SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

"At the Frontline of Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Action in the Pacific"

17-19 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon-Vanuatu Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda Item 24.2: Japan's Cooperation in the Pacific Island Countries

Purpose:

1. To provide information and updates on cooperation of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
2. To share ideas with PMC participants about the significance and lessons learned of regional cooperation in the Pacific.

Background:

Japan's Cooperation with PMC members started in 1970's and continues as follows. In our project, we emphasize sustainability and have worked to develop human resources and strengthen the organizations while improving the infrastructure.

1. **1970's - 1990's: Commenced cooperation on Satellite data and enhanced Tropical Cyclone forecasting**
   - ✓ Provision of observation data of JMA Satellite "Himawari" (Pacific countries, 1978 – ongoing)
   - ✓ Contribution towards establishment of Tropical Cyclone RSMC (Fiji, 1995)

2. **2000's - 2010's: Capacity Development of PICs, USP-ICT Center, PCCC**
   - ✓ Regional meteorological training by FMS for the Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, 2001 – ongoing)
   - ✓ Installation of HimawariCast receiving system (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, 2015-2017)

- ✓ Improvement of equipment for disaster risk management – observation, forecasting, warning and communication for meteorology, earthquake, tsunami and storm surge- (Samoa 2010, Fiji 2012, Vanuatu 2012, Tonga 2018)
- ✓ Contribution towards establishment of USP ICT Centre (Fiji, 2007 – 2013) and PCCC (Samoa, 2016 –, TA for Phase 2 is ongoing.)

3. **2020's – ongoing: Multi Hazard Early Warnings, RTC, RIC**
   - ✓ Updating the HimawariCast receiving systems installed in Pacific NMHSs, in conjunction with technical trainings (2025-, planned)
   - ✓ Contribution towards establishment of Regional Training Centre and Regional Instrument Centre (Fiji, 2023 – 2024 preparatory survey, 2024 - 2028 forthcoming GA and TA)
   - ✓ Advanced weather forecasting and warning including further enhancement of storm surge and wave forecasting by RSMC Nadi and pacific NMHSs thereby contribute to DRR for coastal hazards as well as safe ship navigation. (Fiji, 2024 – 2028 forthcoming TA)
   - ✓ Enhancement of earthquake, tsunami and storm surge early warning (Vanuatu, 2019 – 2024, 2024 – forthcoming TA)
   - ✓ Disaster risk reduction for widespread volcano hazards including tsunami early warning (Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, through SATREPS (joint research programme) 2024 – 2029)

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note:** that Japan's longstanding efforts to enhance the capacities of NMHSs in the Pacific for observation, tropical cyclone forecasting, and satellite analysis have been conducted in close collaboration with Pacific NMHSs, JICA and JMA, and have a great deal of relevance to the EW4All and Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) initiatives.
- **Note:** that Japan will continue to support PICs through new projects. These projects aim to enhance the utilization of Himawari by updating HimawariCast receiving systems and boosting satellite data analysis capabilities. Additionally, they will help develop regional hubs such as Regional Training Centre (RTC) and Regional Instrument Centre (RIC), contributing to the successful implementation of EW4All and WRP.

- **Acknowledge:** that Japan has experienced challenges in some projects to ensure the mid- and long-term sustainability of NMHSs. These challenges have underscored the importance of cooperative relations with other relevant partners and regional frameworks to secure sustainability. It suggests that the key to success is a close coordination between NMHSs and partners: NMHSs must implement feasible business plans, and partners must secure mid-term resources.
