**REGULAR PROJECTS**

**Curriculum Reform for the Pondoks in Southeast Asia**

- **Implementing Agency:** Preparatory Islamic School (Thailand)
- **Project Classification:** Grant
- **Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009:** ¥3,941,951
- **Implementation Year:** Final year of 3-year project

Objective: To reform the Pondoks curriculum to promote religious studies and intellectual development.

**Civil Society Watch: Toward the Establishment of an Enabled Environment to Promote Civil Society**

- **Implementing Agency:** CVCWIS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation) (South Africa)
- **Project Classification:** Grant
- **Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009:** ¥6,734,539
- **Implementation Year:** Final year of 3-year project

Objective: To promote civil society by supporting civil society organizations in the Pacific region.

**Competition and Implementation of an “Early Warning System” to Revitalize and Deregulate Nonprofit Activities**

- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Agriculture (U.S.A.)
- **Project Classification:** Grant
- **Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009:** ¥7,549,927
- **Implementation Year:** Final year of 3-year project

Objective: To promote an early warning system for nonprofit activities in the Pacific region.

**User Friendly Search Site Created for Vietnamese Users**

This project was implemented in Vietnam from fiscal 2007–09 to create a user-friendly search site for the public use of patents, in cooperation with the non-profit grantee Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPPA) headquartered at the University of California, Davis. Four workshops were held in Vietnam on the theme of intellectual property management in the fields of agriculture and biological engineering. The project created a portal site in the Vietnamese language, provided a search site for US patents as well as teaching materials and workshop materials on intellectual property management, introduced a tool that would automatically translate search results from Vietnamese to English, and developed a user-friendly interface for this functionality.

**Curriculum Reform Aimed at the Integration of Islamic and General Education**

Islamic boarding schools, which began attracting attention with the rise of the Taliban, have long had a strong influence in the global Muslim community, with some receiving criticism for sowing the seeds of violent extremism. For this reason, there is an international consensus around the idea that providing a balanced education that includes both religious and scientific values is essential to the stability and sustainable development of the nations and regions with Muslim populations.

The project was featured in Vietnamese TV and newspaper reports, helping to raise awareness of the work being done, and increasing recognition of its positive outcomes. Starting next fiscal year, the grantee will receive ongoing support from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

**Third Period Guidelines Developed, New Project Targets Maritime Safety in Three Micronesian Nations**

What images spring to mind when you think of the Pacific Islands? Newspaper articles and television programs tend to feature images of stunning coral reefs or focus on how climate change is resulting in the submersion of island nations. What we rarely see, however, are stories on the Pacific Islands that tie this region to Japan in the broader context of the relationship between the countries.

This broader context is also often lacking in initiatives put forward by the Japanese government. While it is true that Japan hosts a summit of leaders from the Pacific Islands every three years, the reality is that these nations account for no more than 1% of overall Japanese ODA. This lack of interest can be attributed partially to the low populations of Pacific Island nations and their small markets. It can also be partially explained by geographical factors—the region is made up of small, scattered islands, making access from a large consumer market inconvenient.

However, the Pacific Islands’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is twice the size of China, and Japan is greatly dependent on the region’s abundant marine and fishing resources. Eighty percent of the tuna consumed in Japan, for example, is fished in these waters. Japan also has historical ties to the Micronesia region, having governed there for more than 20 years in the first half of the 20th century. More recently, the region has gained attention in Japan for its importance in maritime security issues.

As the situation changes and new circumstances arise, it is becoming more urgent to make the Pacific Islands part of Japan’s maritime strategies for the 21st century. It is in this context that SPINF plays an extremely important role in exploring the need for support in areas not covered by ODA or the business sector.

Promoting Multilateral Public-Private Partnership to Address Maritime Safety in Micronesia

At six million square kilometers, the territorial waters of the three Micronesian nations are vast. Further enhancement of safety capacity in the region is an issue that cannot be addressed without a partnership linking the three island nations, Japan, the US, Australia, and other interested countries. Work is underway to facilitate such a partnership.

The project supports regular meetings of representatives of Micronesia, Japan, the US, and Australia to ensure greater maritime safety in Micronesia. These meetings are held to negotiate and coordinate support measures, with a view to drawing up a list of final measures to be presented to the governments of the three nations of Micronesia.

