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

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Maritime Focal Points

SUBJECT: **Invitation to the IMO regional workshop for the promotion of the London Protocol, 2 to 4 March 2016, Suva, Fiji**

Dear Focal Points,

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will conduct a regional workshop on the London Protocol (LP). The workshop will be held at the SPC Regional Office, Suva, Fiji, from 2 to 4 March 2016. A tentative programme for the workshop is attached at annex 1 for your information.

You are hereby invited to nominate representatives from your country to attend this regional workshop. The workshop is aimed at Government administrators responsible for the prevention and control of pollution from dumping of wastes at sea. Participants from national authorities should be of a senior level within their administrations with areas of responsibility involving both technical and policy-making decisions. Note that nominations will only be accepted for persons who have not participated previously in an IMO London Protocol workshop and preferably representing the authority/organization in charge of issues related to the marine environment, and dumping at sea in particular.

While the main objectives of the workshop is to sensitize relevant authorities to the implications of ratifying, implementing and enforcing the London Protocol, a special emphasis will be placed on the protection of ports and ocean environment. There will also be opportunities to identify future co-operation when protecting the marine environment in the region. It is hoped that the membership to the London Protocol will be increased in the region, thus maximizing the benefits that can be derived from full implementation of this instrument.

You are advised that one representative will be sponsored from the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Unfortunately the sponsorship does not extend to the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna, therefore participation in this workshop will be at your own cost for these nationals.

The sponsored representatives will be expected to provide a short case study on current arrangements for dumping at sea in their country and on other related marine environmental issues needing attention.

Financial assistance is limited to the return economy air fare by the most economic and direct route, and support for each participants' stay during the workshop at the prevailing United Nations rate. Insurance for risk in traveling or for illness, etc., as well as visas, if needed, must be arranged by the participant.

Please note that additional representatives from each country will also be welcomed to attend the Workshop, however, the organizers cannot support the associated costs and therefore any additional representatives would attend on the basis of self-funding only.

Please note that the regional workshop will be held prior to the regular joint session of the LC/LP Scientific Groups, which will be held the following week, from 7 to 11 March 2016, at the same location. Workshop participants interested in extending their stay to attend this meeting should note that the additional costs incurred by participants must be borne by the nominating Government.

You are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat the names and details of your representative as soon as possible but not later than **Thursday 11 February 2016**. Participation of a sponsored nominee after that date cannot be guaranteed. To assist the organizers in facilitating the preparatory work, please complete the nomination form Annex 2 and return these to the addressees indicated therein.

We look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/AT/fm