

Ace to monitor water use

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A Japan company that first provided reverse osmosis (RO) water technology to the Marshall Islands nearly 20 years ago is proposing solar-powered systems for the outer islands.

Japan based Ace Water Treatment Company was contracted in 1998 in response to a severe drought that hit the Marshall Islands. The company provided four reverse osmosis (RO) systems to the Marshalls ranging in size from 2,000 to 8,000 gallons per day, which supported urgently needed fresh water to local communities.

Nearly 20 years on, these RO systems no longer exist, and that's why an Ace Water Treatment Company team that was here recently as part of a survey looking at water needs and options for the outer islands.

The Japan company recently supplied three new RO units, which were installed and now supply drinking quality water to Majuro hospital. These units were provided to Majuro Water and Sewer Company's project to help the hospital produce its own drinking water because of contamination of hospital freshwater sources. Each RO unit at the hospital makes 1,000 gallons of water per day.

The visiting team from Japan included Ace Water Treatment Company's Sales Manager Akihiro Taguchi and Assistant Chief Field Services Division Osamu Tsuyashima, and Ocean Energy Engineering Corporation Executive Director Kenji Tamura, and Association for Micronesia Development Secretary General Masakazu



Ace Water Treatment Company officials at the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Majuro. From left: Masakazu Kawashima, Kenji Tamura, Akihiro Taguchi, and Osamu Tsuyashima.
Photo: Isaac Marray.

Kawashima. The team explained this was their third visit in a two-year pilot project that they are introducing to the Marshall Islands.

The team said survey findings on the water situation on Majuro indicates that a small pilot project will fit perfectly within the communities in remote islands. The project includes small RO units that make 1,000 gallons of water seven hours a day using solar power.

A computerized monitoring system con-

nected online allows the company in Japan to view progress and potential problems. Japan International Cooperation Agency officials on island assisted the team with meetings with national and local government officials on the project. No outer island locations have been selected yet. There are potential sites and future meetings will decide next steps.

The small RO system for outer islands is expected to last 15 to 20 years, depending on the quality of maintenance.