

Twenty Fourth SPREP Meeting

17th -19th September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.2.2: Report of the Second Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting

Purpose of Paper

1. To report on regional initiatives to support National Meteorological Services through the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC)
2. To seek the support and commitment of Members to the on-going development of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS's) and the regional programme developed and implemented by SPREP that supports them.

Background

3. The PMC serves as the regional mechanism through which meteorological and hydrological services in the region coordinate their activities, to build capacity and improve information gathering, dissemination and applications of information on early warnings, resource management, development planning, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management. SPREP provides secretariat support for the PMC through the Pacific Meteorological Partnership Desk (PMPD). The PMPD is the modality adopted by SPREP and its partners for serving the needs of the national meteorological services, PMC and their bi-annual meeting.
4. In January 2013 the Meteorology and Climate Officer position was filled. This is a core position within SPREP funded by AusAID and the primary role of the MCO is to serve as the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) focal point managing the ongoing relationship between SPREP and NMS's and the PMC and meteorological partners in the region and around the world. Efforts are being made by the Secretariat to seek funds to fill the vacant PI- GCOS position.
5. The 2nd session of the Pacific Meteorological Council was held in Nadi, Fiji from 1-5 July 2013. Participants included representatives from Member countries and territories as well as and partner organizations and observers. The report of the meeting is attached as Annex 1 to this paper.

6. A number of specific recommendations within the report require the attention of the SPREP Meeting. First of all, at its inception in 2011 the PMC agreed to adopt the SPREP Meeting Rules of Procedure on an interim basis subject to the development of Rules of Procedure for the PMC. During the 2nd Meeting of the PMC members approved the Rules of Procedure of the Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting to be submitted to the SPREP Meeting for endorsement. The Rules of Procedure are attached as Annex 2 to this paper. The SPREP Meeting is invited to CONSIDER and ENDORSE these Rules of Procedure.

7. Secondly, the PMC passed a resolution that establishes a sub group of the PMC to be called the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel (PICS Panel) to serve as the PMC's Advisory Committee on climate data and climate services matters. A draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the PICS Panel was presented at the Meeting. The PMC members, while endorsing the establishment of the panel in principle, asked SPREP and the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership to refine the ToR and report back to the PMC members out of session. Specifically, the meeting directed SPREP:

- To make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Panel and to convene its first meeting as soon as possible after the designation of its members. In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PMC, determine the date and place of the first Panel meeting. The Chairman of the PMC will preside over the first meeting until the Panel elects its [independent facilitator][Chair], who shall preside over the meeting;
- To provide support to the Panel and seek funding and other support for its work;
- To keep the PMC Members, SPREP Council, and as appropriate, relevant partners, informed of progress and developments on the Panel's work;
- To bring this matter to the attention of all concerned.

8. Members of the PMC endorsed a joint statement to the Joint Meeting of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (Roadmap Meeting). The statement was presented to the Roadmap Meeting by Ms. Maria Ngemaes, Director of the National Weather Service of Palau. The statement is attached as Annex 3 for reference. The PMC statement affirmed that:

- adapting to climate variability is an effective means of adapting to climate change; and
- meteorological information plays a vital role in multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) for rapid and slow onset climate and related events; and
- The Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy 2012-2021 is aligned with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and identifies key outcomes that would enhance the safety and security of Pacific communities to these hazards.

9. The statement noted that many disasters originate from the ocean such as tsunamis, tropical cyclones, rainfall extremes and sea level change, and therefore effective climate and ocean monitoring networks are essential. Continued investment in activities to address the key outcomes of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy and the capacity needs of meteorological services at the national and regional level are necessary so that communities can prepare and adapt to rapid and slow onset climate events.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** report of the 2nd Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council;
 - **commend** the PMC for its contribution to the betterment of the livelihoods of the people of the Pacific through improving and expanding the delivery of weather and climate services in the region;
 - **endorse** the Rules of Procedure of the Pacific Meteorological Council;
 - **endorse** in principle the establishment of the Pacific Island Climate Services Panel subject to final determination and request SPREP to report back to the next SPREP Meeting on its status; and
 - **thank** the regional and international partners who have made financial and in-kind contributions to SPREP in the ongoing work to strengthen meteorological services in the region, including from the Government of Finland, COMSEC and AusAID.
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8 August, 2013