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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/9/1; AP 6/9/5
DATE: 24 September 2013
CIRCULAR: 13/70

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Maritime Focal Points

SUBJECT: Invitation to attend the three day Regional Workshop on Anti-Fouling Systems Convention, to be held from the 20th – 22nd (inclusive) November 2013 Apia, Samoa

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), I write to invite your government's participation in *a "Regional Workshop on the Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS) Convention"* from 20-22 November 2013, to be held at the SPREP Headquarters in Vailima, Apia, Samoa. A draft programme for the workshop is attached at, Annex 1.

The objectives for the Workshop are to:

- familiarize participants with the AFS Convention and related legislation;
- provide the necessary knowledge and information to encourage countries to implement and enforce the AFS Convention;
- to present and discuss the procedures and guidelines for inspecting, surveying and certifying vessels, and securing the safe removal and final disposal of anti-fouling wastes in the framework of the AFS Convention; and
- develop a road map towards ratification and implementation of the Anti-Fouling Systems Convention and development of relevant national legislation.

The Workshop is aimed at government administrators, preferable at a senior level with responsibility for technical and policy-making decisions relating to the prevention and control of pollution arising from shipping, particularly in the areas of slips ways and dry dock facilities in the application of anti-fouling systems.

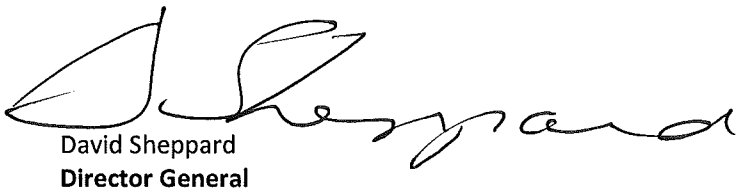
It is envisaged that one (1) participant will be sponsored to attend this Workshop from the following countries: *Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu*

Unfortunately the IMO funding does not extend to the territories of *American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna* as well as non-IMO member countries therefore participation in this training will be at your own cost for these nationals.

It would be appreciated if you could complete the attached registration form (Annex 2) at your earliest convenience but no later than **Friday 25 October 2013**.

I look forward to receiving your early response and in closing, thank you for your consideration of this valuable training Workshop.

Yours Sincerely,



David Sheppard
Director General

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

DS/SW/ph