

Lead-Up Event for the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting



In order to help inform people about the Pacific Island nations and build up excitement for the PALM8 Summit, Iwaki City held a lead-up event for PALM8 at Iwaki Green Base on 4 March 2018 – 75 days before the summit. The official name of the event, *Dokidoki Shimashima 'Butousai'* in Iwaki, literally translates to "Exciting Islands Dance Festival in Iwaki".



The lead-up event featured traditional dances from Tonga, Fiji and Samoa as well as Iwaki's own jangara and hula dance performances. Away from the stage, there were also a variety of activities such as quizzes, rugby workshops and booths representing some of the PALM8 countries.



The event turned out to be a huge success with thousands of people getting involved in the activities or watching the Pacific dances. Now Iwaki and the rest of Fukushima is eagerly awaiting the second consecutive PALM8 Summit in Iwaki.



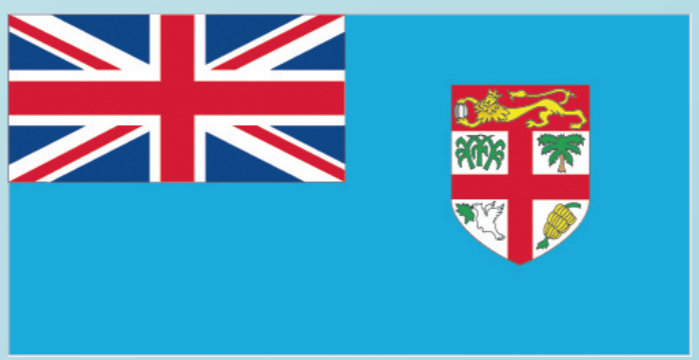
To celebrate Iwaki hosting its second consecutive PALM Summit, Iwaki Vision will introduce the 14 Pacific Island nations that will participate in the summit over the next two issues.

Nations of the PALM8 Summit

Melanesia

Melanesia includes Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The islands in this region of the Pacific are the largest and contain the most inhabitants.

Fiji



- Fiji has significant Melanesian and Polynesian populations and 38% of Fijians also have Indian ancestry

- Area: 18,270km² (3rd)
- Number of Islands: 332
- Population: 898,000 (2nd)
- Capital: Suva
- Head of Government: Prime Minister
- Language: English, Fijian, Fijian Hindi
- Currency: Fijian Dollar
- Exports: Clothing, Sugar, Gold, Fish, Wood

Papua New Guinea



- PNG has the most languages of any nation in the world at over 800 (most have less than 1000 speakers)

- Area: 452,860km² (1st)
- Number of Islands: 700
- Population: 8,084,000 (1st)
- Capital: Port Moresby
- Head of Government: Prime Minister
- Language: English, Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu, up to 800 smaller languages
- Currency: Papua New Guinean Kina
- Exports: LNG, Gold, Crude Oil, Copper, Cocoa, Coffee, Wood, Palm Oil