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**AGENDA ITEM 8.1:**  
**Pacific Climate Change Centre**

**Purpose of Paper**

1. To inform SPREP Members of the key milestones achieved for the Pacific Climate Change Centre and the progress on its governance arrangements and the operationalisation of its key functions.

**Background**

2. Pacific Island Leaders have consistently stated that climate change is the biggest threat facing the region, with the potential to affect a range of sectors vital for the survival and sustainable development of Pacific Island communities and their unique environments. To address the challenges identified by Pacific Island Leaders on climate change, the 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the Secretariat proposal to seek support from the Government of Japan through the Government of Samoa as the host country of SPREP to construct the PCCC.
3. At the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) in 2015, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, formally declared '*Japan's intention to provide comprehensive assistance, in collaboration with SPREP, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building which supports the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole.*'
4. The ground-breaking ceremony for the PCCC was held at SPREP on May 11, 2018 one week prior to PALM 8 with the distinguished presence of the Hon. Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa and HE. Mr. Shinya Aoki, Ambassador of Japan. At PALM 8 in Iwaki, Japan, Pacific Island Forum Leaders '*welcomed continued assistance by Japan towards the construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), and the development of capacity building programs to be offered through the PCCC.*'
5. The 2016 SPREP Meeting established a Steering Committee to develop the PCCC operating concept and in 2017 a set of principles was agreed to capture commitments and guide further work on the functions and governance structure of the Centre. As the result of the work of the Steering Committee in 2018 the SPREP Executive Board meeting endorsed the PCCC Strategy and Business Plan and the establishment of the PCCC Advisory Board.

## **Strengthening of Partnerships**

6. In September 2018 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand the Rt. Hon. Winston Peters and Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Iwao Horii announced joint support for the Pacific Climate Change Centre. In June 2019 SPREP finalised a Grant Funding Arrangement with New Zealand for US\$ 2.3 million which will support the operationalisation of the PCCC including personnel for the period 2019 to 2022. The MFAT funding will enable the recruitment of the following key positions:
  - i) Manager
  - ii) Readiness Adviser
  - iii) Science to Services Adviser
  - iv) Information Knowledge and Management Adviser; and
  - v) support staff for the administration and maintenance of the Centre.
7. Recruitment for the PCCC Manager is in process.
8. Two JICA capacity building experts are to be based at SPREP in July to finalise the 'Technical Cooperation for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific' which will be delivered through the PCCC. The JICA experts will focus on finalising the training programmes to assist Pacific island countries enhance knowledge and capacity in climate change adaptation; mitigation; and access to climate finance.
9. The construction of the PCCC commenced in May 2018 by contractor Konoike Construction and under the project management of Yamashita Sekkei. It is set to be completed at the end of July with the official handover ceremony incorporated into the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting on the eve of the High Level Ministerial Talanoa on 5 September 2019. The PCCC is hosted by SPREP through the generous assistance of the Government of Japan through bilateral grant aid to the Government of Samoa.

## **Showcase for Renewable Energy**

10. The PCCC is intended to be a showcase of environmental building design, including in its solar generation capability. An Electricity Generation license is awaited from the Samoa Office of the Regulator to enable surplus solar capacity of the PCCC to be delivered into the Samoan electricity grid. This will ensure that in the long term the PCCC will be capable of producing 100 percent renewable energy, while still connected to the main electricity grid of Samoa.
11. The Secretariat will continue to explore donor partnerships for ensuring the PCCC produces 100 percent solar energy to complement the existing 20% capacity provided by JICA. The PCCC structure has been built with capacity to retrofit the solar panels necessary to produce 100% of its electrical needs

**Governance arrangements under the PCCC Advisory Board:**

12. The PCCC Advisory Board met on 15 July 2019. A key outcome of the Advisory Board has been the need for clarity from SPREP Members on:
- a. its membership to ensure fair and appropriate representation;
  - b. what it can and cannot approve on behalf of the SPREP membership; and
  - c. lines of reporting.

**Recommendation**

13. The Meeting is invited to:
1. **note** the progress of the PCCC;
  2. **endorse** the PCCC Advisory Board terms of reference;
  3. **commend the Government of Samoa** for its commitment to combat climate change and the prioritisation of its grant aid priorities to the PCCC as the host country of SPREP;
  4. **commend the Government of Japan** for the construction completion of the PCCC and ongoing commitment to capacity building to address climate change in the Pacific;
  5. **commend the Government of New Zealand** for the generous assistance extended to SPREP to operationalise the PCCC with personnel, and in conjunction with the Government of Japan, support to the capacity building programmes of the PCCC; and
  6. **welcome additional support** from members and partners for the 100 percent renewable energy target capacity of the PCCC.

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25 July, 2019