

8:30 am – start with prayer

Programme:

Endorse Action Strategy this morning

Convene immediately after PM leaves for last words

- UNDP short presentation
- Short

Roundtable to meet after Lunch

Tahoro Kami
Roundtable Chair

Acknowledgements:

Prime Minister, Minister of Environment and members of parliament, Our hosts, Governor, People of Milne Bay, Director of SPREP and my colleagues from this conference...

Theme: Nature Conservation Serving Communities in a Rapidly Changing World.

The prognosis is the same – we are losing the war with the overall management of our natural resources and the decline of the environment. The stakes are raised significantly with Climate Change.

This conference – largest regional meeting of any sector – is an opportunity to celebrate how far we have come and to evaluate how we can contribute to the future.

I will highlight the following outcomes from the conference and combine with acknowledgements / celebrations

1. **A call to do more for our landowning communities** – recognizing that conservation must deal with providing a sustainable livelihood and improving their quality of life.

Stand: *All people living and working with communities*

All those with projects and activities in communities

2. A commitment from Governments: Leadership / NBSAPs / Sustainable Development Plans

Stand: *All Government Reps / National - Churches, Private Enterprise, Tourism, Fisheries, Locally based NGOs*

We need more cross sectoral partnerships

3. Innovative partnerships – Global Islands Partnership, Church / Faith Partnerships / Need new partnerships

Stand:

NGOs, International Organizations

Regional Organizations: SPREP / SOPAC

4. Financing Mechanisms -

Stand:

International Donor partners / reps from Partner Governments

NOTE: IF WE are still working on the scale of funding we have today in the next 5 years... WE MUST resolve to find the funding --- IF not!! WE MUST call for new partnerships

5. Hospitality of our Hosts – the Pacific Way: Government of PNG & Hosts here in Milne Bay, Department of Environment and PNG Team from Port Moresby,

Ultimately Prime Minister the lesson from this conference is that way forward for conservation in the Pacific is to recognize it is NOT about biodiversity

It is all about how WE choose to live and the kind of world we want our children and grand children to enjoy. If we choose a path of sustainability, to live in peace with each other and in harmony with our environment – conservation will be an achievable outcome.... And long term prosperity is likely

Inspite of the undeserved threats of climate change, We can win this war to sustain our natural resources - IF we decide to work together and DARE to believe that WE in the Pacific can raise the profile of our challenges and compel the world to ACT... and ACT now .. for tomorrow

I would like to leave us with the impressions from the opening – our reps from Cook Islands passing the paddle to the Governor General of PNG.... Our canoe continues forward today with PNG at the helm, our stakeholders paddling together and God as our captain.... We will negotiate the shoals ahead, we will ride the waves of globalization we will weather the storm and, we will find a better and brighter future for our Pacific Communities...

Tu'a 'ofa atu, Tenk yu tumas, God Bless PNG -