

Disaster Waste Management Workshop in Samoa

Ms. Leanne Moananu, Communications Support Officer, SPREP

Developing of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline was the main purpose of a three-day regional workshop that was held in Apia from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th October 2018.

Participants from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu gathered at the Hotel Millenia conference room in Apia to discuss and contribute in the development of the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline, including a Simple Template for Countries to develop their Disaster Waste Management Plans to translate the guideline to actual actions on the round at the national and local level.

The workshop was jointly hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through its Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management, Phase II (J-PRISM II). Strengthening Pacific island countries' capacity to better manage disaster waste is one of four outputs of the JPRISM II project.

J-PRISM II is a five year multi-million dollar project funded by JICA in partnership with SPREP. It follows on from the success of the J-PRISM project which concluded in January 2016. The project's overall goal is the sustainable management of solid waste in the Pacific region. JICA's assistance to Pacific Island Countries in terms of solid waste management stems from the Government of Japan's commitment at the 2nd Japan



Pacific Leaders Meeting in 2000.

JICA's Resident Representative, Mr Toshiaki Tanaka, who gave the opening address, said, "I would like to strongly emphasize the importance of disaster waste management. When natural disasters strike, they generate lots of waste including toxic substances and materials as well as sharp items that directly pose health risks to the affected communities."

"The longer these wastes are left without any management measures, the higher the risk to the affected communities. It is therefore very crucial to incorporate waste management in our national disaster management plans for a holistic approach in dealing with natural disasters impacts."

Mr Afele Faiilagi, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Samoa, welcomed the participants to the beautiful islands of Samoa

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and spoke on the importance of the workshop to the Pacific region, especially heading into the cyclone season.

“Over the years, the Pacific region has shown great leadership in recovery operations and resilience in a number of natural hazards and disasters affecting our Region. These hazards range from cyclones, severe flooding, tsunami and earthquakes to name a few,” Mr Faiilagi said.

“While disasters themselves are episodic, the need for disaster waste management should be an ongoing priority, rather than just a subject during and after a disaster.”

“This workshop is a great opportunity for us all to be informed about the potential environmental damage of disasters and how to apply some of the relevant tools and approaches that we will learn to minimise the negative impacts of emergencies, not forgetting the importance of proper disaster waste management approach and disposal.”

J-PRISM II Chief Advisor, Mr. Nobuaki Miyata said that the gathering was a unique one as it may be the first time senior government officials from both National Disaster Management Authorities and Waste Management Agencies have come together.

“This is the beginning of a much needed partnership and collaboration between the two organisations in all Pacific island countries, for better responses to Disaster Waste Management in the future,” Mr. Miyata said.

Dr. Vicki Hall, Director of the Waste Management and Pollution Control programme of SPREP, noted that while considerable efforts have been focused on predicting and building resilience to climate change related disaster impacts, the management of waste after disaster events is still often uncoordinated.

“This calls for an integrated approach requiring the alignment of waste management with national disaster management strategies and some of the expected outcomes of the three-day workshop includes the production of a draft Disaster Waste Management guideline tailored specifically for Pacific island countries. Its purpose is to act as a guide on what to do during the different stages of a natural disaster – preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction.

It is expected that the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline will provide key information as a checklist to the countries on what measures and actions must be undertaken (MUST DO LIST) during the following key

1. Prevention and Preparedness – before the disaster strikes

2. Emergency Response – within the few hours and days after the disaster occurrence

3. Recovery – within weeks and months after the disaster occurrence

4. Reconstruction – within months or years after the disaster

This important information will help to guide the countries on their preparations in the future. The second consultation for this regional guideline will be done in Palau for the North Pacific Islands in February 2019. Any generated Draft Document will be circulated to other countries in the region outside of those covered under the JPRISM II project for their input before the finalization of the Guideline.

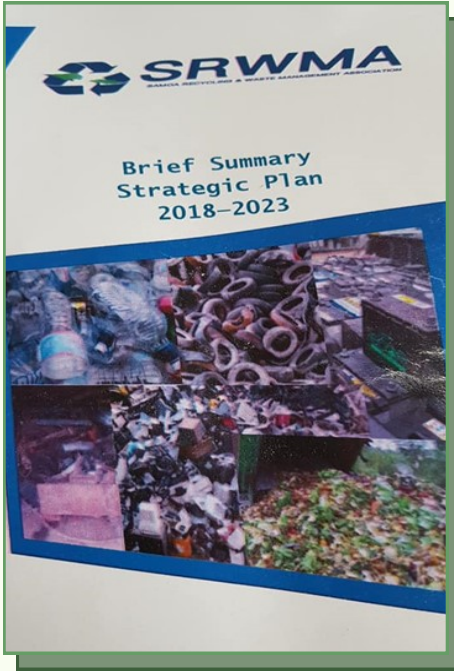
Lastly, improved communication and cooperation among the Disaster Management Agencies and Waste Management Agencies at the national level will be encouraged through the workshop’s discussions, where officials from the two different organisations will be able to share the challenges and issues involved in their areas of work and come up with appropriate measures to address these issues.