Delegations were sent to the US (Washington DC), Australia (Canberra), and the three Micronesian nations (Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau) between November 2009 and January 2010. Representatives met with agencies responsible for maritime safety to coordinate matters for a multilateral meeting of governments and non-governmental organizations.

SPF and The Nippon Foundation co-hosted the “Meeting of Six Nations and Two Non-Governmental Organizations for Strengthening Marine Surveillance Capacity in the Micronesia Region” on March 2, 2010 in Tokyo.

In addition to the representatives of SPF and The Nippon Foundation, the meeting was attended by representatives of the three Micronesian nations, the US State Department, the US Coast Guard, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Japan Coast Guard, as well as an observer from New Zealand.

Discussions focused on the feasibility of enacting support measures to strengthen maritime surveillance capacity in Micronesian waters. Representatives agreed to follow up with a working group to meet in Guam in June 2010, as well as a meeting of governments and NGOs in Palau during the fourth quarter of 2010 to finalize support measure recommendations. The meeting concluded with the release of a Co-Chairperson’s Summary Statement.

Note from the Program Officer

Micronesian delegation at the meeting.

Maloelap Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Mafacu Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
Support and Network Building for Marine Environment and Foreign Exchange

In preparation for the Fifth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) Summit, SPF held a meeting to discuss issues related to the Pacific Island marine environment and exchange students from this region staying in Japan. The meeting concluded with a list of recommendations and suggestions for specific support measures designed to promote the construction and coordination of a network for Pacific Islanders studying in Japan.

This project aimed to build a network of students from the Pacific Islands staying in Japan, and to draft recommendations for the PALM Summit, by hosting a series of meetings ahead of the Summit. These meetings addressed issues related to the Pacific Islands and to Pacific Islanders studying in Japan.

On May 14, 2009, SPF hosted the Symposium on Marine Pollution and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Islands. Experts on environmental issues were invited from six countries—Cook Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Samoa. The meeting concluded with a list of recommendations for improving the marine environment in the region.

SPF also hosted the Island Students Assembly in Tokyo on May 20, 2009. This international symposium highlighted the importance of a support system and the need for a stronger network for Pacific Islanders studying in Japan and facing cross-cultural differences. Assembly delegates drafted a list of ten recommendations on ways to facilitate these goals.

Three representatives from the Island Students Assembly were accredited to attend the PALM Summit, where they presented the proposals adopted at the Assembly to delegations from each of the Pacific Island nations. The leaders of these countries commended SPF for hosting the Island Students Assembly and helping the exchange students to network, among other activities.

List of Recommendations Includes Support System and Network for Exchange Students

Recent Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Network for Exchange Students</td>
<td>¥7,265,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Capacity-Building for NPO Evaluation in China</td>
<td>¥2,000,000</td>
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Leadership Training, Network Building, and Security Exchanges Among the Diverse Topics Addressed

SJCFF conducts a wide range of activities focusing on five main areas—support for Chinese students studying Japanese in China, field-specific training for leaders in both countries, the promotion of social reform in China, the development of an intellectual network between Japan and China, and furthering exchanges in the field of security.

2009 Program Agenda

1. Foster room 21st-Century Japan-China Relations
   - Sasakawa Scholarship System for Chinese Students Studying Japanese: Phase III
   - Development of Materials to Teach the Japanese Language
   - Healthy Community Construction Project
   - Creating an Emergency Manual for Local Governments in Sichuan Prefecture

2. Deepening Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century
   - General Overview of Japan-China Exchange and Dialogue on Security
   - Program for Promoting Japan-China Exchange in the Field of Security: Phase II
   - Book Translation and Publication Project for Understanding Contemporary Japan
   - Facilitating Dialogue between Future Leaders
   - Chinese Young Journalist Exchange Program

3. Activities to Promote Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century
   - Japan-China Young Historians Conference: Phase II
   - Forty Years of Japan-China Relations in Review

4. Activities to Advance the Fund’s International Role
   - Expanding the Public Relations Activities of the Japan-China Friendship Fund
   - Capacity-Building for NPO Evaluation in China