



FFA

FFC AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE
20th Meeting

5 MAY 2021

Agenda Item:	
Paper No:	ARC20-INFO.03
Title:	Outcomes of the 14th Japan Promotion Fund Joint Committee Meeting

Summary:

The 14th Japan Promotion Fund Joint Committee annual meeting (JC14) was held electronically on 4-5 April 2021 due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

The meeting adopted a proposed carry forwarded budget from FY2019/20 to FY2020/21 in total USD169,999, reviewed progress of projects in the current year (FY2020/21) and also adopted the interim annual report and, and agreed to projects for the next fiscal year (FY2021/22)

This paper provides an overview report and identifies opportunities for strengthened Member participation in programme activities in the coming year.

Recommendations:

The Committee is invited to:

- i. **Note** the outcomes of the 14th JPF Joint committee meeting;
- ii. **Acknowledge** the interim annual report in FY2020/21;
- iii. **Approve** the proposed carry forwarded budget from FY2019/20 to FY2020/21 and projects for the next fiscal year (FY2021/22);
- iv. **Note** the members to the next Joint committee to be held in February 2022 being FFC Chair (Fiji), and members Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and New Zealand; and
- v. **Express appreciation** to the OFCF and Japan for usual support extended by the JPF programme.

Introduction:

1. This paper provides an overview of the 14th Japan Promotion Fund Joint Committee meeting report and identifies opportunities for strengthened member participation in programme activities in the coming year.

Overview:

2. The 14th meeting of the Joint Committee on the management and operation of the Japan Promotion fund (JPF) was held between Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Japan and Solomon Islands virtually, from 4 - 5 March 2021. The attachment to this paper is the full report of the 14th JPF Joint Committee meeting.
3. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen, FFA Director General and Mr Hisashi Endo, OFCF Senior Vice President. The meeting also had the invaluable participation of the chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FSM), and Australia, Cook Islands and Fiji Members of the JPF JC acknowledged the enduring values of the JPF programme which promotes understanding and collaboration between Japan and FFA members in regional fisheries.
4. The work of the Joint Committee included:
 - 1) Adoption of the carry forward budget from FY2019/20 to FY2020/21 in total USD169,999;
 - 2) Reviewed progress of projects in the current year (FY2020/21) and adoption of the interim annual report; and
 - 3) Agreed to projects for the next fiscal year (FY2021/22).

The full record of the meeting is provided as a separate document for reference.

Key Highlights:

Carry forwarded budget from FY2019/20 to FY2020/21

5. The carry-forwards at the end of June 2020 (\$169,999) is the variance of the approved budget for FY2019/2020 of \$441,189 and actual expenditure of \$271,190. The FFC has already approved \$79,950 into the FY20/21 budget for three projects namely Maritime Boundary delimitation, Enhanced Fisheries Admin and Observer training attachment, in November 2020. The FFA Secretariat recommended allocating \$24,281 for the "FFA training website project", \$43,000 for the "International Fisheries Law project" to complete the activities, and return the variance of \$22,769 to the Investment account (JPF2008) for future allocation after the COVID19 pandemic has passed as shown in the following table:

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE EYES ONLY

Unit: USD

Financial code	Project Name	Approved Budget in FY19/20	Actuals in FY19/20	Budget %	Carry-forwards at the end of June 2020	Proposed Carry forwards (b)
0553	JPF meeting costs	40,645	27,951	69%	12,694	0
0661	International meetings including NC	66,698	57,749	87%	8,949	0
0708	Maritime Boundary delimitation	61,288	37,198	61%	24,090	10,650
1841	FFA training website (JPF)	40,000	15,719	39%	24,281	24,281
1850	Train the trainers	30,000	21,856	73%	8,144	0
1843	International Fisheries laws	43,600	31,934	73%	11,666	43,000
1654	Enhanced Fisheries Admin.	20,367	2,113	10%	18,254	26,100
1845	OB training attachment	43,150	0	0%	43,150	43,200
1626	Trade information and policy	53,441	61,016	114%	-7,575	0
1844	Katsubushi & Tuna extract	42,000	15,654	37%	26,346	0
	Return to the Investment account (JPF2008)					22,769
	Total	441,189	271,190	61%	169,999	169,999

