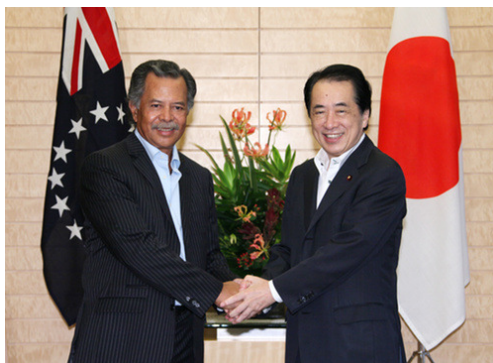


**Meeting between Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, and
Hon Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands**

June 20, 2011



Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, held a meeting with Hon Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands on 16 June 2011. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

1 At the start of the meeting Prime Minister Kan welcomed Prime Minister Puna and stated that he was pleased to see the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Cook Islands on 16 June 2011, and that he was privileged to receive Prime Minister Puna on his first official visit to Japan as Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. In response, Prime Minister Puna expressed his gratitude for the decision of the government of Japan in March for the recognition of the Cook Islands as an independent state, and reiterated his condolences and solidarity for the people of Japan on the occasion of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

2 Prime Minister Kan expressed his intention to build on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries to further the bilateral relations through various means such as the promotion of people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Puna shared the desire with Prime Minister Kan for deepening bilateral relations and expressed his strong support for Japan's position on climate change issues. Prime Minister Puna also expressed his gratitude for Japan's support for a solar energy project by the PEC fund through the PIF secretariat.

3 The two leaders agreed that they would strengthen cooperation in the international arena, including the 6th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM6) to be held in May 2012.

4 Prime Minister Kan then expressed his wishes that the cultivation of black pearls, which is a very important industry for the Cook Islands, would be a bond between the two countries.