

Republic of Palau



1. General Information

Population ^{*1}	19,092 (July 2001)
Population Density [/km ²] ^{*1}	42 (July 2001)
Languages ^{*1}	English and Palauan
Ethnic Groups ^{*1}	Palauan (Micronesian with Malayan & Melanesian admixtures) 70%, Asian (mainly Filipinos, followed by Chinese and Taiwanese) 28%, White 2%.
Climate ^{*1}	Tropical climate (Wet season May to November; hot and humid)
Land Area [km ²] ^{*1}	458

Comments for General Information^{*1}

After three decades as part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific under US administration, this westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands opted for independent status in 1978 rather than join the Federated States of Micronesia. A Compact of Free Association with the US was approved in 1986, but not ratified until 1993. It entered into force the following year when the islands gained their independence. The government type of Palau is constitutional government in free association with the U.S. Palau consists of six island groups totaling over 200 islands; includes World War II battleground of Beliliou (Peleliu) and world-famous rock islands. Its economy consists primarily of subsistence agriculture and fishing.

2. Economy

GDP [US\$] ^{*1}	129 million (1998)	
GDP-per capita [US\$] ^{*1}	7,100 (1998)	
Imports [US\$] ^{*1}	126 million	
	Machinery, Equipment, Fuels, Metals and Foodstuffs	
Exports [US\$] ^{*1}	14.3 million (1996)	
	Shellfish, Tuna, Copra, Handcraft	
Composition of Sector (Ratio to GDP) ^{*1}	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	28.8%
	Industry [%]	8.3%
	Service [%]	62.9%

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

The economy of Palau consists primarily of agriculture and fishing. The government is the major employer of the work force, getting financial assistance from the US. The population enjoys a per capita income of twice that of the Philippines. Long-run prospects for the tourist sector have been greatly bolstered by the expansion of air travel in the Pacific and the rising prosperity of leading East Asian countries.

3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] ^{*3}		200 million (1996)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] ^{*3}		200 million (1996)
	Electricity ^{*3} - production by source		Fossil fuel: 89.93%; hydro: 8.36% ; nuclear: 0% ; other: 1.71% (1999)
Energy Resources	Production	Oil	NA
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA
	Consumption	Oil	NA
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA

Comments for Energy ^{*9}

To improve the current situation of heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, Palau government has decided to develop and utilize renewable energy through national and regional efforts and international assistance. The reason why the government has made such decision is that the cost to import the fossil fuel became heavy burden to the Palau society and economics. In addition, the government has common sense about the countermeasures against the sea level rising caused the global warming also.

Under this situation, Palau government focused on especially the comprehensive development and

Republic of Palau

utilization of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion called OTEC to be eco-friendly country prior to the world. Also, the Palau government aims to be the showcase of countermeasures against environment, energy and water issue for the sustainable development in the 21st century.

As the action for this goal, Palau aims to develop 3000 kW class OTEC as a model case by 2005, and supply all energy of the Republic of Palau by the renewable energy before 2015.

Introduction of Renewal Energy Use ^{*4}

To improve the current situation of heavy reliance on fossil fuels, Palau government has decided to increase development and utilization of renewable energy sources through national and regional efforts and international cooperation, specifically to increase technology and investments in mature renewable energy technologies.

4. Water

Precipitation ^{*5}		3,259.2 mm (Average from 1961 to 1990)	
Internal Renewable Water Resources		NA	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*6}		98%	
Total Water Withdrawl	NA	Industry [%]	NA
		Domestic [%]	NA
		Agriculture [%]	NA

Comments for Water ^{*8}

Palau also suffers from the water shortage caused abnormal weather sometimes because the Palau is also heavily depending on just rainfall and groundwater. Recently, Palau also faces salt-water intrusion into freshwater lens in atolls and coastal line watersheds as the other island countries. And the drought has serious adverse impact to the economics, especially tourism, which is main industry for this country.

As the countermeasure for this problem, watershed protection program is highly recommended by the donor. However, the vulnerability and limited resource of island country make it difficult to complement the programs. Therefore, new strategy and scheme might be necessary for Palau society to break through this dilemma.

5. Environment and Pollution

CO ₂ Emission ^{*7}	Total metric tons	245 (1996)
	Metric tons per capita	13.95 (1996)

Comments for Environment *1

- Inadequate facilities for disposal of solid waste.
- Threats to the marine ecosystem from sand and coral dredging.
- Over fishing.
- Salinization of agricultural land.

References

- *1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- *2 <http://asiatravel.com/micronecsa/palau>
- *3 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- *4 <http://www.sopac.org.fj>
- *5 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- *6 Development Co-operation South Pacific 1991/1992 Report, UNDP, 1995.9
- *7 <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>
- *8 Issues raised by NGO's working in the Water Sector in the Pacific, June-July 2002
- *9 Energy and Sustainable Development – Pacific Regional Submission to the 9th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9)

Information

<http://www.palau.es>