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POSSIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES BY THE MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MET) SECTOR IN JAPAN

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ABSTRACT

The Pacific island countries (hereinafter referred to as “PICs”) spread across a unique and diverse region composed of hundreds of islands, and dispersed around a sea area. Each of PICs face nearly similar difficulties as small and remote island economy with small in size with limited natural resources and large distances from major markets. Also, they are confronted with the effects of climate change and natural disasters. Furthermore, PICs are facing issues on the fishing resources conservation, the safety and security at sea and at port.

As it is important to develop the education and training in the field of maritime and fishery in PICs to overcome such issues, this study focused on the possibility to contribute by the education and training bodies related to maritime education and training, maritime security and fisheries in Japan. Such bodies have many achievements in human resource development, institution building and others in the Asian region; therefore they may possibly contribute to PICs at a similar level. It is considered effective to utilize such Japanese knowledge and capacity to support the effort by PICs. For these cooperation, the partner on the PICs side as a coordinator, the University of South Pacific, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, School of Marine Studies is one of the appropriate counterparts.

In order to cover the wide range of subjects, it is expected to cooperate the education and training bodies in Japan to realize “All Japan Approach”.

Keywords: Pacific island countries, Maritime Safety and Security, Technical Assistance, All Japan Approach

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1. INTRODUCTION

From the viewpoint that both Japan and PICs share the Pacific Ocean geographically, it can be said that we are neighboring countries. By establishing a sincere and strong ties among us, Japan and PICs have cooperated in the field of economic development, navigation safety, maritime security, etc. In order to further enhance this partnership with the PICs, Japan has been hosting Summit-level meeting named Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “PALM”) every three years since 1997 with participants from seventeen countries¹ including Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan). PALM 8 will be held in Iwaki, Fukushima on 18-19 May, 2018. Therefore, in this study, the possibility of contribution to the PICs by the maritime education and training (hereinafter referred to as “MET”) sector in Japan. In this study, we discussed the support that can be assumed to be possible for PICs related to maritime sector, focusing on (1) Seafarers’ Education and Training, (2) Search and Rescue (hereinafter referred to as “SAR”), (3) Maritime Security and (4) Port.

2. OUTLINE OF SUBJECTED COUNTRIES (PICs)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) which is the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “ODA”) has been continued to support the countries in **Table 1** below for many years. For this study, such countries (PICs) are selected from these countries and are categorized into three areas which are Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia as shown in **Fig.1** below.

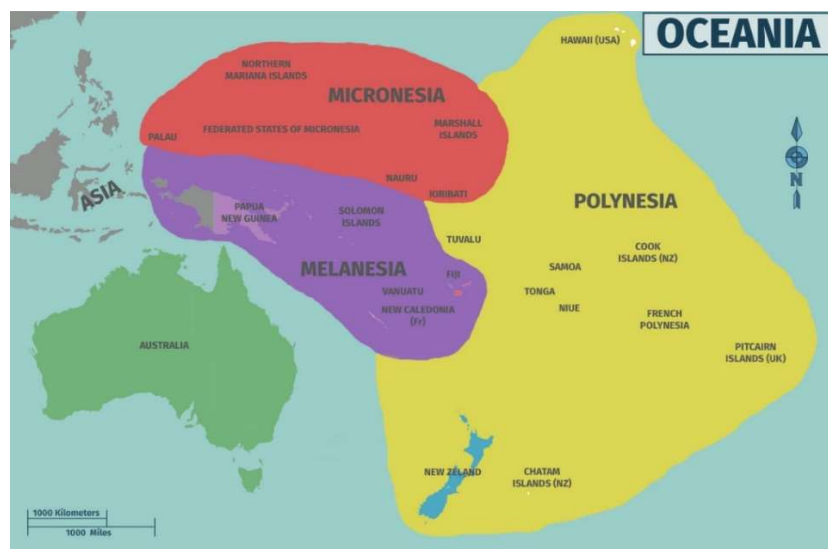


Fig.1² The traditional division of Oceania into regions

¹ Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

² The Dialogue, viewed 21 February 2018, < <http://www.the-dialogue.com/en/en20-oceania-flags-in-the-symbolism-of-the-island-nations/>>

