

“Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific”

Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers

14-18 August 2017
Honiara
Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 25: Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC)

Purpose:

1. To inform the PMC of the progress made in the establishment of the PCCC, and the opportunities for enhancing meteorological and climate change services and science in the region.

Background:

2. The 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the preparation of an application to JICA seeking Grant Aid assistance for the PCCC. A detailed proposal was submitted to JICA in 2013 through the Government of Samoa, as the host country of SPREP. Subsequent SPREP Meetings have been briefed on the progress of the PCCC and have endorsed actions undertaken by the Secretariat.
3. In the presence of Pacific Leaders at PALM 7 in Japan in 2015, H.E. Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, stated in the PALM 7 Declaration "Japan's intention to provide comprehensive assistance, in collaboration with SPREP, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building which supports the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole".
4. The commitment of Japan to the region has enabled the development of the PCCC, and relevant capacity building programmes are in the pipeline to be delivered through the PCCC for the benefit of the region. Furthermore the generosity of the Government of Samoa as host country of SPREP to prioritise the PCCC through bilateral grant aid with the Government of Japan for SPREP.
5. After internal discussions and consultations with Japan, it was agreed that the PCCC will act as a Centre of Excellence for Pacific climate action and provide a focus for technical expertise, sharing of information and knowledge, collaborating on project design and implementation, and for capacity building in the region. It was envisaged that the PCCC would channel both in-region (South-South), and external support, including from Japan. Japan envisages an on-going partnership with the PCCC similar to that established with SPREP for the J-PRISM project, with Japanese technical staff based in the PCCC where requested, for greater involvement in projects.

6. The 2016 SPREP Meeting was provided an update on the PCCC, which inter alia endorsed the role of the PCCC as a shared regional hub, platform for partnerships, and requested that a steering committee be established.

Potential programmes of the PCCC:

7. From the outset it has been clear that the PCCC would not be a separate institution, or a new regional/CROP agency. Its co-location with SPREP is intended to ensure synergies with SPREP's strong regional roles and partnerships in assisting the countries and territories of the Pacific address their priorities for climate action.
8. Of relevance to the PMC, it should be noted that the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 recognises the PCCC as:
 - a. The key regional Centre of Excellence for supporting and coordinating efforts on climate change, meteorology, climate services, and disaster risk reduction, as outlined in the FRDP, FRP and other relevant regional strategies;
 - b. Supporting and coordinating efforts on meteorology, climate services, climate change, and integrating disaster risk reduction in development planning processes in the Pacific islands region;
 - c. Demonstrating "partnerships in action", in particular building on and strengthening existing regional partnerships established by SPREP;
 - d. Building on, and strengthening SPREP's partnership with the Government of Japan and the various research and technical agencies of Japan, including universities; and
 - e. Enhancing capacity building in the region with a strong emphasis on practical and applied training for up-skilling of stakeholders selected and prioritised from PICTs such as national meteorological services, national disaster managers, policy makers, decision makers, development planners for adaptation, mitigation, monitoring and evaluation, and assessments of climate impacts and vulnerability.
9. In addition, the PCCC will be able to provide a venue for FRDP-requested Working Group meetings and collaborative work on climate change issues. It can also:
 - a. support SPREP's climate-related roles in established mechanisms and policy forums including the Pacific Meteorological Council, and link to SPREP's climate and climate change related services supporting the Pacific region.
10. Climate variability and climate change resilience have been highlighted as global concerns, especially for small island developing states with global efforts supporting the implementation of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, the Sendai Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals demonstrating a large-scale international commitment to take action.
11. SPREP's Member countries have reiterated their well-justified concern about climate and climate change in many fora including the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (Samoa, May 2015), the Third Pacific Meteorological Council meeting and First Pacific Ministers responsible for Meteorology Meeting (Tonga, July 2015). Members also approved SPREP's 2017-26 strategic plan priority for climate change action (September 2016), and have requested that SPREP increase its assistance to them particularly in the areas of:

- a. mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into development policy, planning and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation;
- b. design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation programmes;
- c. climate change science, especially underpinning meteorology and climate services
- d. partnerships for climate change and resilient development;
- e. communication and knowledge management; and
- f. access to climate finance.

Update:

12. The Secretariat convened a Steering Committee of Members and organisations to develop the governance structure for the PCCC. The outcomes of those discussions will be provided to the SPREP Meeting in September 2017.
13. In terms of the physical construction of the PCCC there was a deferral to the original timeline to 2018. The ground breaking ceremony is anticipated to take place in early 2018 prior to PALM 8. Construction is expected to commence in March 2018 and take up to 14 months, hence a possible hand over of the PCCC to SPREP in April 2019.

Recommendations:

14. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the progress made in the establishment of the PCCC;
- **Note** the support of the Government of Japan and Government of Samoa for the PCCC to be established at SPREP;
- **Welcome** the renewed focus that SPREP has placed on climate change science, especially underpinning meteorology and climate services;
- **Request** SPREP to maintain in the PCCC future programs an emphasis on climate change, meteorology, climate services, and disaster risk reduction, as well as supporting and coordinating efforts on meteorology, climate services, climate change, and integrating disaster risk reduction in development planning processes; and
- **Endorse** the PCCC as a shared regional resource and a Centre of Excellence for Pacific climate change action and climate services.

[21 July 2017]