



## CIRCULAR

**FILE: AP 6/9/7**

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
PacPlan National Maritime Transport and Marine  
Pollution Focal Points

**DATE:** 23 May 2023

**CIRCULAR:23/44**

**SUBJECT: Pacific Islands Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan (PacPlan) Members participation in 2023 SpillCon Conference and Region Workshop on Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States.**

Dear Madam/Sir,

This circular serves to communicate to Parties and signatories to the Noumea Convention and Emergency Response Protocol, as members of PacPlan, to attend the 2023 SpillCon Conference 2023 (11-15 September 2023) and an associated Regional Workshop on Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States (15-17 September 2023), both in Brisbane.

The circular is being sent in accordance with Section 2.3 of PacPlan, whereby SPREP has responsibility to: *organise and deliver PACPOL activities and PACPLAN obligations that facilitate and assist the goals and intentions of PACPLAN, including assistance to develop NATPLANS, oil spill response equipment, development and distribution of model legislation, and capacity building.*

This activity is provided through the PacPlan Resilience Project 2022-25 due to funding supported by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

One (1) person from each PacPlan Pacific Island Country member is invited to put forward a nomination for supported attendance at these events in Brisbane Australia, in September 2023. These are: Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Other staff are invited and encouraged to attend at their own expense.

**SpillCon** is the triennial international oil spill conference for the Asia-Pacific region. It will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to present and discuss issues including causes and prevention, preparedness, response management and environmental issues. Its proposed [programme is here](#). SPREP is working with the organisers to include a session on Pacific spill issues, with speakers yet to be confirmed.

Spillcon 2023 is being held on 11 – 15 September 2023 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia.



Durabilité, transformation et résilience pour un Pacifique Bleu

Associated with SpillCon, SPREP and IMO are presenting a three-day **Regional Workshop on Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States**.

Response preparedness requires planning and evaluation. This allows planners and responders to set expectations, plan investment, and manage collaboration. The ARPEL Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™) is an internationally accepted standard for undertaking evaluation and plan preparation. The workshop will also investigate and explore issues key to preparedness, such as risk assessment, producing a National Contingency Plan (and other levels), decision-support tools like Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA), training and development needs, and exercise planning and execution. A very preliminary workshop outline and draft programme is attached at Annex 2.

ARPEL and Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution, Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe), in conjunction with SPREP and IMO, and regional industry experts, will offer this three-day workshop facilitated by worldclass experts. There will be at limit of 40 participants on the workshop, with all Pacific Island participants guaranteed a place.

The Regional Workshop will be held over Friday 15 Sept to Sunday 17 Sept at a venue yet to be finalised, but will either be at the SpillCon venue or close by.

We strongly recommend that people who are nominated for PacPlan travel and registration support plan to attend both events. Both would suit people with some experience of marine oil spill preparedness, planning and response, and who have a role in preparing and/or participating in their country's National Marine Oil Spill Plan (NatPlan). The Workshop will provide participants with knowledge skills, understanding and practical actions they can take home and immediately apply to improving their NaPlan.

Details of the travel, accommodation, and other expenses to be covered by SPREP and IMO (and those not covered) are outlined in the Nomination Form attached to this circular as Annex 1.

More information about SpillCon and its programme are available online at [SpillCon.com](http://SpillCon.com).

**NOTE: Do not register for the SpillCon at their website. It will require payment. SPREP has arranged a special registration for you and you will get that link once your nomination form is accepted.**

For more information about the Regional Workshop, please contact Paul Irving, the PacPlan Resilience project 2022-25 Project Officer on email [pauli@sprep.org](mailto:pauli@sprep.org) and phone +61421849452.

I hope we are able to see as many of our environment, maritime and marine colleagues as possible at both events.

Your sincerely,

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**Petra Chan Tung**  
Officer in Charge



Annex 1.

SpillCon 2023 and regional Workshop Nomination Participation and Registration Form.

Annex 2.

Regional Workshop on Evaluation, Preparation, and Planning for National Marine Oil Spill Response, Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States – Information paper and draft programme.