Launching of Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association Strategic Plan 2018—2023

Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistant Chief Advisor, J-PRISM II

J-PRISM has been assisting the Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) with the development of its Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 with the purpose of guiding the Association in the next five years period. The launching of the Strategic Plan was conducted during a Side Event of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) SAMOA Pathway Implementation Progress conducted in Samoa in October 29th 2018.



The President of SRWMA Ms. Marina Keil welcomed the important guests from the participants of the SIDS Meeting, as well as the invited guests from the government, donor agencies and other organizations. About 50 participants attended this one hour event. A brief presentation of the Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 was conducted by the Treasurer of SRWMA with support from the other executive members.

The Ambassador of the Japan Embassy in Samoa delivered the first of the two scheduled Congratulatory Statements. He congratulated the members for their effort in coming up with a Strategy within seven months of its association launching. He indicated the importance of having a plan to guide an association – “without a plan, dreams are just an illusion”.

The Director General of SPREP Mr Kosi Latu as the other chosen congratulatory statement, echoed and emphasized the need for Samoa and other Pacific Islands to introduce and implement Container Deposit Systems to promote the recovery, collection and recycling of many potential recyclable wastes like aluminium cans, etc.

The Prime Minister of Samoa Mr Tuilaepa Malielegaoi Sailele as the Patron of the Association delivered the Keynote Address. He stated that his eyes caught an important development that Samoa should have done many years ago to support waste management if he had known earlier.

He referred to the introduction of Waste Financing mechanisms like the Container Deposit Levy, Advanced Recycling Fee and other similar forms of system to support waste management. He indicated the support of his government to make this happen as soon as possible. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment was later instructed by the Prime Minister’s Office to begin discussion with the Attorney General’s Office for the development of the appropriate supporting legislations. This is one of the areas promoted under the Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023. A Donors Dialogue was conducted on the same week for SRWMA to present and discuss in details with donors its Strategy.



Association members with important guests holding copies of the Strategy



Prime Minister of Samoa and Japan Ambassador (from right)

Second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting in FSM

Mr. Hiroyuki Negoro, Project Coordinator / 3R+Return, JPRISM II

The Second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (JCC) for J-PRISM II Meeting and pre-JCC Meeting was held in 4 states in FSM, namely, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae in September and October, 2018.

During the JCC meeting and pre-JCC meeting, it was officially announced that the Governors in Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae endorsed the State Solid Waste Management Strategy (SSWMS).

Since expansion of waste collection is planned in the SSWMS in Yap state, approach for the pilot project and schedule were broadly shared among the participants of JCC meeting in Yap state on September 25th.

Unfortunately, JCC Meeting in Chuuk state was not held because of the incident of Air Niugini happened in the same morning of JCC on September 28th. Minutes of Meeting was signed based on the discussion in the pre-JCC meeting with key stake holders.

Inter-Municipal Collection System was proposed by the J-PRISM II team during the JCC meeting on the 4th October while J-PRISM II team and stakeholders discussed the improvement of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) during the JCC meeting in Pohnpei on the 11th of October 2018.

During the JCC and pre-JCC meeting, J-PRISM II team shared on how to compile good practices which is the common output for all the Project Design Matrix (PDM) in the four states of FSM. Template for compilation of good practices is provided to the key agencies in each states. The result of the compilation will be shared among the 4 states and national government during the second Solid Waste Management Workshop at the time of the third JCC meeting which will be held in the Palikir, the capital of FSM in 2019.



Group photo after JCC Meeting in Kosrae State



JCC in Yap State

Second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting for J-PRISM II

Mr. Tomoyuki Kogawa, Project Coordinator, JPRISMII

The Second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting for J-PRISM II was held at the VMGD/MCC Conference Room, Port Vila, Vanuatu on the 29th of October 2018, and was successfully closed. In Vanuatu, J-PRISM II is working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and municipal such as Port Vila Municipal Council (PVMC) and Lugainville Municipal Council (LMC) to achieve the country project purpose which is "A foundation of implementing and monitoring Solid Waste Management activities in line with the Vanuatu National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (NWMPCS) is built."



The main purpose of the 2nd JCC meeting was to agree on the addition of Output 2 in accordance with discussion. Based on the mutual consent of both Vanuatu side (DEPC and PVMC) and JICA, Solid waste management activities of PVMC are properly implemented and monitored in line with the Solid waste management Plan after the second Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting for J-PRISM II.

Collaboration between Ministry and Municipal Council to enforce ban on single use plastics in Vanuatu

Ms. Rikae Kodani, J-PRISM Expert

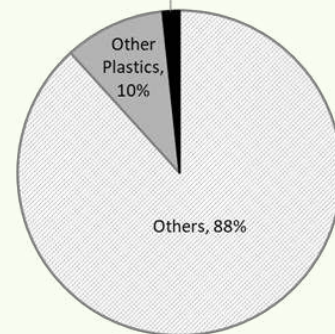
In Vanuatu, there are three orders made under the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014, which address three waste issues, including the implementation of a ban on certain non-biodegradable plastics, were enacted in July 2018.

