

A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa from the SPREP campus,

The spotlight was on the Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting (PMC-4) and the Second Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMS), which took place in Honiara, Solomon Islands in August. The PMC-4 brought together regional directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the aim of strengthening NMHSs capacity in the Pacific, thus contributing to the safety and well-being of Pacific people during the provision of weather, climate and related development services.

The PMMS which followed the PMC-4, saw Ministers responsible for Meteorology in the region gather to be briefed on and have discussions on the role of NMHSs and their contribution to both national and regional sustainable development.

Some of the outcomes of these two meetings can be found in this issue of the SPREP-Tok, while all news coming out of PMC-4 and PMMS can be found on the SPREP website.

Faafetai,



Director General, SPREP



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



ENHANCING A SUSTAINABLE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Continued support from the People's Republic of China for the work of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme was further emphasised in August with the presentation of USD 150,000 to SPREP. The Government of the People's Republic of China has demonstrated solid support for the regional organisation for well over a decade with the very first presentation of funds made in 1998. His Excellency Wang Xuefeng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Samoa presented their government's assistance to SPREP's Director General, Mr Kosi Latu.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION TO HELP COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE



Left to right: Director General of SPREP – Mr. Kosi Latu; Solomon Islands Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Hon. Manetoali; Dr Melchior Mataki, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Solomon Islands; Regional Director of IUCN Oceania – Mr. Mason Smith.

The theme of this year’s Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in August was “Oceans at a tipping point – From global communities to regional action.” The meeting considered the voluntary commitments made by countries at the United Nations Ocean Conference held in New York in June this year, where leaders from around the world met to discuss Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.”

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BRIGHT FUTURES IN OCEAN RESEARCH

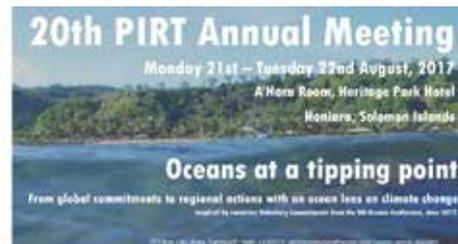


Samoa. Photo: C. Iacovino

The opportunities for marine science and knowledge management in developing regions were celebrated at the first Pacific Blue Economy Conference in Suva, Fiji in August, held by the Pacific Islands Development Forum. “Stronger data means stronger negotiating positions, greater certainty in the levels of sustainable use we permit, and a faster response to grow and maintain resilience to change,” said Mr Tommy Moor, Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System officer with SPREP.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION



Twenty years of efforts to conserve Pacific island environments and resources were celebrated by the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (PIRT) and its members in Honiara, Solomon Islands in August. PIRT was established in 1998 at the request of Pacific island countries and territories which was voiced at the 6th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997.

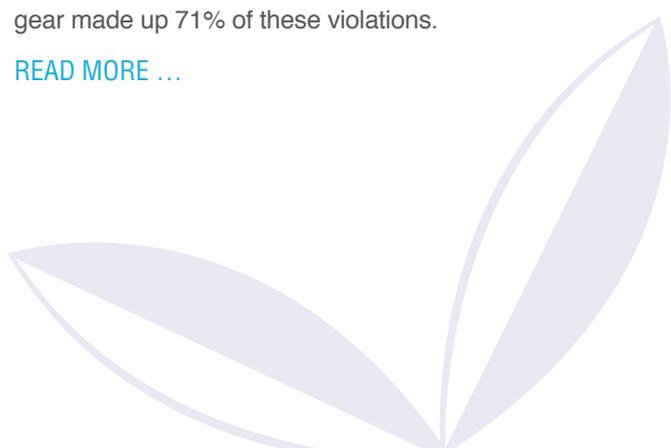
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TACKLING MARINE DEBRIS WITH GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS



Enhanced safety of fishing vessels at seas, will lead to better ocean health and marine species. One way to help us all address this is the Cape Town agreement on the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 2012. Records show from 2001-2005, there were over 10,000 violations of waste discharges at sea primarily from purse seiners but also long liners. Plastic discharge, including abandoned discarded and lost fishing gear made up 71% of these violations.

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OUR FUTURE GENERATION LEARN GOOD ENVIRONMENT VALUES WITH SPREP



Ms Emma Arasi and Dr Frank Griffin welcoming the students and teachers to SPREP. Photo: SPREP

Close to 100 school students are now better equipped to make informed decisions for our environment following a special visit to SPREP. The senior levels of years seven and eight of Sauniatu, an elementary school of the Church of Latter Day Saints, were hosted by SPREP, traveling well over an hour to visit the organisation.

