

August 27, 2020

## Agricultural Exchange Projects by Mie Prefecture

### 1 . The connection between Palau and Mie

Mie and Palau established a friendship relationship on July 25, 1996. 2021 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Former president Kuniwo Nakamura's father was born in Ise City, Mie.

#### Recent interaction

- Every year, to Palau high school, Mie Fisheries High School's students make a visit and interact the students.
- The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) welcomed a new JICA volunteer, Mr. Miki Sugimoto, a staff of Toba Aquarium in Mie.
- ICETT, International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer, an organization affiliated with Mie prefecture, carried out instruction of sorting waste as a JICA's program in Gapang, and Imerik (2018-2021).
- The 2021 PALM9 is scheduled to be held in Mie!

### 2 . Why we are focusing on Agriculture

- Japan's support for Palau in the agricultural sector is now about to be accelerated.
- Agriculture is one of the main industry in Mie.
- We can contribute to Palau through the exchange of people such as experts and students.

### 3 . What we will value in carrying out our projects

- A project which Palauan young people increase their familiarity with vegetables
- A project based on interaction of people
- A project which would take root in Palauan local society

#### 4 . The Outline of the projects

We propose three items below:

##### **A. Dispatch an Agricultural Expert**

Aiming at more effective farming in Palau, dispatch an agricultural expert from Mie to Palau for several times for a short period.

During their period of dispatching, the expert do following activities:

- 1) Understand the current situation of Palauan agriculture
- 2) Discuss with Japanese agricultural operators and give them advice
- 3) Prepare for making a school garden (of project C) and instruct its management or vegetable nutrition to students in collaboration with Japanese agricultural operators in Palau.

##### **B. Mie Healthy Vegetable Summer Camp**

To increase their familiarity with vegetables, we organize an enjoyable summer camp.

Invite high school students from Palau to Mie to learn more about vegetable nutrition and healthy lifestyles while sampling delicious vegetables of Mie

During their stay, Palauan students interact with Mie high school students, who will visit Palau in project C.

##### **C. Palau School Vegetable Garden**

Dispatch high school students from Mie to Palau to work with Palauan high school students in creating a vegetable garden at their high school.

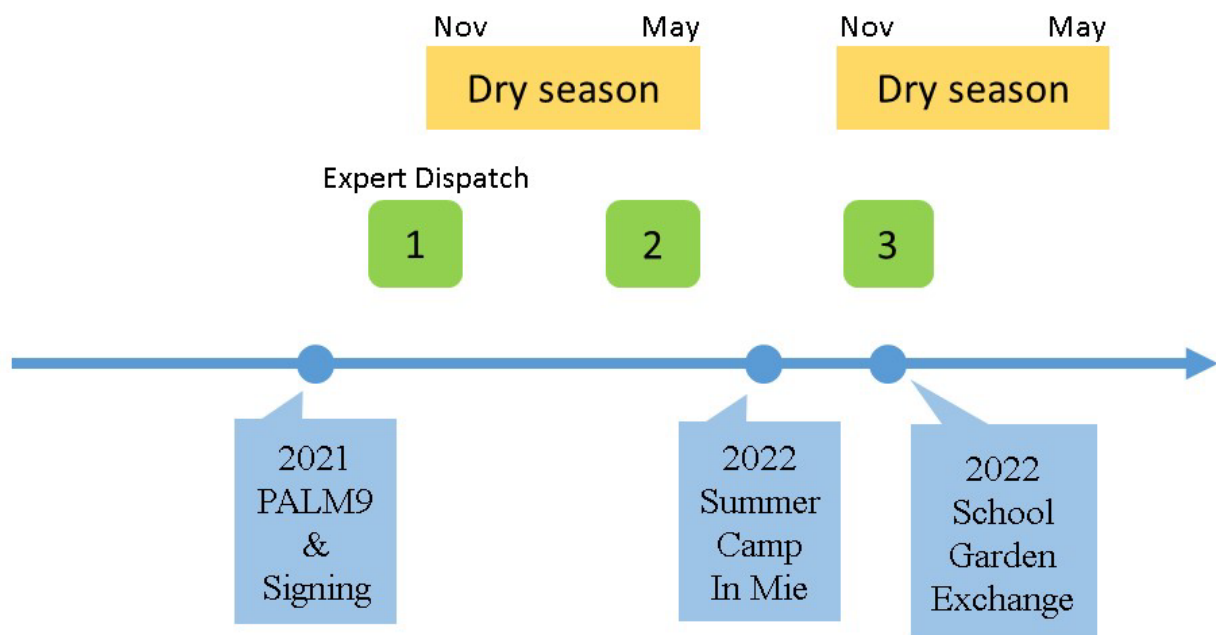
- 1) The agricultural expert dispatched in project A collaborates with Japanese agricultural operators in Palau and do some basic part of necessary work to make a garden before Mie's students come to Palau.
- 2) Mie's high school students, who met Palauan students in project B, visit Palau. They cultivate the soil, plant seeds with communication together.
- 3) After going back to Japan, they continue online interaction and Mie's students advise Palauan students about making vegetables.

#### 5 . The current progress

- We interviewed one of Japanese agricultural operators (Mr. NISHIKAWA) and he kindly said that he would help us making a school garden etc.
- Regarding selection of local high school candidates in project B and C, we have been asking through Palau embassy in Tokyo.

6. The following schedule

- At today's conference, by getting Palau government consent for our proposal on agricultural exchange, we would like to start its preparations.
- At the 25th anniversary event in 2021, we would like to start the project when President Palau and the Governor of Mie Prefecture formally agree to carry out three exchange plans.



## Sample photos for a school vegetable garden in Japan

Picture 1: Children scattering the fertilizer over the soil



Picture 2: An agricultural operator cultivating the soil



Picture 3: Children setting horticultural supports according to an instruction

