

Public Comments for Lake-Toya G8 Summit
(Final Draft June 5, 2008)

Dear Chairman,

The Japanese ODA has played a significant role for the development of the Pacific Islands, although the ratio of total ODA support towards this area is relatively small.

We continue to take a leadership role in maintaining the prosperity and peace of this region in collaboration with such as Australia, New Zealand and U.S., especially since 1997 when our Government started the triennial Pacific Islands leaders summit.

We strongly note that our government has focused on climate change, which is a critical issue for the Pacific Islands, as the main agenda for the upcoming G8 summit. Also we strongly note that our government has decided to invite to the outreach session of the summit the Prime Minister of Australia who has common interests along with us in the region.

Next year in 2009 at the 5th Pacific Leaders Summit we will re-examine what we can do for our Pacific neighbours who are losing land as a result of climatic change and rising sea levels.

We would like to suggest that our government place special focus on the Pacific Islands issues at the G8 summit. Japan, as a maritime nation the same as the Pacific islands, has a responsibility to their security, as our security.

There are four possible agendas for discussion:

1. Enhance the decrease of Co2 Emission for the international society

As Japan is taking the leadership role for the Kyoto protocol, we need to continue our encouragement for respective countries to keep up their efforts to reduce their Co2 emission within their specific measures. We need to also make an effort to understand the current situation of Pacific Islands and their attempts to conform with the Kyoto protocol, and in this respect, we should promote collaboration with new Australian Government who have signed and promotes the Kyoto Protocol.

2. Immediate examination of the “Adaptation”

At COP13 held in 2007, “adaptation” was identified as the most important issue. Yet climate change is already having an effect on the life of Pacific Islands people. Adaptation for the climatic change is critical for many Pacific peoples survival. However these schemes may result in other problems, so we need to immediately discuss and examine this.

Again the new Australian government has just announced 150 million Australian dollars over the next three years to help Pacific Islanders to adapt to climatic change. We should work with them and develop collaboration through the schemes of “Partnership” which was endorsed during the 4th Pacific Islands leaders summit in Okinawa 2006.

3. Strengthen Human Resource Development

H.E. Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati stressed the importance of Pacific Islands People taking the initiative to decide their own future.

To support his position we believe that education is crucial, especially in the Pacific Islands where there is limited access to information and human capacity. Distance Education, which the Japanese government has been taking the initiative in promoting, should be discussed for HRD for this purpose.

4. Recognition and support for the “Micronesian Challenge”

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republics of Palau, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands, which share a huge EEZ with Japan, are promoting the “Micronesian Challenge” which aims to set a

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protected area as a sanctuary, 30% of coast and 20% of interior of each economy, as a regional goal.

The EU, U.S., Australia and others have already started to support these activities, but not yet Japan. There is a strong expectation to Japan from the Micronesian region, our neighbors.

Sincerely,

5th June 2008

The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation