

Announcement

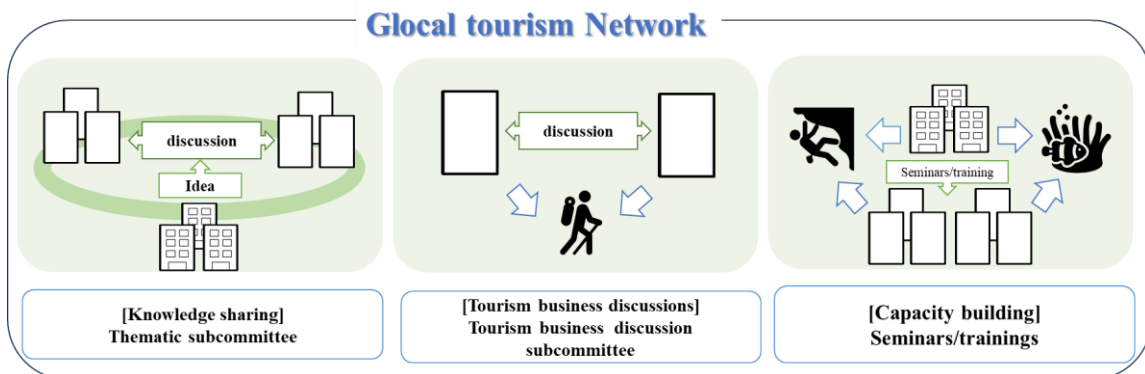
Establishment of the "Pacific Island Countries-Japan Glocal Tourism Network"

The International Organisation Pacific Islands Centre (PIC), and Kaihatsu Management Consulting, Inc. (KMC) have been jointly holding the "Pacific Island Countries-Japan Glocal Tourism Network" (hereinafter the Network) on a trial basis since fiscal year 2022. It is hereby notified that the Network is officially established in September 2023.

Background of the establishment :

The tourism sector in the world has been severely damaged by the impact of COVID-19, which began at the end of 2019. The tourism industry needs to improve its sustainability and strengthen its resilience, considering the pandemic and other risks that are expected in the future. At the same time, the tourism industry in Pacific Island countries is also facing a difficult situation and is aiming for economic recovery by stimulating tourism demand. Considering the above situation, the Network was established to promote tourism sector by sharing experiences and knowledge on sustainable tourism development and resilience enhancement, which takes into account the unique characteristics of Japan and Pacific Island countries as "island countries". The Network operates for the first year as part of the "Pacific Island Countries Economic Recovery Project" funded by the Government of Japan.

The main objective of the Network is to create new tourism business opportunities for the tourism stakeholders in Japan and Pacific Island countries. To realize this, the following three subcommittees were set up to provide opportunities for 'knowledge sharing', 'tourism business discussions' and 'capacity building'.



Thematic subcommittee (Knowledge sharing)

Pacific Island Countries and Japanese local authorities and others share case studies and issues related to sustainable tourism development and obtain insights for solutions from their counterparts' case studies.

Tourism business discussion subcommittee (Tourism business discussion)

Business discussions are held between Pacific Island Countries and Japanese local authorities/ travel agencies according to the business projects they wish to jointly implement, and a business project (e.g. tourism human resources exchange, tourism events, tours) will be developed.

Seminar/trainings (Capacity building)

The Network participants such as international organisations and travel agencies, as well as external experts, will conduct a seminar/training for the Network participants to strengthen their capacities in sustainable tourism development.

Participants in the Network are expected to include tourism bureaus and local governments/authorities, private companies (e.g. travel, agency, cuisine, accommodation, cleaning, souvenirs, events, etc.), academic institutions (e.g. educational institutions, academic societies), NGOs/NPOs and individuals from Pacific Island countries and Japan involved in tourism sector. The Network has already received supports from the embassies and tourism bureaus of Pacific Island countries, the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), The World Tourism Organization Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNWTO RSOAP), the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Japan International Cooperation Organisation (JICA).

Pacific Island countries have very strong historical and cultural linkages with Japan. However, they are not well recognized as 'tourist destinations' in Japan. In other words, they are the countries that have the potential to cultivate the tourism sector for Japan. It is highly recommended that everyone with a passion for promoting the tourism sector between Japan and the Pacific Island Countries, introducing Pacific Island Countries for Japanese people, and implementing new tourism business in the Pacific Island Countries, should participate in this project.

Details of the Network:

【Pacific Islands Countries-Japan Global Tourism Network operating structure】

- Organized: International Organisation Pacific Islands Centre (PIC)
- Secretariat/operation: Kaihatsu Management Consulting, Inc (KMC)
- Supporters : Seven embassies of Pacific Island countries in Tokyo (Fiji, FSM, Palau, PNG, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga), Tourism Bureau, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Japan Pacific Islands Association (JAPIA), Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), The World Tourism Organization Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNWTO RSOAP), Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting & Governors (PALM&G), and others.
- Venue: Online (Zoom)
- Language : Japanese/English (Consecutive interpretation)
- Session Format: Presentations by speakers and Discussions
- Speakers : Selected from both the Japanese side and the Pacific Island Countries
- Moderator : Kaihatsu Management Consulting, Inc
- Participants/observers: Tourism bureaus and local governments/authorities, private companies (e.g. travel, agency, cuisine, accommodation, cleaning, souvenirs, events, etc.), academic institutions (e.g. educational institutions, academic societies), NGOs/NPOs and individuals from Pacific Island countries and Japan involved in tourism sector

【Schedule (tentative)】

- Mid-November 2023: Thematic subcommittee ①: 'Tourism development using local resources'
- Late Nov 2023:
- December 2023: Sustainable tourism development seminar/training ①
- After 2024*: Thematic subcommittees ②, ③, Tourism business discussion subcommittee, Sustainable tourism development seminar/training ②.
- (*Dates will be announced as soon as they are fixed).

If you have any questions about the Network or if any organisation or individual would like to participate, please contact the contact person below.

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(*This project is implemented by Kaihatsu Management Consulting, Inc. on behalf of International Organisation Pacific Islands Centre).

We look forward to your participation.