## Pacific Meteorological Council

## Pacific Islands Education, Training and Research Panel

## Draft Terms of Reference

(Version: 8 February 2016)

### **Introduction**

### 1.1 The Pacific Island Education, Training, and Research Panel (PIETR Panel) was established by the Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on education, training, research and human capacity development in relation to meteorology, climatology, hydrology, and oceanography, and delivery of weather, climate, water, marine and ocean services in the Pacific region.

### 

### **Purpose**

* 1. The purpose of PIETR Panel is to prepare technical advice and recommendations for PMC consideration related to education, training, research and human capacity development requirements in meteorology, climatology, hydrology, and oceanography. The focus is in particular on those requirements that will enable the Pacific Island Countries to benefit from improvements in the development and delivery of weather, climate, water, tsunami, marine and oceans information and services including alerts and warnings in the Pacific region.
  2. It is anticipated that to carry out the Terms of Reference (TOR) defined below the PIETR will need to work with other regional and international bodies to ensure the strengthening, coordination, continuity and integration of current and future programmes, projects and initiatives related to its mandate. Such bodies include, but are not limited to:

1. WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) Working Group on Hydrology’s Task Team on Training and Capacity Building in Hydrology (RA V/WG-H TT-TCB-H);
2. WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) Working Group on Weather Services’ Task Team on Training, Competency and Qualification (RA V/WG-WS TT-TRG);
3. WMO Executive Council Panel of Experts on Capacity Development;
4. WMO Executive Council Panel of Experts on Education and Training;
5. University of Hawaii (UH) and University of the South Pacific (USP);
6. UN agencies; and
7. Other regional and international institutions
8. **Scope of PIETR**
   1. At a strategic level PIETR is expected to provide PMC with ongoing advice and recommendations regarding:
      1. The creation of, and subsequently update of a Capacity Development Strategy for the Pacific within the context of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021; and
      2. The implementation of education, training, research and capacity development activities related to priority areas outlined in PIMS (2012-2021).

### **Role and Responsibility of PIETR Panel**

The overall goal is the development and implementation of an agreed capacity development strategy and work plan for the PIETR to guide implementation of Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021 focused on the capacity development needs needed to deliver the PIMS priorities:

* Improved weather services, in particular, aviation, marine and public weather services.
* Improved end-to-end multi-hazard early warning Systems (MHEWS).
* Enhanced infrastructure (data and information services) for weather, climate and water.
* Enhanced development of climate services.

For this inter-sessional period of PMC the roles and responsibilities of PIETR Panel include the provision of technical advice and recommendations to PMC on the following:

1. Identification of the human resource development needs, including realistic cost estimates, possible funding sources and delivery options, of institutions providing national and regional weather, water and climate services during the next inter-sessional period of the PMC.
2. Conduct a gap analysis to determine existing capacity and capacity development priorities for the Pacific Islands NMHs. The activities will include a review of existing curriculum and course mapping of meteorology, climatology, hydrology and oceanography and technical maintenance training courses available in the Pacific Islands against the WMO qualification and competency requirements.
3. Gather and promote information on, education, training, research and capacity development opportunities in meteorology, climatology, hydrology and oceanography, and delivery of weather, climate, water and tsunami information and services including alerts and warnings, to NMHSs.
4. Identify needs and opportunities training media partners such as radio, television, newspaper, telecom and internet media partners on weather, climate, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, tsunamis and other topics related to weather, climate and oceans to ensure that they can assist in communicating the services to the Pacific Islands’ communities.
5. Identify needs and opportunities for awareness training for users of climate, hydrology, oceanography and tsunamis information services
6. Work with WMO and potential partner institutions to examine the feasibility of establishing of a WMO Regional Training Centre (RTC) and alternatives like participation in the global campus for the Pacific Islands. The feasibility study is to examine demand, funding, potential regional and international partners.
7. Provide regular reports to PMC members on the progress of PIETR Panel.

### **Membership**

* 1. The PIETR Panel core membership comprise of the following countries and institutions: Cook Islands Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, SPREP, UH, USP, BoM, WMO Secretariat as per decision of PMC-3, but at the same time it remains open-ended to allow for PMC members to volunteer their experts to participate in PIETR Panel activities and for the PIETR Panel to invite experts either from its PMC members or its partners or climate users to its meetings and discussions. The PIETR is expected to mainly carry out its work via correspondence and other opportunities.
  2. The PIETR Panel will appoint its Chair, and if necessary a vice-Chair. The Chair and vice-Chair should not hold Office for more than 2 PMC periods to encourage rotation and sharing of responsibilities.
  3. The PIETR Panel may invite experts either from its PMC members or its partners to its meetings and discussions.
  4. The PIETR Panel may establish Task Team(s) to carry out specific time bound task(s) for limited time period.
  5. Meetings of the PIETR Panel shall be coordinated and convened by the Chair, with the support of SPREP/WMO/Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP).

## **Development, Review and Approval of Terms of Reference**

* 1. The PIETR Panel will develop and revise its TOR and submit to the Chair of the PMC for approval on behalf of the PMC between sessions of the PMC.
  2. Future sessions of PMC to consider and approve the TOR of PIETR Panel including amendments.

1. **Secretariat support to PIETR**
   1. The SPREP/WMO/Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) will provide secretariat support to PIETR Panel in terms of:
   2. Distribution of agenda;
   3. Collation of material; and
   4. Circulation of approved reports to PMC members.
2. **Funding**
   1. The PMDP in full collaboration with PMC member are expected to mobilise resources to assist PIETR Panel to meet and undertake its work.

**Annex 1: PIETR Panel core membership comprises of experts from countries and institutions**

PMC-3 Decisions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PMC Working Group | PIETR Panel |
| Members of PIETR of the following countries and institutions: | Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, SPREP, UH, USP, BoM and WMO Secretariat. |
| Chair: | Mr Arona Ngari (Cook Islands). |
| Vice-Chair | University of Hawai’i |
| Secretariat | SPREP/WMO/PMDP |

**===========================**