

August 26, 2009

Japanese comments on the proposals for PPCR Regional Programs

- We support the two track approach to assist both national activities in selected countries and region-wide agenda for effective adaptation.

- With regard to assistance to selected countries, we would like to request that lessons from pilot assistance scheme of PPCR is reflected into each of the four policy and program entry points (national, sectoral, project and local (community) levels) in line with the OECD Policy Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation.
http://www.oecd.org/document/5/0,3343,en_2649_34361_42471301_1_1_1_1,00.html

- With regard to regional support, it is recommended that the study team discuss thoroughly with private companies such as risk insurance firms when preparing hazard maps, etc., in order to consider a wide range of options for financial cooperation that follows PPCR.

- For the Caribbean countries, the focus of technical assistance activities supported by JICA is basically regional cooperation, with CARICOM being the counterpart. There are exceptions in Jamaica, Haiti and Guyana, where the scale and development needs are relatively large and are receiving bilateral technical assistance from JICA.

- For your reference, JICA is implementing a regional technical assistance project called "Caribbean Disaster Management Project Phase 2 (January 2009 to December 2011), with CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, headquarters in Barbados) as the counterpart. The pilot countries under this project are five countries, Belize, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Grenada and Guyana, all of them providing assistance to capacity building of community disaster control.

- For the Pacific countries, as stated in the draft, the regional approach cannot be ignored, in addition to assistance to three individual candidate Pacific countries. Therefore, close collaboration with regional institutions such as SPREP and SOPAC is strongly appreciated.

- Recognizing the relatively small size of each Pacific country and also each donor's effort to tackle climate change in recent years, donor coordination is becoming increasingly important to make this program effective. Continuous sharing of information about this program among donors will help not only this program but also other projects supported by donors outside this program.