

SC/14/223

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

03 June 2014

Dear Mr. Kohno,

With reference to your letter dated 06 May 2014, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Japan has approved the "Parliament Support Project" in Fiji.

This project has been approved because it is in line with the 'Policies and Procedures' of the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund. Furthermore this project is relevant for the following reasons:

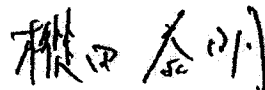
- a) It is in line with "the importance of good governance as an essential premise for sustainable development, democracy and the rule of law" confirmed under "Sustainable development and human security," one of the five pillars of the "Okinawa Kizuna Declaration," adopted in the Sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM6), since it contributes to the improvement of capacity of the parliamentarians as well as to the strengthening of the functions of the Parliament that will be resumed after an interval of eight years, thereby improving the capacity for legislation drafting and monitoring governmental agencies.
- b) In Fiji, the Parliament, which was suspended after the coup d'état in December 2006, is expected to resume its function after a general election scheduled for 17 September 2014, after an interval of 8 years. Before 2006, the Fijian Parliament was bicameral, with 32 senators and 71 congress members, but it became unicameral according to the new Constitution proclaimed in September 2013, with 50 seats of proportional-representation constituency, resulting in an increase in the diversity of political parties. This implies a great demand for capacity development of parliamentary officials and parliamentarians in Parliamentary procedure, legislation drafting, etc.

- c) With regard to the duplication and coordination with other assistance, Japan is planning to provide support for the election, including dispatching an election monitoring team. New Zealand and India announced their intention to support the new Parliament through improvement of infrastructure, and support from other donors is expected. Nonetheless, there will be no duplication since the Ministry of Justice in Fiji has been coordinating support from these donors.
- d) This project is in response to the strong request from the Fijian Government to restore democracy, and the feasibility is considered high. Also, Fiji is a major country in the Pacific island states, and restoration of democracy and stabilization of the political situation in Fiji will contribute to stabilization and development of the region.
- e) It is expected to involve Japanese staff at the UNDP Country Office in Fiji.

In accordance with the approval of this project the Government of Japan requests UNDP to ensure that the UNDP Country Office in Fiji periodically submits progress reports and also to submit a final report upon completion of the project.

I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Yasuaki Momita
First Secretary

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