



“Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific”

Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) Working Papers

7-9 August 2019
Apia
Samoa

Agenda Item 8.0: Progress on the Pacific Climate Change Centre

Purpose:

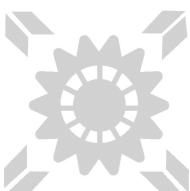
1. To inform Members of the key milestones achieved for the Pacific Climate Change Centre and the progress on its governance arrangements and the operationalisation of its key functions.

Background:

2. Pacific Island Leaders have consistently stated that climate change is the biggest threat facing the region, with the potential to affect a range of sectors vital for the survival and sustainable development of Pacific Island communities and their unique environments. To address the challenges identified by Pacific Island Leaders on climate change, the 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the Secretariat proposal to seek support from the Government of Japan through the Government of Samoa as the host country of SPREP to construct the PCCC.
3. The Government of Japan formally announced in 2015 its intention to provide comprehensive assistance in collaboration with SPREP which includes funding for the construction of the PCCC and capacity building to support climate change action in the region.
4. The 2016 SPREP Meeting established a Steering Committee to develop the PCCC operating concept and in 2017 a set of principles was agreed to capture commitments and guide further work on the functions and governance structure of the Centre. As the result of the work of the Steering Committee in 2018, the SPREP Executive Board meeting endorsed the PCCC Strategy and Business Plan and the establishment of the PCCC Advisory Board.
5. The construction commenced in May 2018 and it is set to be completed in July with the opening and hand-over ceremony to be held on the eve of the High Level Ministerial Talanoa on the 5th of September 2019.

Strengthening of Partnerships

6. In September 2018, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand the Rt. Hon. Winston Peters and Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Iwao Horii announced joint support for the Pacific Climate Change Centre. In June 2019 SPREP, finalised a Grant Funding Arrangement with



New Zealand for US\$ 2.3 million which will support the operationalisation of the PCCC including personnel for the period 2019 to 2022. The MFAT funding will enable the recruitment of the following key positions:

- i) Manager
- ii) Readiness Adviser
- iii) Science to Services Adviser
- iv) Information Knowledge and Management Adviser; and
- v) support staff for the administration and maintenance of the Centre.

7. Following on from earlier commitments made by the Government of Japan, two JICA experts to be based at SPREP in July 2019 to finalise the 'Technical Cooperation for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific' which will be delivered through the PCCC. The JICA experts will focus on finalising the training programmes to assist Pacific island countries enhance knowledge and capacity in climate change adaptation; mitigation; and access to climate finance.

Governance arrangements under the PCCC Advisory Board:

8. The PCCC Advisory Board met on 2 August 2019. A key outcome of the Advisory Board has been the need for clarity from SPREP Members on:
 - a. its membership to ensure fair and appropriate representation;
 - b. what it can and cannot approve on behalf of the SPREP membership; and
 - c. lines of reporting.

Focus of the PCCC

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) will be the regional Centre of Excellence for climate change information, research and innovation and will be hosted at SPREP in Samoa. As a flagship regional initiative, the PCCC will deliver capacity development programmes in adaptation, mitigation, climate services and project development. It will promote and foster applied research, drive innovation and build capacity in these areas and improve the flow of practical information between meteorological services, climate practitioners, policy makers, researchers, scientists and those implementing policies, programmes and projects.

It will be underpinned by strong partnerships with Pacific Governments, applied research institutions, donors, civil society and the private sector. The PCCC will deliver four mutually reinforcing functions:

- **Knowledge brokerage:** Building relationships between the producers and users of climate change knowledge so that Pacific Governments and other decision-makers receive timely, robust information in user-friendly formats.
- **Applied research:** The PCCC will host research projects that are designed to address specific research objectives and priorities identified in the region and which lead to practical outcomes for the Pacific.
- **Capacity building through training and learning:** The PCCC will be a one-stop-shop for the improved coordination of climate change training and will help the region to more effectively learn from climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to date.
- **Innovation:** The PCCC will support the development of innovative products and services which can increase resilience in the Pacific.



Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress of the PCCC;
 - **commend the Government of Samoa** for its commitment to combat climate change and the prioritisation of its grant aid priorities to the PCCC as the host country of SPREP;
 - **commend the Government of Japan** for the construction completion of the PCCC and ongoing commitment to capacity building to address climate change in the Pacific;
 - **commend the Government of New Zealand** for the generous assistance extended to SPREP to operationalise the PCCC with personnel;
 - **note** the capacity building initiatives through the PCCC partnerships and encourage the NMHSs to make use of opportunities to enhance knowledge and skills on delivery of science to service products through innovative and collaborative approaches to building resilient Pacific communities.
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29 July 2019