PICs have a population of about 9 million people, spread across a unique and diverse region composed of hundreds of islands, and dispersed around a sea area of about 20 million square km. Papua New Guinea has a largest in the group, with a population of around 7 million and a land area of around 462 thousand square km. On the other hand, the smallest is Niue with a population of 1,618 people and a land area of 1,618 square km. Each of PICs face nearly similar difficulties as small and remote island economy with small in size with limited natural resources and large distances from major markets. Also, they are confronted with the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Table 1 Fundamental data of subjected countries

| Name of Country | Land Area (Sq km) *a | Water Area (Sq km) *a | Population (July 2017) *b | GDP per capita (USD), Year *b |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cook Islands | 237 | 1,830,000 | 9,290 | 12,300 (2010) |
| Fiji | 18,376 | 1,290,000 | 920,938 | 9,500 (2017) |
| Kiribati | 810 | 3,550,000 | 108,145 | 1,900 (2017) |
| Marshall Islands | 181 | 2,131,000 | 74,539 | 3,400 (2017) |
| Micronesia | 701 | 2,980,000 | 104,196 | 3,400 (2017) |
| Nauru | 21 | 320,000 | 11,359 | 12,200 (2017) |
| Niue | 259 | 390,000 | 1,618 | 5,800 (2003) |
| Palau | 488 | 629,000 | 21,431 | 16,700 (2017) |
| Papua New Guinea | 462,243 | 3,120,000 | 6,909,701 | 3,800 (2017) |
| Samoa | 2,935 | 129,000 | 200,108 | 5,700 (2017) |
| Solomon Islands | 28,370 | 1,340,000 | 647,581 | 2,100 (2017) |
| Tonga | 747 | 700,000 | 106,479 | 5,600 (2017) |
| Tuvalu | 26 | 900,000 | 11,052 | 3,800 (2017) |
| Vanuatu | 12,190 | 680,000 | 282,814 | 2,800 (2017) |
| Total | 527,584 | 19,989,000 | 9,409,251 | 89,000 |

(Source) *a: The World Factbook, CIA, *b: Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles, FAO

2.1 Primary International Organization related to PICs

The most important actor for the Pacific regional cooperation is the Pacific Islands Forum (hereinafter referred to as “PIF”)³ which plays a central role in the framework. The secretariat office is located in Suva, Fiji. The mission and goal of PIF are;

- (1) The mission is to ensure the effective implementation of the Leaders’ decisions for the benefit of the people of the Pacific,
- (2) The goals are to stimulate economic growth and enhance political governance and security for the region, through the provision of policy advice; and to strengthen regional cooperation and integration through coordinating, monitoring and evaluating implementation of Leaders’ decisions.

³ PIC about us, viewed 24 February 2018, <<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/about-us/>>

Also, there is the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (hereinafter referred to as “FFA”) as an organization dealing with comprehensive fishery issues in the region based in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The vision statement of FFA states “Our people will enjoy the highest levels of social and economic benefits through the sustainable use of our offshore fisheries resources”⁴. The tasks of FFA are as follows;

- (1) Manage the fishery to ensure use is sustainable and will provide tuna now and in the future,
- (2) Develop the fishery to harvest, process and market tuna to create jobs, income and a thriving industry,
- (3) Monitor, control and survey the fishery to stop illegal fishing and make sure fishing benefits goes towards fishers who follow the rules of development and management set by governments.

2.2 Main Industry and Critical Issue

The main industry of the PICs is fishing as is well known, according to the “Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles”⁵ of PICs, owing to the oceanic characteristics of the area. For example, the value of tuna exports from FFA members to 3 main markets (European Union, United States and Japan) is US\$ 358 million in 2017 (FFA Annual Report). Therefore, it is very important to manage sustainable fishery resources in the region. Recently, discussions continue on the critical situation and countermeasures that threaten the main industry in the area. One major international problem threatening the effectiveness of fishery resources management is the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (hereinafter referred to as “IUU”) fishing. The result of simulation to estimate the loss of tuna due to the IUU fishing by MRGA Asia Pacific⁶ shows that best estimate figure is US\$740.17 m. Such enormous loss has been impeding the economic development of PICs as developing countries.

