

J-PRISM II HIGHLIGHTS

Republic of the Marshall Islands



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)

J-PRISM II is the five-and-a-half-year Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (2017-2022), assisting nine member countries (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Region in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project was commenced in February 2017, following the previous phase from 2011 to 2016.

Formulation of Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) in Majuro and Kwajalein

With the support of SPREP, formulation of a national strategy had already been initiated by the Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination Office (OEPPC) when J-PRISM II started. Accordingly, J-PRISM II decided to concentrate on supporting the formulation of solid waste management plans (SWMPs) in the most populated atolls, namely Majuro Atoll and Kwajalein Atoll.

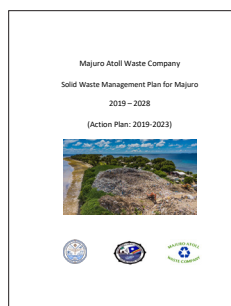
J-PRISM II took the following two-step approach to formulate the SWMPs.

Step 1: Understanding the current SWM situation technically as well as quantitatively

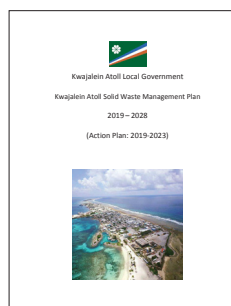
In 2017, officers in charge of waste management at Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC) and Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV) worked with J-PRISM II experts to conduct a series of SWM baseline surveys. These included waste amount and composition surveys (WACs), as well as incoming waste amounts surveys at landfill sites, time and motion surveys, and public opinion surveys. The results were summarized as waste flows, which were used to identify the urgent SWM issues and challenges in Majuro and Kwajalein, especially Ebeye, technically as well as quantitatively and share these among key stakeholders.

Step 2: Formulating SWMPs to tackle the SWM issues and challenges identified

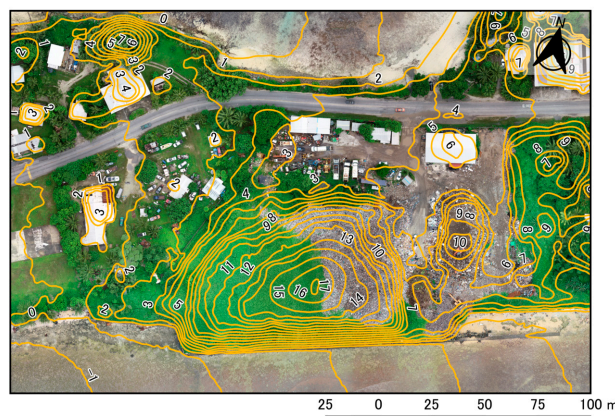
Based on their shared understanding and perception of urgent waste issues and challenges, the key stakeholders formulated SWMPs in each area. The SWMP for Majuro was reviewed by the Board of MAWC and officially endorsed by the Minister for Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MWIU), while the SWMP for Kwajalein was reviewed at the city council meeting and endorsed by the Mayor of Kwajalein Atoll. One of the priority activities stated in the SWMP for Majuro was improvement of its final disposal site; a survey



SWMP for Majuro



Kwajalein Atoll SWMP



Aerial photo of final disposal site in Majuro (2018)

on the final disposal site has now been conducted. Based on the survey, the current situation was shared among stakeholders and improvement measures were proposed. (Note: Both SWMPs are available on the SPREP website at <https://www.sprep.org/j-prism-2/report-and-materials> and via the SPREP Virtual Library at <https://library.sprep.org/>).

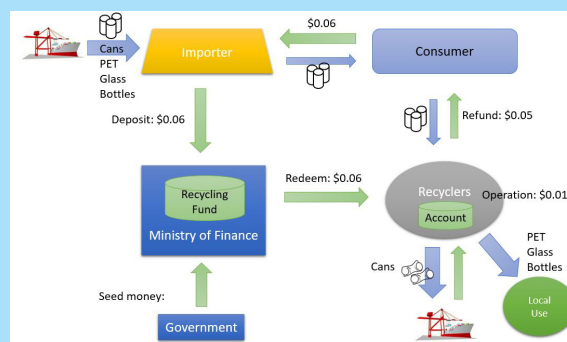
Successful Introduction of Container Deposit Scheme

In the RMI, the then administration considered environmental challenges to be an important political issue, and was keen to introduce a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for recycling beverage containers. In response to the sincere request for technical support from the RMI, J-PRISM II decided to assist key counterpart officials in introducing a CDS. J-PRISM II provided a wide range of assistance, including advice on the legislative framework, support to amend the law and formulate detailed rules, and training for MAWC, the designated operator of the redemption center.

