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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty-Seventh SPREP Meeting

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 6.4: Pacific Climate Change Centre

Purpose

1. The purpose of the paper is to update members on progress in planning for the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).
2. Good progress has been made in preparation for the establishment of the PCCC. This paper also reports on preliminary discussions about the vision and role for the PCCC as a Pacific centre for coordination of climate action and about how the PCCC will be established to best meet the expectations of the region.

Background

3. The 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the preparation of an application to JICA seeking Grant Aid assistance for the PCCC. A detailed proposal was submitted to JICA in 2013 through the Government of Samoa, as the host country of SPREP. Subsequent SPREP Meetings have been briefed on the progress of the PCCC and have endorsed actions undertaken by the Secretariat.
4. In the presence of Pacific Leaders at PALM 7¹ in Japan in 2015, H. E. Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe stated in the PALM 7 Declaration *'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'*.
5. The commitment of Japan to the region has enabled the development of the PCCC, and relevant capacity building programmes are in the pipeline to be delivered through the PCCC for the benefit of the region. As part of the initial capacity building training to be delivered through the PCCC, an application has been submitted to JICA for *'Japan programmes for capacity building on climate resilience in the Pacific'*. These programmes will form the initial suite of PCCC trainings for the region targeted to support:
 - a. capacity building of governments and communities of PICs on planning climate-resilient development;
 - b. capacity building of line ministries, communities, and private sector of PICs to prepare and manage climate-financed projects; and
 - c. selected member countries through preparation and implementation of GCF-supported pilot projects using appropriate technologies.

¹ Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) countries represented included Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, all members of SPREP. All Pacific island countries were represented by their President or Prime Minister.

Update on preparations

6. In May 2016, a JICA mission was received at SPREP to sign the Minutes of Discussion (MD). The Government of Samoa, JICA, and SPREP signed the MD on the Preparatory Survey of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. The MD formed the content of what was submitted to the Cabinet of Japan and includes the basic design, project costs, and areas of responsibility between JICA, the Government of Samoa, and SPREP on the PCCC.
7. The PCCC timelines are noted as follows:

a. Government of Japan Cabinet meeting	(July 2016)
b. Exchange of Notes signed	(29 July 2016)
c. Signing of Grant Agreement	(August 2016)
d. Consultant agreement (Detailed design, bidding assistance)	(September 2016)
e. Tender	(April 2017)
f. Commencement of construction (duration: 14 months)	(June 2017)
g. Completion of construction and beginning operation	(July 2018)
8. On 29 July 2016, the Exchange of Notes was signed by the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, and H. E. Mr Masakazu Hamachi, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Government of Japan. The Exchange of Notes serves as a key milestone marking the commitment that the PCCC will be built at the SPREP campus funded by Japan through Grant Aid up to 962 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to USD 9.32 million).

The vision and role for the Centre

9. The Secretariat has taken advantage of meetings with various Members, including at the July Regional Workshop on the strategic plan, to discuss the value of the PCCC to the region as a centre for climate change coordination and collaboration owned and guided by the region (SPREP Members, CROP, Partners, and Donors). As such, there is support for the following:
 - a. the PCCC is to be a Pacific Centre—a shared regional resource—an institution belonging to all the Pacific, not a SPREP centre;
 - b. the PCCC is to enhance and strengthen climate change action to maximise the impact of limited technical, human, and financial resources available for implementing national priorities for building resilience in alignment with national strategic plans, the Framework for Resilient Development of the Pacific (FRDP), and other relevant regional and global frameworks and agreements;
 - c. the PCCC will be a platform for fostering and enhancing genuine partnerships and collaboration, as envisaged and spearheaded by the Governments of Japan and Samoa when they generously gave their support to the establishment of the PCCC. The PCCC will demonstrate application of the principles embodied in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism;
 - d. the PCCC will provide a conduit for climate change work by all stakeholders as well as a place for those engaged in climate change to come together to work, to share experience and expertise, and to develop operational programmes for building capacity in support of Pacific island countries and territories' climate change, climate variability, adaptation, mitigation, and meteorological priorities; and
 - e. the PCCC is to be a hub for delivery of climate change and disaster risk management knowledge and services to Pacific island members where partners and CROP can deliver from their respective and relevant initiatives, contribute applied science, and conduct research.

Design progress

10. The building is to be a practical and flexible facility incorporating training facilities, an IT business centre, a data server centre, and office space for technical staff, visiting experts and researchers, and management.
11. The building specifications are environmentally friendly and demonstrate design features including natural ventilation, high standards for insulation and daylight control, photovoltaic panels and a solar power monitoring system, LED lighting and control system, rainwater harvesting, water-saving toilets, and an anaerobic digester.
12. As part of the construction phase for the PCCC, SPREP has committed USD 46,967 in the 2017 SPREP Budget for the development consent application and building permit process, these having been identified as the responsibilities of SPREP under the MD.
13. SPREP will fulfill its hosting role in conjunction with the Government of Samoa and will participate in the work of the PCCC via SPREP's climate change, meteorological, and climate change-related programmes, expertise, and partnerships.
14. The PCCC is central to the new SPREP Strategic Plan's programmatic approach to climate change resilience and is a symbol of SPREP's strengthened position to lead and coordinate climate change in its areas of competence and expertise.

PCCC Governance

15. SPREP will convene a small steering committee of Members to drive regional consultations on the governance arrangements for the PCCC as an interim measure to guide the development of an inclusive Pacific vision and operating model for the PCCC. These regional consultations will consider the types of climate change support programmes that should be offered by the PCCC in addition to recommending formal governance arrangements for adoption by the 28th SPREP Meeting in 2017.

Recommendations

16. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the progress of the Pacific Climate Change Centre;
 - **endorse** the role of the Pacific Climate Change Centre as a shared regional hub for inclusive collaboration to meet the priority adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific island countries and territories;
 - **endorse** the Pacific Climate Change Centre as a platform for fostering and enhancing genuine partnerships and collaboration for addressing the challenges of climate change resilience for the Pacific region;
 - **note with** appreciation the Governments of Japan and Samoa for their generous support of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, and request for the chair of the SPREP Meeting to convey to Japan and Samoa a note of appreciation; and
 - **endorse** the proposal that SPREP convene a small steering committee of Members to drive the regional consultation on the regional vision, operating model, and governance arrangements for the PCCC.