In August 2018, a month after enactment, a waste audit survey was conducted by the Port Vila Municipal Council (PVMC) in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and J-PRISM II Project with the aim of following up on the enforcement of the plastic ban.

Results revealed that 12% of household waste dumped at Bouffa landfill is plastics, of which 2% are banned plastics such as single use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene takeaway boxes. These results have been utilized for compliance checks and to raise public awareness of the plastic ban.



Banned Plastics (single use plastic bags, takeaway boxes and plastic straws), 2%



Inauguration of Beverage Container Recycling in Majuro

Mr. Ichiro Kono, J-PRISM Expert

Big smile of Ms. President, Hilda Heine with her first 5-cent refund

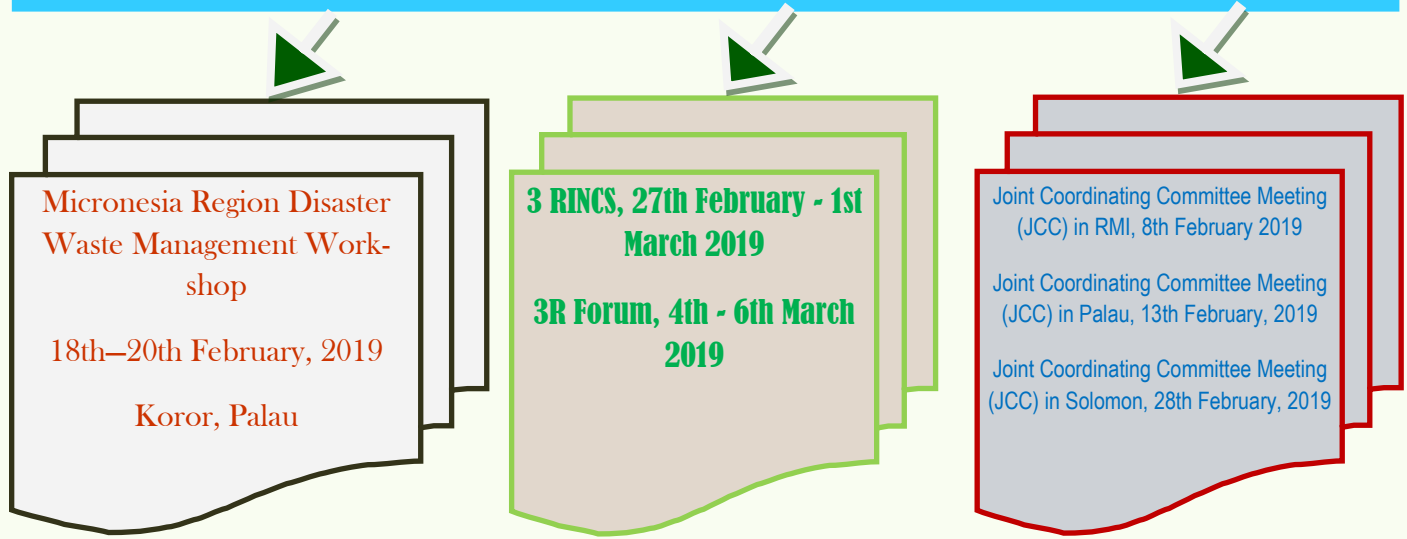


One of the biggest achievement in the Micronesia region is the inauguration of beverage container recycling in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI). The current administration, which considers environmental problems as an important political issue, has been keen to introduce beverage container recycling, often known as CDL. The National Legislature first passed a law in September 2016 to introduce CDL into the RMI, however it became apparent that the legislation required significant amendment before it would be implementable, where the support of J-PRISM II started. The supports include technical advice for amending the CDL law, drafting the CDL regulation, providing training to the officers of EPA and the custom office and staff of Majuro Atoll Waste Company, etc. Finally, the CDL started in August 2018. Introduction of a new system, CDL, definitely requires political momentum which successfully urge key stakeholders to be on board. Along with such a momentum, J-PRISM II could be responsive to the support needs of stakeholders. Political momentum as well as demand-responsive supports are indeed key for this success. The inauguration ceremony of beverage container recycling in Majuro attended by Prime Minister and relevant authorities.



Collected containers are pressed and piled for export

UPCOMING EVENTS!



FAREWELL

Message from Yasuko Onoue



Time flies very quickly and I can not believe it's already past 2 years!

Thank you very much for your kind support during this 2 years and I enjoyed every moment with you. Through JPRISM, I learned a lot about waste management and I was impressed learning your effort and how you have been tried for improvement of waste management in your country.

I wish you all the best and hope to see you again!

Yoroshiku onegai shimasu!

J-PRISM II BUZZ

For the Sustainable
Cooperation on Waste
Management among Pacific
Island Countries

J-PRISM II Project Office SPREP
Apia, Samoa



J-PRISM II

Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II

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J-PRISM II always stands beside you to promote and support PICs initiatives!