

Helping Palau to Prosper

The Manila International Development Assistance Support Group recently secured a Technical Assistance project with the ADB which will provide a secure, reliable and affordable water supply to improve the livelihoods of the Palau people.

Palau is a small idyllic Pacific island nation with a population of around 20,000. Most inhabitants live on just two of its many islands. Due to climatic cycles, periods of drought occur that can last for many months at a time. The usual riverine sources of water become severely limited in their capacity to meet the demands of the population, and thus water usage restrictions are often required. This has a significant negative impact on the livelihood activities of the residents and the national economy.

In addition to the physical problems with water supply, there are also social issues associated with water demand and consumption. As is the case in many parts of the world, the local population regard clean potable water as a “free good”. Consequently, water conservation efforts have to date been limited and the population has a very low willingness to pay for water consumption or infrastructure improvements.

Consulting services over a 12 month period are being provided in:

- water supply development
- financial and economic analysis
- tariff analysis
- water supply legislation
- social analysis and poverty impact assessment
- environmental matters

A water supply master plan and feasibility studies associated with proposed projects, including preliminary designs, will be prepared. The feasibility studies will provide the basis for an investment project. The impact of this project will be secure, reliable, and affordable water supplies to communities on Babeldaob and in Koror. The outcome will be sustainable development of the national water supply system and improved reliability and security of the water supply to Koror. The inception phase was recently completed with a workshop involving key stakeholders about the project and gain support for the remainder of the work.

Strong co-operation and support from local stakeholders has been generated. It was particularly pleasing to receive feedback in Palau that our management of the project is very highly regarded for its professionalism. The ADB also commended the team for exceeding expectations for achievements during the inception phase.

*International Development Assistance Group
GHD Manila*

PULL – OUT

Project: Preparation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Client: Asian Development Bank

Duration: June 2008 – June 2009

Location: Babeldaob, Palau