

Comments for “THE OKINAWA INITIATIVE: REGIONAL (DEVELOPMENT) STRATEGY FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS AND SAFER PACIFIC”

31 March 2003

Both the steering committee of the Sasakawa Pacific Islands Nations Fund* and the Pacific Islands Digital Opportunity Research Committee** (a project arising from the former Fund) would like to comment on following three points from the draft of “ THE OKINAWA INITIATIVE: REGIONAL (DEVELOPMENT) STRATEGY FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS AND SAFER PACIFIC”

a. Within the Joint Action Plan mentioned in paragraph 7 of the declaration and outlined in more detail in the attachment, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) should apply to all issues and not only to the specific issues such as Human Security, Human Resource Development and Health, but also Environment, Trade and Economics. Find below three examples which highlight this point:

i. The importance of telecommunications should be made up front in paragraph 7 of the declaration. For instance, it could say something about addressing issues of the digital divide and promoting the use of ICT in strategies for social and economic development. It may also be consistent/logical to make reference to the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit and recommendations that emerged from Japan's leadership during that meeting, i.e. DOT Force and the various international initiatives that followed.

ii. In the Joint Action Plan, attachment paragraph 6, change "telecommunications network" to "communications networks". 'Communications networks' is more inclusive, allowing other networks such as community radio to be included.

iii. In the Joint Action Plan, attachment paragraph 22, in respect to the section on Higher Education, point 2, add on to the end of “ICT-based projects including the bilateral level” the following “with respect regional, sub regional and

international cooperation”. This makes better sense as a key issue here is the nature of ICT for education which involves the sharing and exchange of information beyond the nation.

b. This draft does not mention or discuss the important topics of indigenous culture and tradition, in other words the “Pacific Way” or “Island Way”. This is an important omission. It is crucial that any action plans concerning the Pacific Island Nations must ensure the protection of traditional cultural and traditional beliefs.

c. While this Declaration has the title of “The Okinawa Initiative”, Okinawa is not really quoted in this draft except in the Joint Action Plan, attachment, paragraph 14. Okinawa should be highlighted more. For instance, in the discussion at the Okinawa Symposium on 18 March 2003 in Naha, it was posited that Okinawa’s experiences should be shared with Pacific Islands, such as human security (I) education (III), health (IV), and trade and economics (V) not only Environment(II). Rather than just have Okinawa Initiative remembered as the place where this meeting was held, have Okinawa remembered as a place from which the Pacific Island Nations can share with.

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If you have any questions on these comments, please contact the following;

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参考ウェブ

<http://www.infojapan.org/region/asia-paci/spf/palm2003/outcome-2.html>

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<http://www.infojapan.org/region/asia-paci/spf/palm2003/outcome-3.html>

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