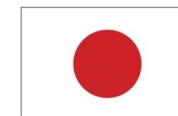


# The PQI Initiative



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



From  
the People of Japan



# The beginnings

- started in 2017
- partnership building and diagnostic studies
- first regional QI workshop in the Pacific in Sept 2019 in Nadi
- medium-term framework of regional priority actions – approved by Forum Trade Ministers in February 2020
- Implemented since Oct 2020

# Background

**The creation of a regional QI represents the only viable option to assure quality in the Pacific region**

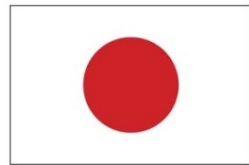
- Forum Island Countries have only limited access to internationally recognised QI institutions and services
- The size of the FICs, in terms of economies and population and the limited demand, would not justify the establishment of a fully-fledged national QI

# Background

**The PQI Initiative follows a strategic, demand-driven, and participatory approach**

- It aims to address the most urgent needs for quality related services in Pacific Island Countries and is based and guided by international good practices for QI and requirements such as the WTO TBT Agreement
- QI is a priority of the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025 and is vital for supporting the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, particularly in the thematic area of Resources and Economic Development

# Funding agencies



From  
the People of Japan

# Implementing partners



National  
Measurement  
Institute



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



IMPLEMENTATION UNIT



# Our outcome areas



Establishing a **PQI governance** system with national focal points, regional QI committees for standardisation, metrology, and conformity assessment, and the PIFS PQI Unit



Building technical capacity of **PQI institutions & service providers**



Creating a regional **Quality Culture**, including but not limited to awareness on the significance of quality and QI

# Achievements



# Paving the way for stronger institutions & service providers

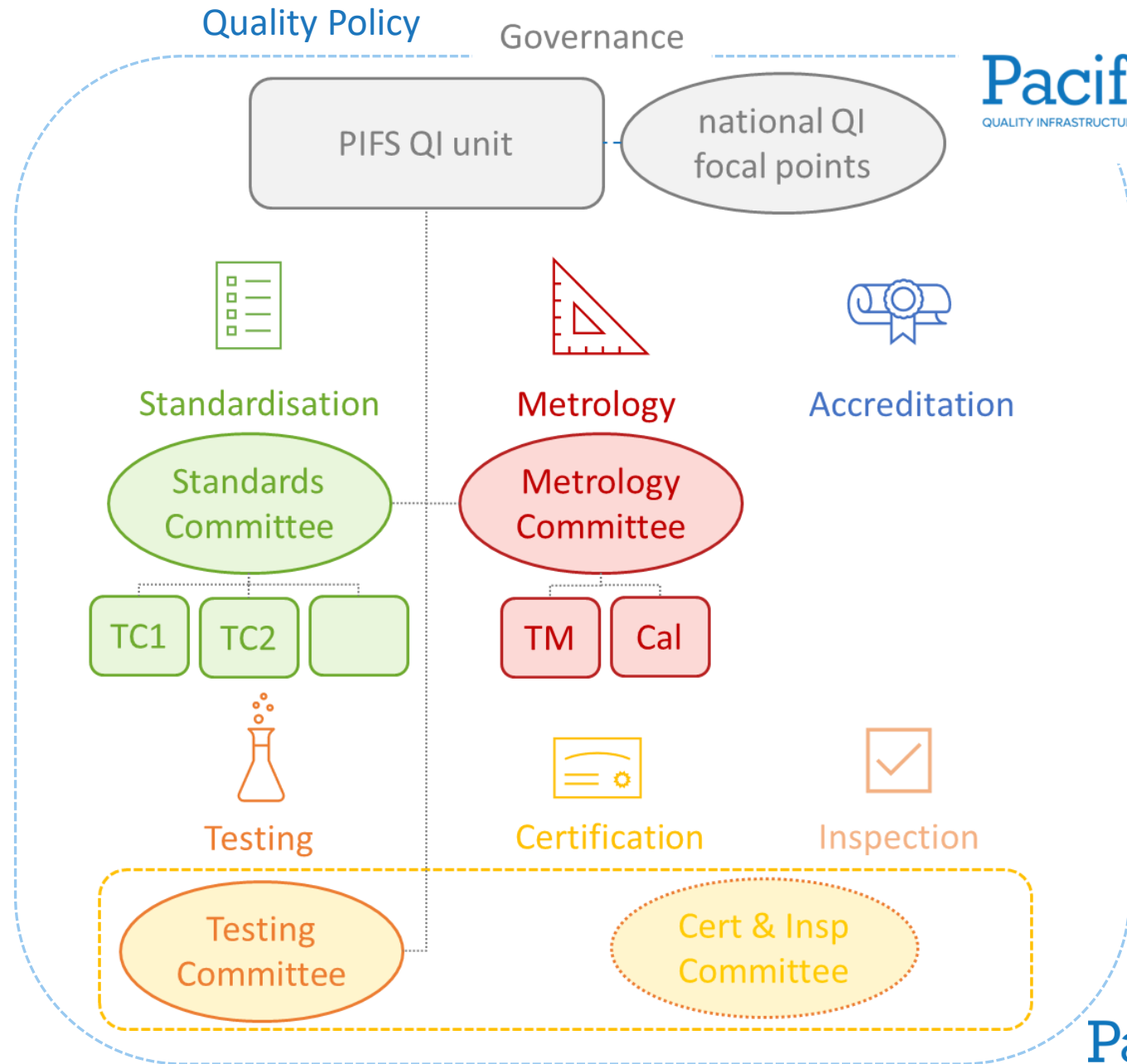
- foundational training
- needs assessments, value chain studies on priority commodities and surveys
- targeted support to selected QI service providers such as national standards bodies & standardisation focal points, trade measurement entities, and testing and calibration laboratories
- virtual and hands-on training, consultancy visits, pre-audits of laboratories, procurement of equipment and consumables
- Highlights: Standardisation Week in Nouméa and Metrology Week in Suva



