

Joint Press Release

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Palau
The Nippon Foundation
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Strengthening Maritime Surveillance Capacity in the Micronesia Region Six Nations and Two Non-governmental Organizations Meet in Palau; Agreement Reached on Support Measures

November 11, 2010

Koror, Republic of Palau - At the "Third Meeting of Six Nations and Two Non-governmental Organizations for Strengthening Maritime Surveillance Capacity in the Micronesia Region" hosted by The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, a final agreement on Support Measures for the Micronesia region was reached. Details are provided in the Summary Record of Discussion, which is attached in this document.

H.E. Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, officially opened the conference, which was attended by Hon. Francis I. Itimai, Secretary of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia; Hon. Brenson S. Wase, Minister of Justice of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Hon. John C. Gibbons, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Palau, Nicholas Coppel, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Regional & New Zealand Branch Administration Department, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia; Yuichi Motoyama, Director, Coast Guard International Relations, Japan Coast Guard; H.E. Helen Reed-Rowe, US Ambassador designated to the Republic of Palau; Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation; and Jiro Hanyu, Chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

The Support Measures will include the following: establishment of Coordination Center for Micronesian Region (CCMR), provision of small craft and fuel/maintenance for their operation, construction of boat ramp(s), provision of a tractor, trailer, and emergency power generator, provision of HF/VHF radios, conducting feasibility study and environmental impact assessment toward construction of fuel tank, and other items.

The Record of Discussion further describes that the Support Measures would be implemented from April 2011, after the agreements between the participants concerned. The participants also agreed to hold meetings to consult on the efficient implementation of the Support Measures on as-needed basis.

The three Micronesian Nations have waters and exclusive economic zones spanning about 6 million km², an area that is the third largest in the world, after the waters of the US and Australia. However, compared to Micronesia's vast expanse of water, the three nations have a combined population of just 180,000, and a land area of just 1,400 km². Maritime surveillance cannot be adequately conducted without a partnership arrangement linking the three island nations and the cooperation of neighboring countries. From May 2008, The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducted a feasibility study in the region and carried out discussions with nearby countries.

In the region, this current initiative to strengthen maritime surveillance capacity is recognized as a landmark case of private sector-led public-private partnership (PPP).

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