

SPINF Chronicle - Twenty years SPINF

In 1987, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kuranari, addressed Japanese Policy on the Pacific Island Nations for the first time after the Second World War. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation organized the Pacific Islands Nations Conference in the following year, having Mr. Kuranari as Chairman and inviting the Heads of ten Pacific Island Nations. This is 10 years in advance of “PALM”, initiated by the Japanese Government.

The SPINF was established as the result of this meeting. SPINF started at the end of the “cold War” when all the big powers pulled out from the region and we had a role which replaced them. For instance, our work supported the upgrading of USNet as a Japan-NZ-Aus ODA project.

During the middle of the nineties, new actors such as China, Taiwan and etc, increased their presence in the region. During this time, as a result of low interest rates in the Japanese economy, SPINF had to downsize its annual budget from USD One Million to half of that. As a result it focused on more specific areas and issues.

9.11 was not irrelevant to the region as all the big powers came back into the region, although the Pacific Islands do not seem to be a terrorist threat. Australia, NZ and the US increased their concern for the region, and Australia replaced the Heads of regional organizations again. France, China and Taiwan also hosted the “Pacific Islands Summit”, while Japan has continually hosted the summit every three years since 1997. SPINF made a submission to the PALM declaration as well as supporting its media coverage.

The third program guidelines for SPINF which will start 2009 should reflect our twenty years experience and the need to seek our flexible and novel role in helping the prosperity of the Pacific region.

(1990~2007)

Total amount of Projects: 938,161,257 Yen

Total number of Projects: 137

<> is related matter

1987 <Address Kuranari Doctrine as the first Japanese Policy for PI after the WWII>

1988 The Sasakawa Peace Foundation hosts the Pacific Island Nations Conference. The late HE Kamisese Mara requested the launch of a Satellite for the region.

1989 The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund was established. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa was appointed as the Chair of the SPINF steering committee.

1990 <End of Cold War>

1991 The first Program Guidelines. Support the Asia-Pacific Children conference in Fukuoka. Support PEACESAT Sendai Conference, which lost support from US

1992 Research the USNet, and lobbying the ODA to support USNet

1994 Start linkage between Okinawa and Pacific Islands projects.

1995 Support writing History textbook by PI local teachers.

1996 Support series of Cultural Heritage Training projects

1997 <The first Pacific Islands Leaders Summit by the Japanese Govt.>

1998 <Japan-NZ-AUS decide to co-support the USNet upgrade>

1999 The second program guidelines start

2000 Mr. Sasakawa was asked for cooperation for the 2nd PALM from the PM, the late Obuchi. Tokyo University Emeritus Professor Akio Watanabe was appointed Chair of SPINF steering committee.

2001 <9.11>

2002 Support Micronesian Regional cooperation for Distance Education Alliance. This was the trigger for the annual Micronesian Leaders Summit.

2003 Submit Policies for the third PALM, WSIS and Japan IT strategies. As result our submission was reflected in these policies.

2004 Media Invitation project phase I, which started in '91, finished with more than 80 PI journalists participating.

2006 <The 4th PALM> <China, Taiwan and France host PI summit>

Pacific Islands Politics Study Committee has start