The Styrofoam Cups and Plates and Plastic Products Prohibition and Container Deposit Act enacted in 2016 was amended at the Nitijela (the Parliament) in early 2018, and the Environmental Protection Authority prepared the CDS regulations in line with the amendment. The regulations came into effect at the start of July 2018 and at that time RMI Customs started collecting 6-cent deposits on the specified beverage cans and bottles. A month later, MAWC started collecting cans and bottles for recycling and paying out 5-cent refunds to the public. The following diagram shows how the CDS functions in the RMI.

During FY2019 (October 2018 to September 2019), 15.7 million items were handled, of which 59% was aluminum cans, 40% was PET bottles, and 1% was glass bottles. Some of these were “legacy” items that were on the islands before the scheme started.

It is reported that the number of beverage containers littering the streets has decreased drastically since the CDS commenced, which shows that the CDS has contributed significantly to improving environmental hygiene. Although it is currently difficult to export collected plastic bottles, aluminum cans, seen as a valuable resource, are crushed after collection and exported regularly, which contributes to resource circulation.



Operation at the redemption center in Majuro (2019)

Knowledge-sharing among three countries in the Micronesia region

J-PRISM II is actively promoting the sharing of knowledge and experiences among participating countries. Provision of regional training as seen below is one such effort under J-PRISM II.

Training on landfill management in Palau, February 2018

On-site training on sanitary landfill design and operation using the Fukuoka Method was conducted in Palau by Fukuoka University and the NPO SWAN Fukuoka from February 5 to 10, 2018, in collaboration with J-PRISM II.

JICA has been conducting a training program in Japan named “Design and Maintenance of Semi Aerobic Landfill Site (Fukuoka Method),” and representatives from Pacific Island Countries have been participating in the training every year. The training in Palau was designed as follow-up training for previous participants in JICA’s landfill training in Japan, but landfill management officers who had no experience of the training in Japan were also able to attend the training this time. Of around 30 participants from the Micronesia region, two officers were from the RMI, namely from MAWC (Majuro) and KALGOV (Kwajalein). They were



Demonstrating how to make a drainage pipe from used tires (2018)

trained by Japanese experts headed by Professor Matsufuji of Fukuoka University, and gained technical knowledge, alongside brushing up their landfill operation skills, through a half-day seminar and four days of on-site training. Utilizing skills and knowledge gained from the training, participants have subsequently dedicated themselves to improving the management of disposal sites in each country.

Disaster waste management (DWM) workshop in Palau, February 2019

Senior officials of the RMI attended the regional stakeholders' consultation workshop held in Palau in February 2019 for the development of the regional DWM guideline. This consultation workshop was coordinated and conducted by J-PRISM II in collaboration with SPREP and the team that developed the Disaster Waste Management Guideline for Asia and the Pacific. The Director of the National Disaster Management Office led the representatives from the relevant organizations of the RMI, namely MWIU, KALGOV, and MAWC. The presentations delivered by the RMI team provided information on the status of DWM and the roles of different agencies in the management of disaster waste at the national and state levels when natural disaster strikes. The workshop also provided guidance on the development of a national DWM contingency plan for future response and recovery measures when disaster strikes.

¹ <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110165.pdf>

About Us: J-PRISM II in Republic of the Marshall Islands

In the Marshall Islands, day-to-day activities have been conducted in line with the project framework below in close cooperation with the counterpart agencies:

- Main Agencies: Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MWIU), Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC), Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV)
- Supporting Agencies: Office of Environment Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

Country Activities in Republic of the Marshall Islands

Purpose	Creation of solid waste management system is promoted.
Output 1	Policy documents necessary to improve SWM system are officially submitted to the relevant authorities. (Note) Policy documents here means i) SWM Plan for MAWC, ii) SWM Plan for KALGOV, iii) National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS) in line with 2025.
Output 2	Good practices of solid waste management /3R are promoted in the country and the region.
Output 3	CDS mechanisms suitable to RMI are explored by relevant authorities.

All the member countries are also assisted under the regional project framework to enhance the regional monitoring mechanism, south-to-south cooperation, disaster waste management, and the 3R+Return system in the region.

Regional Activities including Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Output1: Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025 is strengthened
- Output2: Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region
- Output3: Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened
- Output4: Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined

² Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

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