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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
30 September – 2 October 2014

AGENDA ITEM 6.6: Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) - Proposal

Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the progress made in SPREP's efforts to secure funding for the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) at SPREP from the Government of Japan.

Background

2. The aim of the PCCC is to strengthen and sustain the delivery of climate change information and services to Pacific island members of SPREP. This will include the application of both climate variability prediction and long term projection tools to support planning and decision making in SPREP Pacific Island Members on climate change and disaster risk management.

3. The 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the application being made to JICA for Grant Aid to build the Pacific Climate Change Centre. A detailed proposal was submitted to the Government of Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for submission to the Japanese Government on the 13 June 2013.

Update

4. A high level delegation from the Government of Japan through JICA visited SPREP in April 2014 as part of a fact finding mission in relation to the proposal sent in 2013. In June 2014, SPREP was advised through diplomatic channels of the Government of Japan's decision to establish and build the Pacific Climate Change Centre at SPREP.

5. The initial stage is underway with the current recruitment of a JICA Expert as a Pacific Climate Change Adviser. The role of the Adviser will be:

- supporting SPREP and Japanese consultants to design the PCCC;
- the formulation of technical cooperation (activities that will be carried out in the center) to utilise the PCCC;

- to align the needs of the PCCC with the Japan ODA requirements and ensure there is shared and continued dialogue with SPREP members and relevant Japanese agencies in the planning of the centre including on climate change training in the region;
- capacity building of SPREP staff and government officials of SPREP member countries; and
- to provide technical support and advice to on-going projects of the Climate Change Division.

6. As the project is still at the initial phase, information relating to ongoing operational and maintenance costs of the PCCC will be provided to the next SPREP Meeting. This will be a key role of the JICA Expert.

Synergies with other SPREP initiatives and collaborations

7. The Pacific Meteorological Council and the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership are two key partnerships that will provide back stopping services and capacity building for Pacific Island countries and Territories (PICTs) National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and disaster and emergency agencies on tools and processes for early warnings, risk reduction and disaster responses and recovery. These will be carried out in the Centre and will ensure sustainability of relevant project based initiatives.

8. The current FINPAC project on reducing vulnerabilities in the PICs and outputs from PACCSAP and COSPPac (refer SM Paper 10.2.3), together with scientists and technology from Japan, will continue the capacity building not only for NMHS and national disaster agencies but also to planners within Pacific countries and territories on how to apply scientific information under relevant scenarios for the PICTs to help inform decision making.

9. In 2013, the SIDS DOCK meeting held in Fiji, agreed that the SIDS DOCK Pacific Office would be hosted in Samoa at SPREP. Given the synergies between the PCCC and SIDS DOCK, it is proposed that the PCCC also host the SIDS DOCK Pacific Office.

10. The SPREP – University of Griffith project on Climate Information (Information paper 10.2.8) will provide importing hardware and software information management for the PCCC which will also contribute to the sustainability of iCLIM outcomes.

Recommendation

11. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress made with the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and the envisage strengthened services from SPREP to its Pacific Member countries;
- **note with appreciation** the support from the Government of Japan; and
- **direct** the secretariat to report to the next SPREP Meeting on the status and on matters relating to maintenance costs.