

## First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
10-11 September 2018

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### **AGENDA ITEM 7.1: Pacific Climate Change Centre**

#### **Purpose:**

1. To provide an update on the progress of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

#### **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 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.

#### **Progress to date:**

5. In the week preceding the Eighth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM 8), the ground breaking ceremony for the PCCC was held at SPREP on May 11, 2018 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 Center (PCCC), and the development of capacity building programs to be offered through the PCCC'.

6. The construction of the PCCC is in progress through bilateral grant aid from the Government of Japan to the Government of Samoa, with contractor Konoike Construction and project management provided by Yamashita Sekkei. The completion and official handover of the PCCC is anticipated in July to August 2019. A JICA Mission from Tokyo will visit SPREP in October 2018 to undertake the detailed planning survey for the Technical Cooperation for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific. This will be focused on delivering training to assist Pacific island countries enhance their knowledge and capacity in: climate change adaptation; mitigation; and access to climate finance.
7. Furthermore the Secretariat has built upon earlier work and developed a draft strategy and business plan for the PCCC guided with the inputs of the Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> which met twice in May and July this year. The functions, prospective governance arrangements and partner linkages were discussed and agreed as priority areas of focus for the Steering Committee. In its meeting of 31 August the PCCC Steering Committee agreed to progress the plan for submission to the SPREP Executive Board. (Refer to Annex 1).
8. The Secretariat is also exploring donor partnerships for ensuring the PCCC uses 100 percent solar energy to complement the existing design from JICA which will provide 20 percent worth of solar panel installation but capacity for 100 percent renewable energy use.
9. Several international and regional partnerships and initiatives will be co-located at the PCCC ensuring that the PCCC provides a home to serve the region for integrated climate themed partnerships. This includes the Pacific NDC Hub and the recently signed Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre joint initiative between the Pacific Community and SPREP on shipping emissions

#### **PCCP Overview:**

10. The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) will be a globally respected Centre of Excellence providing practical information, support and training to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific communities. It will be underpinned by strong partnerships with Pacific Governments, applied research institutions, donors, civil society and the private sector. The PCCC will deliver four primary mutually reinforcing functions:
  - a. **Knowledge brokerage:** Building relationships between the producers and users of climate change knowledge so that Pacific Governments and other decision-makers receive timely, robust information in user-friendly formats.
  - b. **Applied research:** The PCCC will host research projects that are designed to address specific research objectives and priorities identified in the region and which lead to practical outcomes for the Pacific.
  - c. **Capacity building through training and learning:** The PCCC will be a one-stop-shop for the improved coordination of climate change training and will help the region to more effectively learn from climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to date.

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<sup>1</sup> PCCC Steering Committee members who have participated in meetings in 2018 include: Australia, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Tokelau, United Kingdom, JICA, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community, and the University of the South Pacific.

- d. **Supporting Innovation:** The PCCC will support the development of innovative products and services which can increase resilience in the Pacific.
11. PCCC activities will span four main themes: climate change science and services; climate change adaptation; mitigation and low carbon futures; and climate finance.
  2. The PCCC is a shared regional resource belonging to Pacific people with the support of development partners committed to the resilient development of Pacific island countries and territories.
  3. SPREP and the PCCC Steering Committee have worked closely together to ensure that the PCCC complements, rather than duplicates, the work of existing institutions and programmes in the region.

**Recommendations:**

4. The Executive Board is invited to:
  - **note** progress with planning for the PCCC;
  - **endorse** SPREP's role in leading the development of the Strategy and Business Plan for the PCCC; and
  - **endorse** the draft Strategy and Business Plan for the PCCC.

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4 September, 2018