

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
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The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and, with reference to the latter's note verbale no. DOALOS/STUDY/2007 dated 22 January 2007, has the honor to present the attached document containing the required information.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.

1 June 2007



1. Grant funds on fisheries

(1) Background

Since the late 1960s, many developing states have been insisting on their right of exclusive exploitation of marine resources in their coastal areas. At the request of these developing states, a program entitled "Grant Funds for Fisheries" has been established to maintain and strengthen friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and developing states by providing grant funds to such states for projects concerning fisheries.

(2) Examples of projects supported

- (a) Project for Improvement of Fisheries-related Roads in South Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati
- (b) Project for Construction of (a) Small-Scale Fisheries Center in Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname

2. Projects for assistance in strengthening the capacity for tuna resources management in Pacific island states.

(1) Background

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), an international organization for the management of tuna resources, was established in June 2004. Japan joined the Commission in July 2006.

Bonito and tuna in the central-western Pacific Ocean have already been exploited up to or beyond sustainable limits. It is therefore necessary that appropriate conservation and management measures be taken immediately. On the other hand, only a few years have passed since the WCPFC was founded, and there is a need for the WCPFC to establish its systems in a relatively short period of time. As most members of the WCPFC are developing states, assistance from developed countries is required in order to establish the Commission's administrative structure.

Among many areas in which assistance is required, the WCPFC places high priority on the task of accurately grasping the total catch and strengthening enforcement capacity, two areas in which Japan has ample know-how.

As a coastal, fishery and developed country, Japan has been providing active support in these areas.

(2) Contents of projects

- (a) Assistance in strengthening the fishery statistics information gathering capacity of island countries.

Developing states are lacking in both the systems and human resources required to gather data on the total catch as well as the necessary equipment. This project therefore aims at the improvement of human resources and systems through training and the provision of essential equipment.

- (b) Assistance in the establishment of a fisheries enforcement system for island states

Developing states have limited capacity to take action against IUU fishing in the vast EEZ. In order to ensure the viability of conservation and management measures, it is essential for developing states to strengthen their enforcement capacity. To that end, Japan has been dispatching experts for the establishment of domestic enforcement systems and facilitating technical training by allowing trainees to work on board our enforcement vessels.

3. Project for assistance in establishing statistical infrastructures concerning tuna fishing in coastal developing countries in the Pacific Ocean

(1) Background

Specific measures for conservation and management of tuna resources based upon scientific data have been taken by regional fisheries management organizations. In the Atlantic Ocean region, measures for conservation and rational exploitation of tuna resources shared among several states have been implemented under the framework of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Recently, the number of developing states in coastal areas joining the ICCAT has been increasing, and an insufficiency of statistical information on the total catch, which constitutes the basis for the management of resources, has become an outstanding issue. In some cases, impediments also arise with respect to appropriate evaluation of resources. In view of the fact that the system for gathering fishery statistics is insufficient in developing countries, international cooperation through international organizations is essential in improving statistical information.

On that basis, Japan has been contributing the needed monetary assistance to ICCAT, aimed at sustainable exploitation of tuna resources through the establishment of rational conservation and management measures and at implementing projects for development of statistical information on tuna fishing by ICCAT members.

(2) Contents of the projects

- (a) Improvement in statistical information on fisheries of developing countries in coastal areas
- (b) Information gathering on tuna aquaculture
- (c) Convening of working group on improvement in statistical information
- (d) Basic assistance necessary for implementation of the above projects