

Fourteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Fourteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Apia, Samoa
14 September 2017

Agenda Item 7.6: Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre in the Pacific

Purpose

1. To inform the Parties of the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre in the Pacific (MTCC-Pacific).

Background

2. MTCC-Pacific is one of the five centres in the world forming part of the Global Maritime Network (GMN) Project, an initiative implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and funded by the European Union. The GMN is a €10 million project for four years from 2016-2019 to build the capacity of developing countries and particularly Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for climate mitigation in the maritime industry.
3. The five MTCCs have been established in Africa (Jomo Kenyatta University), Caribbean (University of Trinidad and Tobago), Asia (Shanghai Maritime University), Latin America (International Maritime University of Panama) and the Pacific (SPC/SPREP).
4. The concept of establishing a global network of MTCCs to accelerate capacity building and technology transfer in the maritime field arose in response to the IMO resolution MEPC.229 (65) on "Promotion of Technical Co-operation and Transfer of Technology relating to the Improvement of Energy Efficiency of Ships".
5. "Capacity Building for Climate Mitigation in the Maritime Shipping Industry" has also been identified as a priority action within the framework of the EU's "Climate Change Mitigation: Supporting Low Carbon Technology" initiative under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (GPGC) 2014-2020,
6. The implementation of GMN project in the Pacific and the establishment of MTCC-Pacific provide a response and technical assistance under the Framework for Action on Transport Services (FATS) and the Goal 2 of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) on low-carbon development.

MTCC-Pacific establishment and operation with SPC and SPREP

7. MTCC-Pacific is established and hosted by a consortium of institutions comprising of SPC and SPREP with Fiji as the host country following an open process of international competitive bidding. MTCC-Pacific is allocated with a budget of €1 million for 2½ years from 2017-2019 and will contribute towards capacity building for climate mitigation in the Pacific maritime shipping industry and support Pacific SIDS and LDCs in limiting and reducing GHG emissions from their shipping sector.
8. MTCC-Pacific activities include capacity-building activities through regional and national workshops, as well as pilot-projects for the uptake of 'ship energy efficient technologies and operations', and 'fuel oil consumption data collection and reporting' with a focus on domestic shipping and ports in the Pacific.
9. MTCC-Pacific project targets all SPC and SPREP member countries for capacity building and implement the two pilot-projects in the target countries, which are Fiji, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

MTCC-Pacific Workplan

10. MTCC-Pacific have submitted and received approval from IMO of the two pilot-projects that will be implemented in the next 2 ½ years, the 2017 annual workplan, the Performance Monitoring Plan and the Communication and Visibility Plan.
11. An Advisory Group was established to supervise and guide MTCC-Pacific in the implementation of the planned activities. The Group is chaired by Fiji and members are Solomon Islands, SPC, SPREP, EU, GIZ, PIDF, PIFS and USP.
12. MTCC-Pacific organised its first capacity-building activities, which was a Regional Workshop on Energy Management in Ports held back-to-back with the Conference of the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance (PMTA) in Auckland, New Zealand from 31 July to 2 August 2017.
13. A Regional Conference will held in Suva, Fiji from 12 to 15 December 2017 with the objective to discuss and agree on issues, challenges and opportunities for reducing GHG emissions from the Pacific shipping industry and to officially launch MTCC-Pacific. The Regional Conference will be attended by officials from ministries responsible for maritime transport in SPC and SPREP member countries and territories and international and regional partners.

Recommendations

14. The Parties are invited to:
 - **note and support** the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre in the Pacific.

