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SIXTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-6) THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

● [HTTPS://WWW.PACIFICMET.NET/PMC-6-2023](https://www.pacificmet.net/PMC-6-2023)

## Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific  
14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

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### Agenda item 15.1: Progress and update on the Pacific Island Communication and Infrastructure (PICI) Panel and Terms of Reference (ToR).

#### Purpose of the Paper:

1. To note the progress and work of the Panel and other items since the Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) in August 2019.
2. To seek the Meeting's guidance and invite comments and endorsement of the proposals and recommendations of the PICI Panel.

#### Objectives:

- i. Governance of the panel and the Terms of Reference.
- ii. Consider aligning the PICI Panel ToR and workplan to that of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme in relation to the Communication Infrastructure objectives.
- iii. Consider the need to conduct a Gap Analysis of Infrastructure. Communication Technology (ICT), a 'Guiding Document for Infrastructure Standards and Principles', and a 'Roadmap for Implementation'.

#### Background:

The Pacific Island Communications Infrastructure (PICI) Panel is established to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on matters concerning the infrastructure, observations and instrumentation supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings in the Pacific region including advise on resilient and redundant communication infrastructure systems.

The purpose of the PICI Panel is to provide technical advice and coordinate the implementation of activities recommended by the PMC and related to:

- (1) infrastructure supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings.
- (2) identifying priorities and coordinate work related to planning and implementation of communications facilities and equipment.

#### PICI Panel TOR and Membership:

1. Since the last PMC, the PICI Panel has met four (4) times both virtually and face to face and has changed leadership with Adarsh Kumar (Fiji) as the new Chair and Rossylynn Mitiepo (Niue) as the Vice Chair.
2. The Panel reviewed its ToR and the updated version is presented in Annex 1 to this report.

## Progress and update:

1. Since 2019, there has been numerous developments relating to current compliance for the region using WMO tools. These include work implemented through GBON Implementation and Compliance monitoring, WMO Integrated System 2.0 (WIS2.0), WIGOS and other activities.
2. Members of the Panel continued to implement and advance the work of the panel through projects such as the WMO CREWS, GCF Pacific CIS, [RANET](#), in addressing infrastructure, compliance and preliminary inventory of current infrastructure, capacity development training, operations and maintenance.
3. The PICI Panel is the appropriate Panel that reflects the issues that are of similarity to the objectives of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme in relation to Infrastructure and Communications, and would need to work closely moving forward.
4. With all the investments and development in the Pacific hydro-meteorological infrastructure space, there is an urgent need to develop a Pacific regionalized standardized approach to communication and technology infrastructure and aligned with initiatives such as the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and conduct a current and time-bound ICT survey of communication systems, where they are operational, and the standards they meet.
5. The Panel recognized the need to facilitate processes for seeking financial and technical support to strengthen the basic and core functions of observations, communications and sustainability of Pacific Islands National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and explore options/opportunities, deploy appropriate modes of communications and feedback, and ensure alignment with other related regional plans and frameworks on communication technology infrastructure.
6. The Panel discussed emerging opportunities such as the Regional WIGOS Center, SOFF, Regional Calibration center and other regional facilities that needs to be aligned to the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and ensure consideration of issues such as benefit sharing, coordination spare parts, compatibility, documentation, equipment, and resilient and redundant communication systems and technical solutions.

## Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the updates to the PICI Panel and its progress.
  - **Endorse** the updated PICI Panel Terms of Reference (TOR).
  - **Request** that a ‘Gap Analysis of Pacific NMHS ICT’, a “Guiding Document for Infrastructure Standards and Principles”, and a “Roadmap for Implementation” are developed as part of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme.
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