2020/2021 Projects

6. **Budget:** The JPF Joint Committee noted that FFA was engaged in 10 projects consisting of 8 projects approved by the JC13 and 2 projects carried forward from previous years. The total budget available for JPF Projects within the 2020/21 year, excluding the management fee and including carry-forwards was **\$ 663,181**.
7. **Interim Progress:** Total expenditure at the end of December 2020 remained at **\$14,882**, and the average budget consumption rate remained very limited at **2.2%** against the total budgets allocated including agreed carry forwards from the previous year. This is primarily due to the travel restrictions that have been in place globally in order to prevent further spread of COVID19 because many projects are highly dependent on travel activity.

Despite travel restrictions caused by COVID19, some progress has been made in implementation, notably in the following projects:

- a. **International Fisheries law** – the project enabled the participation of **43 officers** from member countries as well as the FFA Secretariat in the international fisheries law course provided virtually by ANCORS and specifically focused on the Law of Sea fisheries provisions;
- b. **Trade information and Policy** – allowing for the publishing of the bimonthly FFA Trade and Industry News publication;
- c. **FFA Training Website** – This project enables the sharing of information, training activities and other related events with FFA members, staff and other interested stakeholders, and also provides more timely and comprehensive access to information on training activities, material and reports provided by FFA. The website will be completed by March 2021.

8. **Ongoing project and forecasts:** The Secretariat expected progress in the last half of the current fiscal year, notably the following projects:
- a. **International meetings** - FFA IT team is working to upgrade the Video conference systems of 15 FFA members in order to improve quality of participation in online meetings including a series of WCPFC meetings and FFC meetings. The proposed Video conference system is consistent with 75" Smart TV, Elite Desk PC, Polycom/Logitech Meetup and Motorized stand.
 - b. **Enhanced Fisheries Administrations** – FFA Corporate Services division is coordinating a request from the NORMA FSM. This project is expected to be finalized by June 2021.
 - c. **Observer training attachment** – FFA Fisheries Operation division is coordinating to conduct four (4) online workshops for observers, including E-reporting (ER) and Critical Incident Analysis (CIA) workshops by the end of June 2021.

New Projects for 2021/22

9. The JC14 agreed to new projects for the 2021/22 period. These are listed in Annex A and described in the full report attached. These are valued at **USD724,700** including expected carry forwards from the current fiscal year, an increase attributable to the additional funding provided by OFCF of approximately USD200,000 per annum.
10. Members should note that the additional funding is to go towards participation in international meetings, particularly meetings of the **WCPFC Northern Committee when hosted in Japan**, in conjunction with Japan - FFA consultations. It is not clear if face-to-face meetings will be possible this year however.

The next JPF Joint Committee in 2022

11. The FFA members to be invited to participate in the next Joint Committee (JPF JC15) in February 2022 in Honiara will be FFC Chair (Fiji) and members Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and New Zealand.

2021/2022 Agreed Project Proposals

Project code	Project title	Estimated cost	Unit: USD	Net budget
			Estimated carry-forwards from FY2020/21	
HL121	JPF meeting costs	\$38,700	\$30,000	\$8,700
HL221	International meetings including WCPFC NC	\$108,000	\$100,000	\$8,000
HL321	Maritime Boundary delimitation	\$51,100	\$24,000	\$27,100
HL421	International Fisheries laws	\$50,500	\$0	\$50,500
HL521	Maritime college seminar	\$63,500	\$15,000	\$48,500
HL621	Enhance fisheries Admin.	\$21,000	\$5,000	\$16,000
HL721	Trygg Mat Tracking Resource Books (new)	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
FO121	Observer Critical Incident Analysis Workshop	\$112,200	\$17,000	\$95,200
FD121	Trade information and policy	\$98,400	\$16,000	\$82,400
FD221	Katsuobushi and tuna extract	\$30,000	\$23,000	\$7,000
FD321	Capacity Building in Fisheries Economic Analyses (new)	\$133,300	\$0	\$133,300
Total		\$724,700	\$230,000	\$494,700