SPREP Circular

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To: SPREP Focal Points (Pacific Island Countries)
Climate Change Focal Points

Subject: APAN Climate Change Focal Points and Experts Consultation Meeting for the Pacific

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SPREP, in Partnership with the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network (APAN) would like to request the attendance of your Climate Change Focal point to the above mentioned meeting, to be held in Apia, Samoa from February 28 – 29th, 2012.

SPREP is now working in close collaboration with APAN (as the Sub Regional node) to bring member countries and partners together, to meet the climate change adaptation needs of the region.

Background

Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network (APAN)

The Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network aims to help countries in the region to build climate change resilience of vulnerable human systems, ecosystems and economies through the mobilization and sharing of knowledge and technologies to support adaptation capacity building, policy setting, planning and practices. APAN aims at generating and sharing knowledge and information on adaptation to enhance climate change actions; facilitate application of appropriate knowledge to adaptation programs/projects; facilitate access to adaptation finance mechanisms; facilitate knowledge generation on appropriate technologies and develop the capacity of national and local planners, communities and development partners and the private sector in adaptation.

SPREP's Climate Change Portal

The Pacific Climate Change Portal is a hub for climate change information in the Pacific. The aim of the portal is to not only act as a hub for climate change information and knowledge sharing but is intended to assist decision makers and climate change practitioners with the provision of information concerning climate change adaptation and mitigation, identifying gaps in current programme activities and facilitate enhanced cooperation on climate change in the region. The portal is intended to link to information generated by national and regional organizations such as events, news, tools, publications, reports, knowledge products and project activities.

An integral part of the portal development is the gathering of the user needs from the users like climate change practitioners in the Pacific. This is to ensure that the portal is useful and relevant to its users and meets the user expectations in consisting of functions that are able to assist in their climate change related priorities and activities. Attendees to the workshop will be

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expected to contribute to the user needs during the user needs session by communicating to SPREP a clear set of expectations for the climate change portal and how it will assist their work as climate change practitioners in the region.

The portal is being developed in collaboration with APAN and regional organizations: SPC, PIFS, GIZ, USP and with knowledge partners: ALM, and UNDP PSE.

Meeting Objectives

- The objective of this meeting will be to: introduce UNEP networking approach including APAN's Sub regional node and thematic nodes to the key stakeholders working on climate change adaptation in the Pacific,
- introduce to member countries the role of SPREP as APAN's Pacific Sub Regional node, hold discussion on major challenges to address climate change (e.g. types of capacity gaps, knowledge and information gaps, gaps in policies and legislation etc.) form county's point of view,
- identify priority regional issues, support needs to overcome those challenges, and roles of national institutions to respond in collaboration with APAN.
- Further identify the needs of Pacific users, of the Pacific Island Climate Change Portal and introduce the APAN web portal as a potential tool for Pacific countries

The outputs of this meeting will include:

- Main knowledge providers and users on climate change adaptation in member countries identified.
- Areas of potential intervention and contribution of APAN, SPREP and other potential agencies /initiatives identified
- Users needs for the climate change portal area identified.

Logistical arrangements – Travel

APAN and SPREP would like to ask that national climate change focal points attend this two day meeting, and will provide funding travel costs (airfares and DSA) for one participant per country to attend.

Countries are asked to please fill in the attached nomination form, and send to Joyce Tulua (joycet@sprep.org) or Diane McFadzien (dianem@sprep.org) no later than February 15th, in order for SPREP to facilitate travel arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General

DS/NP/jt