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150 PEOPLE PLEDGE TO PROTECT SHARKS AT ALO PAO PAO FESTIVAL



The team from SPREP, MNRE and the Samoa Conservation society who organised the outreach. Photo: SPREP

'Our Sharks, Our Samoa, Our Responsibility' was the core theme of a campaign launched that saw a commitment from over 150 people to protect sharks within Samoan waters during the Alo Paopao International Paddling Festival in August. Held annually in Samoa, the event also draws a large number of supporters and families. They along with the paddlers participated in a number of special family activities to promote the importance of sharks in our oceans.

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NEWS FROM THE FOURTH PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IF FOCUS OF PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING



Director General Kosi Latu and Hon. Samuel Manetoali to SPREP. Photo: SPREP

Strengthening regional meteorological services by sharing knowledge and assisting each other is needed in order to build resilient societies were called for during the opening of the Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council in Honiara last month. The theme for the PMC4 meeting was *Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Waters Services for a Resilient Pacific*.

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PMC MEMBERS URGED TO FOCUS ON HYDROLOGY SERVICES



Mary Power of WMO, DG Kosi Latu and Hon. Samuel Manetoali to SPREP. Photo: SPREP

Members of the Pacific Meteorological Council have been encouraged to focus on the hydrological component of their national meteorological services by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). WMO Development and regional activities director Mary Power said there was not enough focus on the hydrology services by meteorological services. Hydrology services influence flood warnings and alerts.

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NEWS FROM THE FOURTH PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING

SOLOMON ISLANDS PUSH TO IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



Director of Solomon Islands Meteorological Services, Lloyd Tahani.
Photo credit: Jenny Davson-Galle SIMS.

The Director of Solomon Islands Meteorology Service says the government is pushing to improve the country's early warning systems. Reporting back to the 4th Pacific Meteorological Council in Honiara, Mr Lloyd Tahani said national service's achievements include infrastructure development, improved early warning systems through the installation of rain and tide gauges, staff capacity building and providing services to other stakeholders.

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NIUE MET SERVICE GOAL TO OPERATE A 24 HOUR SERVICE



Director of Niue Meteorological Service, Roslylyn Mitiapo.

The tiny nation of Niue's long term goal is for the island nation's meteorological service to operate on a 24 hour basis. Presenting Niue's Country Report at the PMC4, Niue's Met Service Director, Roslylyn Mitiapo, said the Niue Met Service is currently implementing its work through its updated Corporate Plan from 2015 to 2019, which is designed to demonstrate its alignment and contributions to the Niue National Strategic Plan (NNSP) from 2015 to 2025.

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TUVALU LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW CLIMATE PREDICTION MODEL



Dr. Jin Ho Yoo, Team Leader Climate Prediction Team, APCC.

Tuvalu is looking forward to using its new climate prediction model once it is released for use later in the year, says the Director of the Tuvalu Met Services, Mr Taula Katea. Mr Katea was speaking to journalists covering the PMC4 in Honiara, where information about the new PICASO model was released.

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SAMOA PROMOTES SMARTPHONE APP FOR WEATHER WARNINGS TO REGIONAL MEETING



A smartphone app that delivers weather information and warnings, was showcased to regional meteorology directors and experts in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Samoa showcased its smartphone app designed to deliver warnings in times of natural disasters as well as daily weather reports at the PMC4 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Samoa Met Division Assistant Chief Executive Officer said that this tool has been tested by the Met office over the last six months. He added that this development is in line with the Multi Hazards Early Warning Systems.

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NEWS FROM THE FOURTH PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING

ROADMAP APPLAUDED AS IT AWAITS
ENDORSEMENT

Dr. Andrew Tait, Chair of the PRSC.

The Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (PRSC) 2017–2026 received support from members present at the PMC4 in Honiara in August. The roadmap is a guide to identify and implement critical priorities for each Pacific island countries, ensuring governments and communities have reliable and well-understood information on climate.

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PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE PROVIDES
RESEARCH AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

A new Pacific Climate Change Centre that will provide meteorology training and research opportunities is scheduled to be opened in April 2019. SPREP Director General Leota Kosi Latu said that the centre would benefit the whole region in terms of training researchers in climate change-related areas including meteorology.

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For more stories from PMC4, please visit WWW.SPREP.ORG



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