# Building a tailored model of regional governance

- national QI focal points
- the PIFS PQI Unit (PQIU)
- the regional QI committees representing the centre piece of the regional QI architecture
- **PISC** – Pacific Islands Standards Committee  
coordinates regional standards development
- **PIMC** – Pacific Islands Metrology Committee  
coordinates regional development of trade measurement and calibration
- **PITC** – Pacific Islands Conformity Assessment Committee - Testing component  
coordinates the strengthening of regional testing laboratories

# PQI Governance architecture



# A snapshot of the activities

As of Oct 2023

# activities: workshops, webinars, formal meetings, mentoring sessions etc.	118
# Pacific QI weeks	2
# participants	2,049
# beneficiaries	876
• Women	50%
• private sector	18%
Surveys & studies: QI needs assessments, value chain analyses, metrology legislation	8
Strategy papers: standardisation, testing	2
Equipment & consumables	USD 200k

# A strengthened Pacific QI network goes global

## 1 PQI Governance

- regional QI & technical committees
  - regional PQI architecture
  - strengthen technical capacities
  - integration into regional and global QI networks: ISO, PASC, OIML, AOAC, APFAN
  - face-to-face events: Pacific Islands Standards Week, Wellington (NZ) Jul/Aug, PI Laboratory Week, Nuku'alofa (Tonga) 18-22 March
- development of a Regional Quality Policy
- guidance in harmonising QI related legislation, e.g. metrology

# Building robust foundations and sought-after services

## 2 Pacific Islands QI Committees, Institutions & Service Providers

- development of regional and adoption of international standards – PISC
  - building & construction
  - food & food products
  - shortlisted priority areas: climate change, trade & environment and digital trade
- strengthen the technical capacity of trade measurement entities and regional calibration laboratories

# Building robust foundations and sought-after services

## 2 Pacific Islands QI Committees, Institutions & Service Providers

- support testing laboratories
  - Pacific Islands Testing Committee (PITC), PQI-PIFS
  - PI Laboratory Week, Nuku'alofa (Tonga) 18-22 Mar
  - technical consultancy visits
  - equipment & consumables,
  - proficiency testing
  - regional capability index

# Boosting the demand for QI services

## 3 Quality Culture

- raise awareness on the significance of quality and QI
  - professional and consumer associations
  - secondary and tertiary level education institutions
  - good practice guides
  - PQI website to become central information hub on QI in the Pacific

Dr Ulrich Diekmann  
PQI coordinator  
Pacific Island Forum Secretariat  
[ulrichd@forumsec.org](mailto:ulrichd@forumsec.org)

