

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,

We are now well into the second half of the year, and SPREP is churning full speed ahead in preparation for various big meetings in the coming months.

By the time this issue of the SPREP-Tok comes out, the 4th Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) meeting will be well underway in the Solomon Islands. This will be followed by the second Pacific Meteorological Ministers' Meeting (PMMM), the previous ones having been held in Tonga in 2015. The PMC and PMMM will bring together close to 200 Pacific Meteorological Directors, donors and development partners, as well as Ministers from all Pacific island countries, co-hosted by SPREP, WMO and the Government of the Solomon Islands.

Preparations are also underway for the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Bonn, Germany, in November this year.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the SPREP-Tok.



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

Soifua, 

Director General, SPREP

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



Pacific Media and Met workshop held in 2015 before the 3rd Pacific Meteorological Council in Tonga.



Go malie! Kat the Shark crosses the finish line for the five kilometre race in first place. Photo: J.Ward/SPREP

### INFORMATION MAKING AN IMPACT WITH PACIFIC METEOROLOGISTS AND MEDIA

Pacific media opportunities now made available with SPREP! Information making an impact is at the heart of a regional media opportunity now open for Pacific island journalists working in the region.

SPREP in partnership with the Government of Australia through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme (COSPPac) Project is calling for applications for the Information Making an Impact: Pacific Media and Meteorology workshop held next month in Solomon Islands.

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### KAT THE SHARK WINS FIVE KILOMETRE LALOMANU RACE

There was something distinctly fishy about the winner of the five kilometre Lalomanu half marathon last weekend. The winner – Kat Riley – ran the race dressed in a shark suit!

Kat, who originates from Australia, has been working in Samoa for the last two and a half years and regularly participates in the running, triathlon and inter-island swim events organised by Samoa Events. At this event, Kat decided she wanted to run with a purpose.

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
(685) 21929 | PO Box 240 | Apia, Samoa | [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) | [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

**Our vision:** A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



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## Q AND A: METEOROLOGY IN THE PACIFIC WITH SALESA NIHMEI OF SPREP



Mr Salesa Niihmei at the third Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting in 2005. Photo: SPREP

In August this year, all Pacific Meteorological Services, donors, development partners and stakeholders will be coming together for the Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council to be hosted in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 14–17 August, followed by the Second Pacific Meteorological Ministers Meeting on 18 August.

In this special Q and A feature we learn more about the Met Services of the Pacific, get to know more about one of the key people behind the scenes, and learn about the Pacific Meteorological Council.

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## BID CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP UNDERWAY AT SPREP



Participants of during a session on Day 1 of the workshop. Photo: SPREP

A workshop which aimed to enhance the capacity of Pacific nations to share and access data relating to the region's biodiversity was held at the SPREP campus in July.

Organised as part of the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme, the workshop helped project teams from the Pacific to plan and implement biodiversity data digitization efforts effectively.

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## STRENGTHENING OUR PACIFIC RESILIENCE: CLIMATE ACTION CALLS FOR CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS



Mr Kosi Latu, Director General, SPREP. Photo - Samoa Observer

Our Pacific Journey to UNFCCC COP23, Message from SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu. The Director General of SPREP attended the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Pacific and European Union joint parliamentary session in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in July. Mr Latu presented a perspective on the 'Need for Accelerated Climate Change Action' at the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting (Pacific Region) of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly. Calling for support to be scaled up in the Pacific, this was his message.

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## SPC AND SPREP SEAL PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT



SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, and SPC Director General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, signing the MOU between the two organisations in New Caledonia. Photo: SPC

Pacific island leaders witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pacific Community and SPREP that will further strengthen collaboration efforts for the resilient and sustainable development of the Pacific Region.

The MoU was signed by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga and the Director General of SPREP, Mr Kosi Latu.

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