

## Vanuatu's National Contingency Plan for Disaster Wastes is Getting Traction

**Ma Bella Guinto [SPREP Solid Waste Management Adviser]  
& Faafetai Sagapolutele [JPRISM II Assistant Chief Advisor]**

Vanuatu is once again the recipient of a training/workshop aimed to further develop the capacity of the country to manage disaster wastes, Built around the pilot training conducted in November 2019 with SPREP and University of Newcastle, the training/workshop held at the Ramada Resort from the 2nd to the 6th of March 2020 involved representatives from the different cities, municipalities and provinces around the country. The overall purpose is to develop contingency plans for the management of the generated waste at the national and local government levels, when natural disaster strikes. *Continued page 2*



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Being ranked with the highest exposure to risks from natural hazards like tropical cyclones, volcanoes and others in the world, Vanuatu was given priority to receive these trainings. The contingency planning workshop proved promising in terms of improved and coordinated responses to the management of the overwhelming wastes generated during events. The plan will assist in addressing delays during emergency and recovery operations and significantly contribute to the quick restoration of normal life of the affected communities.

During the one-week workshop, officials from government and non-government agencies including the private sector shared the current institutional arrangements on the management of the generated waste when a disaster strikes. There were in-depth discussions on historical events including the types of waste generated, the risks involved, and proposed mitigation measures based on the Draft Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline. A simulated exercise on rapid field survey was also conducted to enable participants gain skills to undertake pre- and post-disaster waste assessment.

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The development of the draft contingency plan makes use of a developed template for consistency across the different government levels. The participants actively provided initial inputs based on knowledge gained and experiences in previous disaster events.

Ms Ionie Bolenga of the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation expressed gratitude over the training provided and sees this as a great opportunity for the government to improve the coordination of disaster waste management throughout the country in the future.

Mr Lolo Tambe from the Luganville Municipality indicated that he learnt a lot from the workshop, and he would continue to work on the Draft Contingency Plan for Luganville. Likewise, Mr Mwetu Sandy of Port Vila Municipal Council reiterated the importance of the draft contingency plan to guide him in the future when a disaster strikes.

The workshop was organized and funded by JPRISM II as an activity of Output 3 for Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Islands in the area of Disaster Waste Management in partnership with SPREP. According to Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele of JPRISM II, this is the first process of promoting the implementation of measures promoted in the Draft Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline with an aspiration to progressively incorporate disaster wastes in the National Disaster Management Plan of Vanuatu.



# Introduction of the Inter-Municipal Collection Service (IMCS) in KOSRAE State

Misa Oishi  
JICA Expert

Through the analysis of the Solid Waste Management situations of Kosrae technically as well as quantitatively, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DT&I), Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) and J-PRISM II experts have reached a common understanding that collection improvement is an urgent issue to be tackled in Kosrae.

## Before IMCS

In Kosrae, where four municipalities are mandated to provide collection services to the residents, municipalities with weak financial basis had been struggling to provide regular collection services to the residents. The picture shows the notice board installed by KIRMA to notify people not to dump in the open space. Several illegal dumping of wastes had been observed especially in the municipalities with no regular waste collection services at the time. These illegal dumps had been removed by the efforts of KIRMA in collaboration with DT&I long time ago, but this picture clearly shows the negative impact of lack of regular collections in some areas.



Illegal dumping along the main road observed in 2017. The Sign prohibiting illegal dumping was placed by KIRMA

## Introduction of IMCS

Two factors became clear in the timely manner; namely i) in total, only 18 tons of waste are discharged weekly from all four municipalities, and ii) a new 4-ton compactor truck donated by the Non-Project Grand Aid of Japan will be procured in a timely manner. By utilizing this new compactor truck, all of the waste generated in the island can be collected and transported to the public disposal site, and therefore the J-PRISM II experts recommended key stakeholders to consider the introduction of IMCS. Key stakeholders conducted a series of discussions among themselves, such as mayors, DT&I, KIRMA and the Governor's Office, and decided to introduce the IMCS.



Map of Kosrae indicating names of municipalities and the discharge amounts by each municipality

## Features of IMCS

For introduction of IMCS, three key issues were cleared first. They were (i) who operates IMCS, (ii) how to finance IMCS and (iii) which collection system shall be employed. First of all, the key stakeholders agreed that DT&I should become an operating agency. In other words, DT&I instead of municipalities will provide the collection services to all the residents of the island. This became possible by amending the state code which defines the roles and responsibilities of DT&I. Now, the provision of waste collection is formally defined as a responsibility of DT&I. Secondly, in order to sustain IMCS, a total amount of US\$16,000 is required annually, and US\$10,000 is and will be borne by the regular budget of DT&I. The remaining amount of US\$6,000 is and will be borne by each municipalities in proportion to the population size. Lastly, the curbside collection method will be employed in most areas, since people live along the main roads in Kosrae. The collection truck with sound system runs playing music on the collection days. People shall bring their wheelie bins to the road side when the music approaches. IMCS has just started after a series of community meetings and awareness raising activities in February 2020, as shown in some pictures below.



