

Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012
Noumea
New Caledonia

Agenda Item 10.9: SPREP Building Proposal (Update)

Purpose of Paper

1. To update Members on the progress of the Secretariat's Application for the Government of Japan for construction of a Pacific Climate Change Centre at the SPREP Compound.

Background

2. Following a meeting between the SPREP Director General and Ms. Kiyo Rokutanda in January 2011, SPREP was invited to submit an application to JICA proposing an expansion of the Climate Change Facilities at SPREP through the construction of a purpose-built facility to accommodate SPREP's expanding Climate Change activities.

3. One of the driving forces behind the proposal was to enable SPREP to establish a "state of the art" Pacific Climate Change Centre for the benefit of SPREP Members, and also to accommodate the increasing levels of staff being recruited to the Secretariat.

Progress

4. SPREP developed a proposal and submitted it to JICA for consideration in July 2011 in anticipation of a preliminary decision by May 2012. At the first instance JICA responded to the proposal stating that further work was necessary on developing a clearer long term vision for the Climate Change Centre. Since this decision, the Secretariat has been working with the JICA Samoa office on a follow-up application. The feedback received in respect of the first application invited the Secretariat to better link the proposed building with climate change outcomes and programmes in the region, and also to resubmit it when the next round of applications is being considered in October 2012.

5. The Secretariat was also advised that the proposal, if accepted during the next round of applications, would take around three years to be formally approved by the Government of Japan.

Recommendations

6. The Meeting is invited to:
- **Note** the progress made on the application to the Government of Japan; and
 - **Endorse** the follow-up application being made to JICA for Grant Aid to Build a Pacific Climate Change Centre.