

Country Assistance Policy for The Independent State of Samoa

April 2012

1. Relevance of Assistance

Samoa's development faces challenges, such as remoteness (distance from international markets) and size (limited domestic market). Samoa's economic development has focused on tourism, agriculture, forestry and fisheries and Samoa has received development assistance from various countries including Australia and New Zealand. However in 2008 Samoa's economy deteriorated due to a downturn in manufacturing and reduced remittances attributed to the global financial crisis and.

The 2009 Samoa Earthquake and Tsunami caused significant damage and post disaster reconstruction remains an upcoming challenge. While Samoa has set environment protection as a targeted area in its development policies, the policies targeting social and economic development will also be required to be consistent with conservation efforts to prevent the destruction and deterioration of forests from overexploitation, and a decrease in indigenous species due to a loss of biodiversity along with increased waste disposal problems.

Since independence, Samoa has consistently maintained good bilateral relations with Japan and has supported Japan in many international arenas. Therefore, it is critical that Japan remains committed to providing continued assistance and support to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Japan and Samoa and to encourage self-reliant and sustainable development in Samoa.

2. Basic Policy of Assistance (Long-term Goal): To achieve sustainable and environment-friendly economic growth and improvements in living standards.

As well as providing assistance focused on conservation and actions against climate change based on Strategy for the Development of Samoa and the policies of Japan's Development Assistance identified at the Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting which has been held triennially since 1997, Japan also promotes strengthening sustainable economic infrastructure through improvements in basic social services and infrastructure.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Environment/Climate Change

The provision of assistance for the development of waste disposal management and ecosystem conservation measures in order to accommodate issues caused by deterioration in nature and human life. Disaster prevention and climate change mitigation are also target areas in order to reduce the impact of natural disasters such as cyclones.

(2) Reduce vulnerability

The provision of assistance to improve health standards including strengthening services for the prevention of infectious disease such as support to eliminate Filariasis by 2020.

Assistance has been provided to improve teachers' skills along with contributing to enhancing the fundamental scholastic ability utilising volunteers.

Further assistance including provision of improved and well-maintained economic infrastructure such as upgraded maritime and power supply facilities to secure economic activity and lifeline in Samoa.

Japan also provides support to develop human resources through capacity building for sectors which will be key industries such as manufacturing and agriculture/forestry/fisheries and maintenance infrastructure management to achieve self-reliant and sustainable development of Samoa.

4. Points to be considered

(1) Japan continues to communicate and exchange views with major partner countries such as Australia, New Zealand along with other development partner countries in order to minimise duplication in development assistance and to promote effective and efficient synergistic assistance.

(2) This assistance policy is subject to revision to ensure alignment with the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2013-2018 due in 2013.

Annex: Rolling Plan