

Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Independent State of Samoa

September 2024

1. Objectives of Japan's Development Cooperation with Samoa

(1) Samoa is a Polynesian nation with a proud cultural heritage spanning over 3,000 years. As host to regional offices of several international organizations, Samoa plays an influential role within the Polynesian region. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan in 1973, Samoa has consistently supported Japan's position in the international community and supported Japanese candidates in elections for international organizations, thereby fostering a strong bilateral relationship.

(2) Samoa's economy has developed through agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism, and has benefited from the support of international organizations and countries such as New Zealand and Australia, as well as remittances from Samoans living overseas. However, like other Pacific Island countries, Samoa faces significant development challenges due to its small domestic market, geographical remoteness from international markets, and vulnerability to natural disasters. In recent years, the emigration of skilled labor through overseas employment schemes has increased and is a growing challenge. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 dealt a devastating blow to the tourism sector, one of the country's key industries, due to the closure of national borders.

To achieve sustainable growth and build a resilient economy and society, Samoa must address a wide range of challenges, including vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, and pursue economic and social development that aligns with or supports environmental conservation.

(3) In its national development strategy, the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22-2025/26, the Government of Samoa has set out a vision to promote "social harmony, safety, and freedom" centered on human development. It has identified five strategic outcomes: (i) improved social development; (ii) a diversified and sustainable economy; (iii) security and trusted governance; (iv) environmental conservation and climate change response; and (v) structured public works and infrastructure. Samoa is striving to achieve growth that benefits all citizens through these strategic pillars.

(4) Given the geopolitical importance of Samoa and the enduring friendly bilateral relations and constructive cooperation with Japan in the international arena since the establishment of diplomatic relations, supporting Samoa's efforts to address its challenges and promote sustainable economic development will be highly beneficial. It will deepen bilateral relations, strengthen collaboration with Pacific Island countries, and contribute to advancing the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), in line

with the Leaders' Declaration and Joint Action Plan adopted at the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10).

2. Basic Policy of Japanese ODA: Building a Sustainable and Resilient Economy and Society

In line with the Leaders' Declaration and the Joint Action Plan adopted at PALM10, Japan will support the building of a sustainable and resilient economy and society, thereby contributing to Samoa's goal of achieving growth that benefits all its people as outlined in its National Development Strategy.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Strengthening the Foundations for Climate-Resilient Economic Growth and Enhancing Industrial Productivity

To support the realization of sustainable economic growth, Japan will work together to enhance connectivity and operations and maintenance capacity through the development of high-quality infrastructure, including ports, roads, electricity, and water supply systems. Japan will also assist in improving the productivity of key industries such as fisheries and agriculture. In addition, Japan will support the development of resilient infrastructure against natural disasters, such as intensified cyclones, and will continue to support Samoa's capacity to address climate change issues through initiatives such as the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

(2) Promoting the Development of a Resilient and Inclusive Society through People-Centered Development

Japan will contribute to the development of a resilient and inclusive society through people-centred development by strengthening the health service system, including the development of human resources for health, and supporting the prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases. Japan will also promote investment in people by improving the quality of and access to education through initiatives such as the construction of schools and the improvement of learning environments under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). Moreover, Japan will cooperate in addressing environmental issues, including the protection of the marine environment.

4. Points to be considered

(1) In addressing climate change, Japan will take into account the activities of regional organizations such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Secretariat of

the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), as well as other donors. Japan will also use the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) as a co-creation hub to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration, including the overseas expansion of private sector companies.

(2) To enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation, including technical cooperation through the dispatch of experts and scholarship programs, Japan will conduct thorough consultations with the Government of Samoa on preparatory arrangements and the appropriate selection of participants.

(3) Japan will ensure consistency with regional frameworks such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent endorsed at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting, as well as the Leaders' Declaration and Joint Action Plan of PALM10, and will take into account the perspective of promoting a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Annex: Rolling Plan