2.3 SAR

Each PICs has its own method of conducting SAR; however some countries have very little SAR capability. In order to cooperate in the region and to support such countries without enough capability for SAR operation, the Pacific Search and Rescue (hereinafter referred to as “PACRSAR”) Steering Committee has been working as a collective SAR agencies from 5 principal nations, such as Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand and USA; then, outlined Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to focus on 4 priorities; such as SAR Governance, SAR Coordination, SAR Response and SAR Prevention.

2.4 Maritime Security

⁴ FFA website, viewed 28 January 2018 < <http://www.ffa.int/about> >

⁵ FAO website, viewed 28 January 2018 <<http://www.fao.org/fishery/countryprofiles/search/en>>

⁶ MRAG Asia Pacific is an independent fisheries and aquatic resource consulting company in Australia

The Heads of Coast Guards and Agencies Representing Coast Guard Functions in Asia, Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa and other regions in the world took part in the Coast Guard Global Summit held on 14 September 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. According to the Chairman's Summary of the Coast Guard Global Summit, the Heads exchanged information and discussed matters to enhance their cooperation. Especially, the Heads recognized the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a broad response to the challenges facing the world today, increasing world population, climate change, threats to the environment, overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices, threat to food security, social threats posed by organized criminals and violent extremists, and instability leading to mixed migration. For this Summit, 4 countries, such as Australia, Palau, Fiji and New Zealand were participated from Oceania region.

2.5 Port Management for Security

The gate of smuggling, illegal immigrants, human traffic or other illegal and criminal act is the port of PICs because there is no land border. In order to secure the port security to prevent such act in the region, the Oceania Customs Organization (hereinafter referred to as "OCO") Secretariat exist to help administrations align with customs international standards and best practice. Leading to greater economic prosperity and increased border security⁷. The OCO continues to work with key regional law enforcement agencies including the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference Secretariat, the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Secretariat, FFA, PIF, the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

2.6 Seafarers' Education and Training

High quality of Maritime Education and Training (hereinafter referred to as MET) may assure the quality of seafarers to contribute to the maritime security, SAR, fishing safety, etc. Needless to say, the officials and crews engaged in coast guard activities should be competent seamen to control and manage the maritime security and SAR operation. There are the Maritime Education Institute in the subjected countries to educate and train seafarers as shown in the Table 2 below. The course details of MET of them are not found from website information; however it is the presence of the University of South Pacific, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, School of Marine Studies (hereinafter referred to as "USP"). USP is jointly owned by the governments of 12 member countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa. The University has campuses in all member countries. The main campus, Laucala, is in Fiji; therefore USP has very efficient and effective network in the region. Although USP does not have any courses related to MET, it may possibly act as the information center of the region because some of the key areas of USP

⁷ OCO website, viewed 22 February 2018 < <http://www.ocosec.org/> >

are 1) Marine Affairs (Law of Sea, ocean Governance and policy, economics, management), 2) Sustainable fisheries (inshore, offshore, management) and 3) Coastal management (processes, issues, planning). Also, the School of Marine Studies provides support services to all marine-related activities at the University, including the operations of a research vessel and small boats.

Table 2 Maritime Education Institute in the subjected countries

| Name of Country | Name of Institute |
|------------------|---|
| Cook Islands | Cook Islands Maritime Training Centre ⁸ |
| Fiji | Fiji Maritime Academy ⁹ University of South Pacific, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, School of Marine Studies ¹⁰ |
| Kiribati | Marine Training Centre Trawa ¹¹ |
| Marshall Islands | Marshall Islands Fisheries and Nautical Training Centre ¹² |
| Micronesia | College of Micronesia ¹³ |
| Nauru | No Information |
| Niue | Ditto. |
| Palau | Ditto. |
| Papua New Guinea | Pacific Maritime Training College ¹⁴ |
| Samoa | National University of Samoa, School of Maritime Training ¹⁵ |
| Solomon Islands | Solomon Islands National University, School of Technology and Maritime Studies ¹⁶ |
| Tonga | Tonga Maritime Polytechnical Institute ¹⁷ |
| Tuvalu | Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute ¹⁸ |
| Vanuatu | Vanuatu Maritime College ¹⁹ |

