



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

## Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
17 – 20 November 2009



### **Agenda Item 9.2.4: Meteorological Services Support Update**

#### **Purpose of Paper:**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide SPREP members with information and update as to Secretariat activities in the area of meteorology and climatology support and to seek the endorsement of the SM20 in relation to:
  - a. Highlighted recommendations and implementation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Meteorological Services Directors (13RMSD) and the Joint Meteorological Directors and Disaster Managers meeting in Fiji, 2009;
  - b. The SPREP-Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) Project for Increased Capacity of SPREP and PIC NMS Staff to Meet the Growing Demand for Meteorological and Climatological Information in the Society.
  - c. A way forward for the consideration of the Pacific Meteorological Council or the Pacific Meteorological Organization.

#### **Summary of Issues**

2. The recommendations of the 13RMSD and the Joint Meeting are provided in the Executive Summary provided in Attachment 2 and 3 to this paper respectively. A number of recommendations are directed to SPREP and are spread amongst issues relating to the Urgent Review of Met Services (refer to a separate working paper on this issue), the Strategic Action Plan review, requests for joint SOPAC and SPREP action on climate information updates, as well as urging SPREP, SOPAC and WMO collaboration to further efforts in education, training and capacity building needs of Pacific NMS. These will be actioned where resources are available (additional resources may be sought later) and reflected as best possible in the appropriate section of the Secretariat's Work Plan for 2010. The SM20 is invited to note the recommendations of the 13RMSD, in particular those made to the Secretariat and those for national action. The next meeting of the RMSD will be the 14RMSD slated for Marshall Islands in 2011.

3. SPREP and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) have formed a project targeting capacity building for Pacific National Meteorological Services (NMS). The three areas of activities are Quality Management Systems for aviation weather procedures and standards, enhancing communications capacities of NMS, and a review of the 2000 – 2009 Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology in the Region for delivery in 2010. The latter activity was presented to the 2008 SM19 as an issue for action in 2009 and for which the Secretariat having now managed to secure the support via the SPREP-FMI project, plans to implement over the period 2009-2010, for delivery at SM21. The SDMP Review process will involve in-country assessments of the status of national meteorological services, appraisal of current and future issues relating to the long term sustainability of the delivery of meteorological services, and the assessment of and incorporation of future areas of collaboration with partners on development issues such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and management, and sector specific services such as food security and renewable energy. The Review will be governed by a subcommittee of the RMSD per the request of Meteorology Directors. The SM20 is invited to note this development and its activities for supporting actions of NMS at the national level.

4. In response to the 2008 SM19 instruction to request SPREP to investigate the options relating to the establishment of a Pacific Meteorological Council, the SPREP and WMO Secretariats and the RMSD have formed a subcommittee to look into the development of a Pacific Meteorological Council and a Pacific Meteorological Organization (PMO), modeled off the experience of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO). The Secretariat has begun preliminary background work with its partners and subcommittee and proposes a process to the SM for consideration summarized below:

- a. SPREP to continue to convene and facilitate the RMSD subcommittee mentioned above;
- b. SPREP to find opportunities for the subcommittee to be linked in to the developments of the two Review works (to be headed by the Secretariat) and for outputs of these to consider the PMC/PMO case where possible;
- c. Where needed and possible, the Secretariat to seek any additional resources to facilitate the work of the subcommittee or a consultancy on its behalf;
- d. To find opportunities to link and invite input from the CMO for guidance and advice as the PMC/PMO proposal is being developed by the subcommittee;
- e. To provide via the current Chair of the RMSD, regular progress and status updates to the RMSD (and via the Secretariat to SPREP Focal Points);
- f. Provide a full proposal or recommendations to the SM21 in 2010 on the establishment of a PMO; and
- g. Key support from the Secretariat to the development of this work is the reestablishment of the Meteorology/Climatology Officer (MCO) position currently vacant and unfunded. The Secretariat is to undertake as priority the funding and filling of this position to facilitate this body of work.

## **Recommendation**

5. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the 13RMSD and the Joint Meeting of the Meteorological Services Directors and National Disaster Managers recommendations, and **consider** and **endorse** those directed to SPREP members and those involving the Secretariat;
  - **note** the new partnership between the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) and SPREP in their joint 3 year regional project, and to provide assistance and facilitation at the national level where requested for the successful implementation of and participation of national representatives to project activities with particular reference to the Review of the Strategic Action Plan; and
  - **endorse** the proposed process for the Secretariat to lead on the development of a fully fledged proposal for the consideration of the SM21 in 2010, on the development and establishment of a Pacific Meteorological Organization (PMO).
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6 May 2009