

Recommendation toward the success of PALM8 (Provisional translation)

Thirty years have already passed since the Pacific Island Nations Conference held by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and twenty one years since the first PALM summit held by the Government of Japan.

Recently, international society recognizes the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as an influential bloc based on their human resources. It is especially pronounced in fisheries and climate change relations. In the changing global circumstances, as a like-minded maritime nation, Japan should recognize that we are in a time where we must work with PICs to tackle national, regional and global issues by deepening our relations of trust.

The SPF, however, has found that there are growing expectations for frank dialogues with Japan and for Japan to understand changes in PICs based on consultations and opinion exchanges with government officials and intellectuals in PICs and officials of regional and sub-regional organizations. In September, 2016, the SPF started the Cutting Edge Project to build relationships between Japan and PICs for new era through track 1.5 and/or 2 diplomacy.

Under the project, the SPF held a closed-roundtable discussion, "Finding gaps of recognition on PALM7 declaration," in June, 2017, with 7 PIC embassies and intellectuals in Japan and PICs, as well as an open symposium "Toward the Success of PALM8" with 6 PIC embassies, government officials from 3 PICs and 3 regional organizations in January, 2018.

The SPF composed this recommendation based on a series of discussions focusing on five critical areas: Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Oceans and Seas, Economic Relations, and Evolution of PALM Process. Generally, it is supported by the Embassies of the Republic of Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga in Japan, Foreign Ministries of Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands, as well as the South Pacific Tourism Organization, Pacific Power Association and Melanesian Spearhead Group.

We hereby call on the Government of Japan to strengthen the relationships with the Pacific Island Countries as like-minded maritime nations, referring the recommendation on the occasion of PALM8 to be held in May, 2018.

In addition, we would like to inform you that the SPF continues consultations with the above-mentioned Embassies, Foreign Ministries of PICs, regional and sub-regional organizations, intellectuals in PICs regarding a practical approach to achieving PALM Declaration goals by making the PALM process inclusive. This would involve accepting representatives from CROP agencies and other regional organizations and sub-regional organizations, such as MSG, as observers.

Recommendation 1 Climate Change

On the premise of PICs' self-reliant efforts, the Government of Japan should:

- (1) Assist PICs access to climate change finance, such as GCF and others, and fully utilize the Pacific Climate Change Center to be established at SPREP in Apia, Samoa
- (2) Encourage transmission of information regarding "Threats facing PICs," such as facts about natural disasters caused by Climate Change.
- (3) Encourage the sharing of know-how regarding Japan's NGOs based on their activities during disasters and aftermaths to PICs' NGOs.

Recommendation 2: Sustainable Development

The Government of Japan should:

- (1) Create legal procedures to smoothly accept labor from PICs.
- (2) Support women and youths to achieve skills that encourage their participation in economic activities.
- (3) Support mutual cooperation among PICs in the Education, Tourism, Maintenance of infrastructure and Economic Sectors.
- (4) Cooperate with PICs to realize sustainable tourism in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) in marine eco-tourism and the like, as well as assist PICs in collecting and monitoring sustainable tourism development data.
- (5) Cooperate with PICs to realize sustainable electricity infrastructure in partnership with the Pacific Power Association (PPA).

Recommendation 3: Oceans and Seas

The Government of Japan should:

- (1) Facilitate dialogue and cooperation with PICs on the conservation, utilization and management of the marine environment to solve issues by sharing the current status of their marine environment and recognition of issues.
- (2) Facilitate dialogue and cooperation on fisheries with PICs by considering the current status of marine resources and their management and economic impact.
- (3) Facilitate cooperation with PICs to enhance their capability in maritime security.

Recommendation 4: Economic Relations

On the premise of PICs' self-reliant efforts, the Government of Japan should:

- (1) Analyze reasons behind barriers to import PIC products and work on solving these issues with PICs in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Centre.
- (2) Assist PICs' tourism industry private sector to implement marketing activities to promote their products to the Japanese market.
- (3) Facilitate Japanese SMEs' investments in PICs by creating the proper business environment in PICs, such as investment protection agreements.
- (4) Facilitate Japanese SMEs' investments in PICs by providing information on the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and Melanesian Spearhead Group Free Trade Agreement (MSGFTA) in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Centre.

Recommendation 5: Evolution of PALM Process

The Government of Japan should:

- (1) Develop a detailed Action and Implementation Plan to achieve PALM Declaration goals.
- (2) Establish a focal point within the Government of Japan, for instance PALM Desk for proper follow-ups of PALM Declaration goals.

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The Sasakawa Peace Foundation