3. CONTRIBUTION POSSIBILITY

In Japan, there are 3 types of education and training bodies related to MET, maritime security and fisheries, such as Kobe University, Tokyo University of Marine Science, Technology (hereinafter referred to as “TUMSAT”), Marine Technical College and a number of National Colleges of Maritime Technology in MET, the Japan Coast Guard

⁸ URL: <http://www.seafolks.com/m/institutes/view/Cook-Islands-Maritime-Training-Centre>

⁹ URL: <http://www.fnu.ac.fj/maritime/>

¹⁰ URL: <https://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=4248>

¹¹ URL: <http://www.mtc-tarawa.edu.ki/>

¹² URL: <https://crewtraffic.com/49106-marshall-islands-fisheries-nautical-training-centre.html>

¹³ URL: <http://www.comfsm.fm/>

¹⁴ URL: <https://www.pacificmaritimetrainingcollege.com/>

¹⁵ URL: <https://www.nus.edu.ws/s/index.php/faculty-and-centres/school-of-maritime>

¹⁶ URL: <http://www.sinu.edu.sb/Campus.html>

¹⁷ URL: <http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=UNEVOC+Network+-+Centre&id=383>

¹⁸ URL: <https://www.facebook.com/Tuvalu-Maritime-Training-Institute-246161108802561/>

¹⁹ URL: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/X7308E/x7308e1n.htm>

(hereinafter referred to as “JCG”) Academy and College in maritime security, and the National Fisheries University and TUMSAT in fisheries. Such universities and colleges have both abilities on academic fields, such as analysis and research, and practical aspect, such as the laboratory exercise and on-board training on the training ship.

Taking advantage of such characteristics of education and training bodies in Japan, the following contributions are conceivable;

- (1) Current situation analysis: Although various relevant agencies/organizations in the area that share a wide ocean have been analyzing the current situation related to the “Safety and Security at Sea” individually, it is necessary to comprehensively organize relevant information, create a database for response planning, implementation, evaluation, and share it with stakeholders. The said education and training bodies mentioned above are good at such work. Besides, USP is jointly owned by the governments of 12 countries in the region; therefore the Japanese and PICs network may work in cooperation. Through this cooperative work, it will be effective to carry out the current situation analysis.
- (2) Response Planning: There are restrictions on budget, human resources and timing for response planning based on the result of current situation analysis; therefore, the working group should be organized to map out relevant, effective, efficient, impactful and sustainable response plan with possible responsible officials. It is necessary to exchange information/opinions and consult with other donors and related international organizations as necessary in order to proceed this planning in a good manner.
- (3) Technical Assistance Implementation at sites in the region and in Japan: One of the said education and training bodies and USP may represent and coordinate whole aspect of technical assistance on this matter to work with JICA, the other bodies and stakeholders.
- (4) Evaluation of Response Planning and Technical Assistance: In order to grasp the relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the technical assistance, the evaluation should be made periodically by comparison of input and output to adjust the implementation of technical assistance.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, addressing the ocean related urgent issues of PICs is very important for Japan that shares the Pacific Ocean. Due to the characteristic that PICs are scattered in a very wide sea area, it depends a lot on the ocean while at the same time has many difficulties in securing its maritime safety and security. In order to overcome these difficulties, PICs themselves and neighboring developed countries continue to make effort. As for the education and training bodies in Japan, it is considered effective to utilize knowledge and capacity to support these effort. At the same time, the education and training bodies in Japan may expand the range of research and education. The “All Japan Approach” (Masaya O., (2014)) is necessary to cover such a wide range of tasks.

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