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: AP3/2/41/1

DATE: 19 February 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/09

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Directors/Heads of National Meteorological Services

SUBJECT: Regional consultation on Climate Services for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) from 31 March to 4 April 2014, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Dear Focal Points,

As you are aware, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers, and senior officials from over 150 countries and 70 organisations attending the World Climate Conference - 3 in 2009, decided unanimously to establish the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to guide the development and application of climate services worldwide. The GFCS is a global partnership of governments, the United Nations and international agencies that produce and use climate information and services aimed at enabling society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, through identification of user needs, bringing providers and users of climate services together, development of capacities for using climate services, and building operational climate services that can assist decision makers to reduce vulnerability and adapt to climate impacts.

The Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI), held in Geneva, from 16 May to 3 June 2011 requested the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to facilitate, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including other United Nations bodies, the development of the draft Implementation Plan and the governance mechanism of the GFCS which was approved by the First Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) in July 2013. The Session also approved the establishment of the Management Committee of the IBCS; established a stakeholder mechanism formalising the Partners Advisory Committee (PAC) and elected the Chair and Co-Vice-Chairs of the IBCS. With these decisions, the GFCS transitioned into an implementation phase. The Pacific Meteorological Council in its second meeting in July 2013 also requested for a GFCS inception workshop to be held in the Pacific Region.

As part of the early actions, WMO with partners is supporting national and regional consultations to facilitate identification of specific gaps and needs in countries and regions as well as critical elements for the implementation of climate services. It is with this background that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and WMO are organising a regional consultation on Climate Services for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) from 31 March to 4 April 2014, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The consultation and related meetings will also serve as an opportunity to prepare for the participation of WMO and NMHSs from the region at the 3rd International Conference on SIDS, in September 2014, in Apia, Samoa; and to help with implementing the GFCS in the Pacific Islands.

In addition, there will be a series of meetings on:

(a) April 3rd for NMHSs' Directors on a range of topics including: (i) 3rd International Conference on SIDS; (ii) Pacific SIDS / LDCs and Instanbul Plan of Action; and (iii) Implementation Planning for SIDS component of Canada funded project "Programme for implementing GFCS at Regional and National scales", to which you are also invited to participate.

(b) April 4th for NMHSs' Directors or representatives on the following: (i) Discussion on the Pacific Meteorological Council; and (ii) the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) project.

In connection with the above, it is my pleasure to invite you or your representative to attend these events and coordinate with partner Ministries to identify a high-level participant from one of the four priority areas of the GFCS (disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, health and water) to also attend. **WMO can provide support for you or your representative and the representative of one selected priority area only**. Additional representatives are welcome but must be self funded.

Enclosed for your information is the Concept Note for the consultation. The programme will be circulated once finalised.

I would be grateful if you can kindly complete the attached nomination form for your 2 representatives and send these to SPREP (by email to Neville Koop (nevillek@sprep.org) and Joyce Tulua (joycet@sprep.org), cc: Filipe Lucio (flucio@wmo.int), Mary Power (mpower@wmo.int) and Henry Taiki (henryt@sprep.org) or fax: +685 20231) as soon as possible and ***no later than 26 February 2014***.

I look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

Encl:

KL/NP/clg/jt