

“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** **17.1**: Progress update from the Pacific Island Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this paper is to:

1. **Note** the progress made by the PIETR Panel in the implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Services Strategy 2017-2026 specially under the Pacific Key Outcome 9;
2. **Acknowledge** the contribution of partners in the implementation of PIETR related activities;
3. **Encourage** members to assist with the coordination and implementation of weather, climate, climate change, hydrological and oceans related to education, training and research to better highlight progress to date.

**Background:**

1. PIETR panel roles and responsibilities is to provide advice and recommendation to PMC on identification of human resource development needs, determine existing capacity development priorities, promote information on education training and research in the areas of weather, climate, hydrology and oceans, seek opportunities to enhance media engagement such as radio & tv, identify and identify awareness training for users and finally to examine feasibility of a Pacific WMO Regional Training Centre.

**Update:**

1. In collaboration with key partners the following assessments on training needs were carried out within the 2017-2019 period:
   1. **PMC-4 PMC Training Assessments** – conducted by SPREP in 2017 to map out current training implemented by different partners. Those responded include SPC, CSIRO, NIWA, BoM and NOAA.
   2. **Training Needs Assessments** – conducted by SPREP and University of Newcastle through the support of the Climate and Oceans Support Programme and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. The aim was to identify training needs on weather, climate and climate change fields. This consequently led to the development of three short courses on weather, climate and climate change to be implemented through the Pacific Climate Change Centre based at SPREP
   3. **Pacific WMO Regional Training Centre –** implemented by UNDP through the RESPAC project. The feasibility study was instigated in response to the call by Ministers through the Nukualofa Declaration and Honiara Ministerial Statement to evaluate the viability of establishing a Pacific WMO RTC. The process of collecting data included in-country visits, online survey and face to face meeting with PIETR to review and evaluate findings of the report.
   4. **Online Training Survey on Pacific Climate Information –** implemented by the UK Met Office in consultation through SPREP. Under the [CHOGM Climate service demonstrator](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/climate/international/commonwealth-climate-services-demonstrator) and [IPP Common Sensing projects](http://commonsensing.org.gridhosted.co.uk/), the UK Met Office is supporting the development of climate resilience, aiming to enhance decision-making through increased used of climate information in the South Pacific.  As part of the initiatives and in close collaboration with SPREP, the UK Met Office are designing new e-learning modules to support the use of climate information to inform decisions around future climate change.  A short online training needs survey was created in order to capture the needs of climate officers and stakeholders needing additional support to make better use of climate information across the Pacific, this will allow the e-learning to be tailored to better accommodate your needs. The survey builds on findings from the Training Needs Assessment conducted last year for the Pacific Climate Change Centre courses.

1. To respond to the call of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and their partners through the PIMS 2017-2026 to “*identify research priority areas and promote the application of the science and technology to decision making*”. PIETR panel in partnership with CSIRO and SPREP conducted a Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research workshop in April 2018. This led to the development of the draft **Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap** that was shared to all PMC members, workshop participants. The *Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap* provides a consensus and strategic approach to facilitating prioritisation, management, coordination and delivery of climate change science and services research and associated traditional knowledge in the Pacific. The aim is to facilitate the development and application of science-based and traditional knowledge to deliver on-ground impacts and enhance resilience to climate change in the Pacific.
2. A focus group compromising of country and technical partners proceeded to host a Pacific Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Engagement Meeting in November 2018 to discuss ideas on how best to enhance Pacific engagement of the IPCC AR process, including potential Pacific case studies to be published and targeted for AR6 reports. The workshop was attended by Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with apologies from Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea due to unforeseen circumstances. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP represented the regional organisations with apologies from University of South Pacific (USP) and University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), due to availability. This initiative also complements the ‘IPCC Authors meeting in Fiji 2018’.

**Recommendations:**

The Meeting is invited to:

1. **Note** the progress made by the PIETR Panel in the implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Services Strategy 2017-2026 specially under the Pacific Key Outcome 9;
2. **Note** proposed ‘IPCC Pacific Engagement Write Shop’ proposed for 23-27 September 2019;
3. **Acknowledge** the contribution of partners in the implementation of PIETR related activities;
4. **Encourage** members to assist with the coordination and implementation of weather, climate, climate change, hydrological and oceans related to education, training and research to better highlight progress to date.

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