



"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 17.1: Progress on the Pacific Island Communication and Infrastructure (PICl) Panel

Purpose:

1. To provide updates on the progress of the PICl panel work plan and activities

Background:

2. The purpose of the PICl Panel is to provide technical advice to the PMC on matters related to the infrastructure supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings, and to strengthen national and regional multi-hazard early warning and prediction for high impact severe weather, tropical cyclone, marine, and tsunami events, and carry out work on implementation. The PICl Panel will review gaps and challenges in promoting the importance of the timely delivery of warnings and alerts for the successful operations of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWSs) and Multi-Hazard Information Systems (MHISs), as prescribed in the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy a (PIMS) and other international and regional frameworks (e.g. such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway).
3. The PICl Panel have been set up so they may advise relevant agencies and entities, as required by PMC, at the national and regional level that are providers of national telecommunications, Internet, VHF, HF, FM, and satellite communications systems, as well as regional and national telecommunications regulators, regarding improvement in the infrastructure supporting national meteorological services and others with multi-hazard early warning and prediction responsibilities (e.g. NDMO, Port Authorities, Fisheries, Geological, and other national services, including those focusing on reaching the disabled community).

Update:

Planning Meetings

- The PICl previously existed as the ANET (Radio and Internet for the Communications of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Related Information) ad-hoc working group on communications that was set up in 2003 at the Regional Meteorological Directors Meeting

(RMSD) in Va'vau, Tonga. This was formalise a PMC Panel on communications, and to align it with the other PMC Panels.

- The First PICI panel meeting was convened for half a day in Honiara, Solomon Is in August 2016.
 - At this meeting, the PICI panel identified and invited potential members, and later developed a TOR and the Work plan for the expert group.
- The Second PICI panel meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji, 13-15 May 2017. The meeting;
 - Engaged key partners in the region to discuss the communication and dissemination of meteorological and warning information
 - Revisited the PICI Panel's Terms of Reference
 - Provided updates on regional meetings and programs
 - Explored opportunities to improve coordination between national and regional communications providers, regulators and regulatory frameworks
 - Recognised the need for NMHS's to collaborate and actively participate in the development of their National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP)
 - Recognised that there are challenges and costs of communicating information and warnings
 - Acknowledged the need to work closely with the WMO-RAV Working Group on Infrastructure

PICI panel Teleconference

- The Panel has been holding regular teleconferences to discuss progress and other key activities (3rd November 2016, 24th of March 2017, 21st April, 5th, 2017, May, June 27th 2017, and August 2, 2017).
 - The discussions have been focused on the TOR, the work plan and improving partnerships and coordination amongst NMHS and Telecommunication partners.

Other opportunities

- The outcomes and priorities of the PICI Panel were shared by the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Coordinator for the World Food Programme's Suva Regional Office at a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan Regional workshop held in Vanuatu in May 2017 where all the national telecommunication regulators attended. At the workshop, the template for developing a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan was reviewed to guide regulators in developing their own plans.
- Members of the PICI Panel (Wilson Leguvaka, Ed Young and David Gibson) participated and made a presentation, titled "Together with Met Services" at the World Food Programme sponsored Regional Emergency Telecommunication Cluster workshop held in Vanuatu in June 2017 to provide information on the need for better collaboration to support emergency communication before, during and after severe weather events by the NMHSs.

Workplan

A workplan has been developed and will align with the new PIMS (2017-2026) and the RA-V workplan.

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
 - Endorse the PICI panel TOR and the current members of the PICI Panel
 - Acknowledge UCAR, FINPAC, WMO, COSPPac and SPREP for supporting the face-to-face meetings of the Panel.
 - Acknowledge the University of Hawaii TASI for providing the teleconference facilities to host meetings
 - Recommend that NMHSs collaborate on the development of the NETP with their National Telecommunication Regulators office to ensure that their priorities are reflected in the plan

Attachments

1. PICI Panel Terms of Reference
2. Second PICI Panel Meeting Report
3. Outcome of the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster workshop held in June in Port Vila

[Date of Submission]