



Fisheries JICA expert explaining some of the advanced fishing methods to the participants. MP William Gillion is also seen amongst the participants.

Lelepa community to learn new fishing techniques

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Japan funds training on new fishing methods for coastal communities

By Glenda Shing

A WORKSHOP OFFICIALLY opened by Minister of Agriculture, David Tosul, Monday on Lelepa Island is part of the first activities of the second phase of project for promotion of Grace of the Seas in coastal villages in Vanuatu.

The overall goal of the project is to improve the livelihoods of the coastal communities through community-based resources in a social and economic approach, while at the same time promote management skills amongst the locals.

In 2006, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with Vanuatu Fisheries Department kicked off with the first phase of the same project. While the coastal resources provide an important source of income, some of these resources have

been over exhausted through over fishing.

There is an urgent need to encourage the recovery of these coastal resources, and this can be tackled through seedling and the maintenance of the environmental conditions for fishing with the re-establishment of a community-based coastal resources management system.

That was exactly what has been done in the first phase of the project for promotion of Grace of the Seas in Coastal villages. The project was piloted on four communities of Sunae, and Tasiriki on Moso, and Lelepa and Mangaliliu, all in the North West of Efate, where the communities re-stock green snails, clam shell and trochus.

Another form of method introduced in the first phase

in the two off-shore islands is Fish Aggregation Device (FAD), a man-made object such as buoys used to attract ocean going pelagic fish such as marlin, tuna and mahi-mahi.

Graham Nimoho of Fisheries Department said as phase two activities commenced, the one-week workshop would be introducing some of the fishing methods and technologies to the participants to broaden their knowledge on advanced fishing. The participants would also check the effectiveness of the two FADs, and would modify it should there be a need to.

The success of the first phase project guaranteed the Japanese Government to fund the second Phase. The project has extended to two more islands; Aneityum and Malekula.