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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

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DATE: 5 September 2013
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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CC: GEF National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Inception Workshop of GEFPAS - Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), I write to announce the commencement of the GEFPAS Pacific Project on POPs Release Reduction. This is a 5 year project, for 14 Pacific Island Countries, with the goal of reducing POPs emissions through improved management of Solid and Hazardous wastes. There are 6 key components to this project, in which certain components are funded by UNEP and FAO respectively.

As part of the project initiation process, I write to invite your government's participation at the project's Inception Workshop, to be on held 20th and 21st November, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Conference Room of the Skylodge International Hotel, Nadi Fiji. A draft programme for the workshop is attached at Annex 1.

The objectives for the Workshop are to:

- Revisit the GEF-PAS Project Concept, Objectives and Outline of Project Activities
- Ensure representatives fully conversant with the national commitment required to participate in the project, and
- Confirm key contacts required from all countries involved, for effective implementation of project.

The Workshop is aimed at government representatives at senior management level, with key responsibilites in national waste management and pollution control. The focus of this project will be linked to minimizing concentrations of POPs in the Pacific that have been released through incomplete combustion/uncontrolled burning, ratification improvements on International agreements on hazardous waste management such as the Basel, Waigani and Stockholm Convention, and capacity building of PICs on issues surrounding Solid and Hazardous Waste management.

One (1) participant will be sponsored to attend this Workshop from each of the project countries: *Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.* This includes airfares and the standard SPREP per diem - to cover meals and accommodation. Participants are welcome to book their own accommodation at the workshop venue.

It would be highly appreciated if you could complete and return the attached nomination form (Annex 2) at your earliest convenience but no later than **4th October, 2013,** and forward by email to

Mrs Lusiana Ralogaivau (lusianar@sprep.org) or Mrs Pulemalie Habiri (pulemalieh@sprep.org) or fax to **+685 20231.**

I look forward to your kind consideration for participation in this important workshop.

Yours Sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

Annexes: (1) Workshop Programme;
(2) Nomination Form