Director of KIRMA explaining the essence of IMCS to the residents.



One of consolation meetings held at municipal level



A new 4-ton compactor that enabled the introduction of IMCS



A boy handing over the waste to a collection worker

# Vanuatu National Solid Waste Management Planning Workshop

Rikae Kodani  
JICA Expert

The National Solid Waste Management Planning Workshop (NSWMMWS) was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu on the 28th of February 2020, with the aim to build a foundation between the national government and provincial/municipal governments, to improve solid waste management (SWM) in each area. All provincial and municipal councils were invited and a total of 21 officials participated. The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) took initiative to develop the Solid Waste Management monitoring system by enforcing the annual Solid Waste Management reporting and planning in line with the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and J-PRISM II. During the workshop, 6 local governments (Port Vila City Council (PVCC), Luganville Municipal Council, Sanma Provincial Council, Shefa Provincial Council, Tafea provincial Council and Malampa Provincial Council) each gave a presentation on the current situation of Solid Waste Management and future plans. Based on the presentation and discussions during the workshop, the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation gave feedback to provide a guidance to move forward and Port Vila City Council, as a capital city, promised their support to other local governments by using their experience working with J-PRISM II. The proceedings of the workshop are available from the following URL. Department of Environment Protection Conservation official website:

<https://environment.gov.vu/index.php/environmental-protection/waste-management/waste-management-planning>



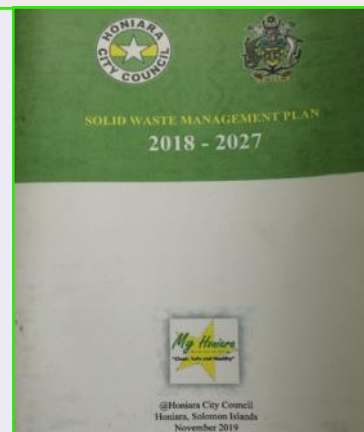
# Waste Management in Solomon

Yoshinosuke Hamada  
JICA Expert

In Honiara City of Solomon Islands, Solid Waste Management is one of the biggest challenges like other cities in Pacific Islands. In order to improve the practice of waste management and to tackle serious issues related to solid waste management, the Environmental Health Division (EHD) and Works Division (WD), which are the divisions are main counterparts of J-PRISM II, have developed a Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plan in Honiara City, as one of the J-PRISM II activities.

The SWM plan has been approved by Honiara City Council in November of 2019. One of the important parts in the SWM plan is the action plan. In the action plan, nine activities, which are classified into three categories considering a priority are indicated. There are three actions as first priority, "Establishment of solid waste management division", "Development of ordinance", and "Establishment of proper waste collection system". In line with the action plan, a new division, called the Waste Management and Control Division (WMCD), has been established last year.

The Waste Management and Control Division is the special division for waste management and is in charge of waste management in the whole Honiara City instead of the EHD and Works Division. New staff members have been assigned to the WMCD and have commenced the activities of waste management since January of 2020.



*Solomon SWM Plan*



*New staff members of WMCD in the new office*



# Message from the Project Office

Hello everyone!

We are currently living under the hardest global circumstances affected by COVID-19, we must all be patient and follow the "Stay home" instructions to avoid the spread of the virus. However we have to prepare as much as possible for when we will be back to the office after the worldwide state of emergency is over. Let us pray that COVID-19 will be over soon.

**Miyata Nobuaki**



It is just over a year for me to work remotely from my New Zealand remote office base since April 2019. I am getting used to it and I am enjoying every moment. It is going to be the longest time for me to be at home with my kids while working. My advice for you is to work hard and enjoy the same time with your loved ones. Take care and stay safe.

**Faafetai Sagapolutele**

The way we live and work has been changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. I hope the situation will get better and work with you all as usual soon. Till then, I pray for everyone's safety.

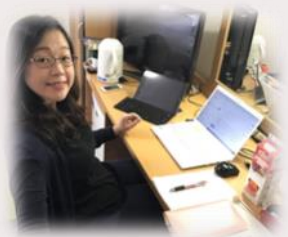
**Ayako Yoshida**



I have been working at a hotel for three weeks. Not too bad but I would rather go home and distract myself with my lovely cat.

Stay strong JPRISM team!

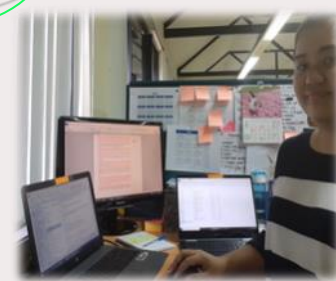
**Mayu Nomura**



A bit lonely at the office with the team away, but looking forward to seeing everyone again once the covid-19 crisis is over., JPRISM Team on standby for any assistance needed by our counterparts.

Cheers!

**Evangeline Potifara**



Hope you and your family are doing well during this difficult time. Things are tough. For me, remote work isn't easy to work efficiently due to the poor time management... But Let's all be the change. As long as we work together, we are going to get through this together quickly. Please stay safe and healthy everyone!

**Yoko Onuma**



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