SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/10/1
DATE: 16 November 2013
CIRCULAR: 13/79

TO: SPREP National Focal Points: Australia, Fiji, France, Guam, New Caledonia New Zealand, Papua New Guinea Tahiti and United States of America

SUBJECT: Proposed Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities Audit

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), I write to invite your government's participation in *a "Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities Audit"* to be conducted prior to May 2014, to be held at the following locations;

- Fiji;
- Guam;
- New Caledonia;
- Papua New Guinea; and
- Tahiti.

At the eleventh Meeting of the Noumea Convention (Annex 1 - Agenda Item 8.2), the Secretariat provided an overview of efforts to develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan. SPREP explained that the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee 49th session (MEPC 49), agreed that regional arrangements are an acceptable way to satisfy MARPOL obligations relating to adequate waste reception facilities for ships. This approach could have the potential to resolve obstacles for many countries to become party to MARPOL.

SPREP proposes to conduct a thorough assessment of the waste reception facilities at the above ports and terminals with the assistance of Governments and Metropolitan Members, as part of this process. The completed audits will help identify port infrastructure limitations that may need to be addressed, rectified or identified in the Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan.

The objectives for the audit are to:

- conduct a MARPOL audit of the selected locations for Regional Reception Facilities;
- report on the findings of the Regional Reception Facilities audit;
- develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan for the SPREP region based on the IMO Guidelines; and
- increase capacity of Government officials on the implications of ratifying, implementing and enforcing the MARPOL Convention.

It is envisaged that SPREP will conduct the Regional Reception Facilities audits on two phases. The first phase would cover Guam and Papua New Guinea, with the second phase covering Fiji, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

To allow SPREP sufficient time to complete the Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan and submit for review and comment by IMO, the following draft schedule would be expected;

- MARPOL audits finalized - May 2014
- Draft Regional Reception Facilities Plan completed - June 2014
- Comments on the draft Plan submitted to SPREP - July 2014
- Final Draft distributed and paper submitted for Noumea COP 12 - **08 August 2014**
- Regional Reception Facilities Plan submitted for MEPC 67 - **29 Aug 2014**

Note: All date above may move depending on the completion of the MARPOL audits, however; the audits must be completed no later than the end of May 2014. This will allow SPREP sufficient time to prepare the document to be endorsed by the COP 12.

SPREP requests that countries nominate a representative focal point that SPREP can communicate with to arrange and coordinate the logistics for the above audits. It would be appreciated if you could forward the representative's details at your earliest convenience but no later than **Monday 09 December 2014**.

Please confirm the representative details by email not later than Monday 09 December 2013, to:

Mr. Scott Willson
Marine Pollution Officer
Email: scottw@sprep.org

With a copy to:

Monica Tupai
Corporate Services Assistant
Email: monicat@sprep.org

I look forward to receiving your early response and in closing, thank you for your participation in these valuable Regional Reception Facilities audits.

Yours Sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

Annexes: (1) Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Noumea Convention; and
Annexes: (2) Guidelines for the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan.