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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 6.7: UNIDO/SIDS Dock Centre

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide a progress report on arrangements for the SIDS Dock Pacific Office and the work of SPREP to secure hosting of the UNIDO Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE).
2. To raise Members awareness and to invite views on progressing the two centres at SPREP.

Background

3. SIDS DOCK is a SIDS to SIDS mechanism established to facilitate the development of a sustainable energy economy within the small island developing states. SIDS DOCK is being jointly coordinated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (5Cs) and SPREP as founding agencies. From 2009 the two agencies developed the concept and assisted SIDS in negotiating with development partners. In 2011 the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee designated Belize as the Host Country for the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and that a Pacific SIDS Dock office would be established in Samoa at SPREP.

4. In August 2013, SIDS Dock approached UNIDO to support the establishment of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in the Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean and Africa. SPREP assisted the SIDS Dock Secretariat with the drafting and negotiation of the overarching Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNIDO, where a clear reference was made to co-locate the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) with the Pacific SIDS Dock Office in Samoa at SPREP. Similar arrangements were negotiated to ensure that the Caribbean centre would be co-located with the SIDS Dock Secretariat in Belize. Concurrently with this process SPC was working with UNIDO on the “Strategic Programme for Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Markets in the PICTs” funded by Austria, and the request from SIDS Dock was raised in this context as well. UNIDO decided to undertake a validation and information gathering exercise in the Pacific to ensure that a consensus was reached on the scope and location of PCREEE.

Progress to Date

SIDS Dock

5. In December 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, SIDS DOCK was launched with four Partners: UNDP, the World Bank, AOSIS and Denmark, which announced a grant of USD14.5 million. In December 2011, in Durban, South Africa, Japan joined the SIDS DOCK Partnership with a pledge of USD 15 million over two years (2012-2014).

6. In 2011, the SIDS DOCK Organizational structure was finalized in meetings between the Partners and the founding agencies. On December 8, 2011 the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee designated Belize as the Host Country for the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and that a Pacific SIDS Dock office would be established in Samoa at SPREP. The Pacific SIDS DOCK meeting in Fiji in May 2013 endorsed the establishment of the Pacific regional SIDS DOCK Office in Samoa at SPREP.

7. The ultimate goal of SIDS DOCK is to increase energy efficiency by 25 percent (2005 baseline) and to generate a minimum of 50 percent of electric power from renewable sources and a 20-30 percent decrease in conventional transportation fuel use by 2033. By providing a dedicated mechanism to pursue sustainable energy, SIDS DOCK will make it easier for partners to invest across multiple island States, and reach investment scales that interest commercial financing. SIDS DOCK will serve as a “DOCKing station” to increase access to international financing, technical expertise and technology.

8. To date SIDS Dock has provided financing for PIGGAREP+ projects in Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu (total US\$ 2,680,390.-). Further projects are in the SIDS Dock pipeline and are awaiting release of funds from the World Bank. Similarly the funding for the Pacific SIDS Dock Office is also awaiting final decisions on the second tranche of funds from Japan through the World Bank.

PCREEE

9. At a validation workshop for PCREEE in Nadi in March 2014, the issues relating to the purpose of and hosting of the centre were discussed in a stakeholder workshop. The meeting agreed on a process whereby countries and institutions would present bids to host PCREEE and these would be presented for noting by the Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers meeting. A group of officials from the validation workshop would continue to work on vetting the bids. At the meeting of Pacific Energy Ministers held in Nadi, Fiji, in April of this year, SPREP supported by Samoa, Tokelau, Cook Islands and Nauru indicated to the meeting its willingness to host PCREEE. Ministers agreed to a process whereby a committee would be established comprising of a number of member countries, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UNIDO to receive and assess competitive bids. Ministers would then meet out of session to make a decision on the bids.

10. In the view of the Secretariat, the PCREEE will increase access of Pacific countries to GHG mitigation programmes through affordable and reliable energy services. The Centre will also thereby contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and contributing to the global effort against climate change. The PCREEE is in its essence a climate change mitigation response centre. The Centre is to achieve this objective through energy efficiency and renewable energy to ensure energy security, clean energy and technology, and to provide economic benefits to Pacific countries through reduced use of imported fuel.

11. As SPREP has already been designated the Pacific SIDS Dock office it seems logical to co-locate PCREEE with that office. Significantly, PCREEE would form an integral element of the Pacific Climate Change Centre which will be developed at SPREP. This will be the key Centre for the region to coordinate climate change and related disaster risk management efforts, including climate change adaptation, mitigation, and policy development. Japan has confirmed they will establish and build the PCCC at SPREP with the initial stage already underway (recruitment of a JICA expert to be based in SPREP for PCCC planning). The Pacific Climate Change Centre would work on applied research and programme development for climate change – including mitigation of GHGs through renewable energy and energy efficiency. This would open up for further synergies and complementary activities.

12. SPREP is currently in discussions with other CROP agencies on how to ensure that the PCREEE will be a cooperative effort involving all relevant partners in its implementation and operation.

Recommendation

13. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress made by SPREP to secure funding for Pacific renewable energy projects under SIDS Dock; and
- **support** the establishment of PCREEE with the SIDS Dock Pacific Office at SPREP.

19 August, 2014