rs and waste management,
- ✓ Develop regional recycling activities and recycling information dissemination on recycling to collect and disseminate recycling (return) data,
- ✓ Develop regional guidance on integrating 3R concept/activities into thematic projects.



### Inter-Regional Level

- ✓ Promote the 3R + “Return” initiative in SIDS,
- ✓ Promote the establishment of industry groups to support the involvement of importers and manufacturers in product return programmes especially for end-of-life vehicles and E-waste,
- ✓ Investigate the feasibility of centralized regional return and recycling centre(s).





## 5. Messages to the PICs



**Hon. Faamoetaulua Lealaialuloto Taito Dr. Faale Tumaalii,**  
*Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Government of Samoa*

The clear blue sky, lush green vegetation and pristine greenish-blue sea are the natural beauties synonymous with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) environment. These are the characteristics of our environment that we inherited from our forbears and we have enjoyed it over the years. Unfortunately, these are eroding away due to man’s actions and if nothing is done now to save it, it will eventually lost. The implementation of the Hanoi 3R + RETURN concept through genuine partnership and coalition is one development of the many that could save, protect and conserve our environment from further degradation. Let us keep it that way.

**Hon. Tiarite George Kwong, Minister,**  
*Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development*

I found attending the 3Rs forum interesting and also useful for SIDS like Kiribati. The session covers practical topics including on resource efficiency, recycling and hazardous wastes like e-waste which we deal with on a day to day basis. I also commend the 3R Forum in attempting to link 3R to air pollution hence climate change which is a top government priority. Kiribati counts on strengthening regional cooperation within and beyond the pacific region and the assistance of our partners to effectively implement the sustainable 3R goals.



**Ms. Chikako Takase,**  
*Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development*

It is my pleasure to deliver a message to our friends from the Pacific Islands. We were so delighted to see many participants from the Pacific Islands in the Surabaya Forum. With “Hanoi 3R Declaration” and “Surabaya Declaration” as well as the outcome of the SIDS session, we hope that the Regional 3R Forums in Asia and the Pacific provided basis for the discussion at the third SIDS Conference to be held in Samoa in September this year. We wish you success in the SIDS Conference and hope to see many of you in the 6<sup>th</sup> 3R Forum in Maldives next year.

**Dr. Prasad Modak,**

*Executive President, Environmental Management Centre-India (EMC)*

I liked the concept of J-PRISM that typically shows Hub-Spoke model of country-country cooperation. The canvas of cooperation envisaged is indeed comprehensive that includes 3Rs as well and waste management infrastructure (like landfills) supported by training and capacity building. These topics are extremely relevant to the SIDS. I wish all the success to J-PRISM and I am sure it will be a replicable model of capacity building for other regions.



**Dr. David Haynes,**

*Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division, SPREP*

“Pacific island countries have made great progress to improve waste management over the last 5 years, however much still remains to be done to protect our fragile ecosystems and our people’s health from inappropriate waste management practices. It is critical that Pacific island governments adopt regulations that ensure waste management is sustainably funded into the future.”

**Dr. Sunil Heart,**

*Senior Lecturer, Griffith School of Engineering, Griffith University, Australia*

PICs need special solutions to their waste management issues. Mere replication of technologies from developed countries may not be sustainable in PICs. When looking for solutions in PICs, their unique characteristics especially the social, economic, financial and infrastructure aspects need to be incorporated. Local innovations can be very useful in this regard and we need to find ways to promote and replicate such solutions to the other regions of the PICs. Regular training programs to promote and share local, innovative solutions should be an important part of the waste management strategy.

Where solutions cannot be found within a country it would be wise to look for solutions through regional cooperation. Development of centralized regional recycling centres should be given some thought in this regard.



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Edited by J-PRISM Project Office, SPREP, Samoa

Contact:

Reiko Shindo: [reshindo@gmail.com](mailto:reshindo@gmail.com)

Pueina Parkinson: [pueinap@sprep.org](mailto:pueinap@sprep.org)

Makoto Tsukiji: [tsukijimkt@gmail.com](mailto:tsukijimkt@gmail.com)

Project Office: Tel; +685-21929 (ext.285)  
Fax; +685-20231