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CLEAN PACIFIC 2012

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

CIRCULAR

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DATE: 24 August 2012
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TO: SPREP National Focal Points: American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States

SUBJECT: Invitation to participate in the review of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)

1. Background

The primary Pacific strategy that addresses ship based marine pollution, the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) includes a number of initiatives to assist island members with marine spill prevention and response. One of these initiatives is the development of the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)* that provides a framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills in the Pacific islands region, including the roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations, regional and international linkages and mechanisms for accessing regional and international assistance. The PACPLAN was approved at the 2000 SPREP Meeting in Guam.

2. PACPLAN Review

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has provided funding for a review of the PACPLAN in 2012 to ensure its ongoing contemporary relevance to the region.

3. Review Process

The PACPLAN divides the island members into 4 groups with each group overseen by one of the 4 non-island members (Australia, France, NZ and USA) as the countries responsible for providing island countries with primary response assistance. The table below outlines the groups.

Primary Responder	**Island Member Country**
Australia	Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati
France	French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna
New Zealand	Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga
USA	**American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau**

As part of the review process, the 4 *primary PACPLAN responders* (Australia, France, NZ and USA) will each host a review workshop with their respective island countries. The Secretariat, as part of its role to assist island members to address environmental issues and in accordance with the SPREP Strategic Action Plan 2011-2015, will coordinate this review. The review will be completed in two phases:

Review Phase 1 – This will involve a review process between the primary responders and the respective countries in a 2 to 3 days workshop. One of the key issues to be discussed would be the trigger mechanisms for assistance by the primary responders and the expectations and requirements necessary in island countries in the delivery of the response. This would also give a chance for the primary responders to show case what assistance can be made available which may be in the form of a tour of the oil spill response equipment sites and meeting with the people that will be providing that assistance. Prior to the actual workshop there will be a preparatory session – over emails, telephone and Skype, that will take place between SPREP, the primary responders and island countries to outline the expectations of the review process.

Review Phase 2 – This will involve a finalization workshop. It is our thinking at the moment that the primary responders will be invited to come to Samoa Apia for the finalization of the document.

4. Invitation to PACPLAN Workshop in Honolulu USA

The Secretariat and the IMO, in collaboration with US Coast Guard (USCG), would like to invite your government's participation in the Phase 1 PACPLAN review workshop organized for the 3rd – 5th December, 2012 in Honolulu, USA. A draft programme for the workshops is attached at Annex 1.
The workshop is aimed at Government administrators, of a senior level, who have the responsibility to implement the PACPLAN when requesting for Tier III response resources.

5. Review Funding

SPREP will provide funding for airfares and DSAs for one (1) participant from each of the countries – American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau to this workshop.

It would be appreciated if you could have the attached registration form (Annex 2) completed at your earliest convenience, but no later than Friday 21st September 2012.

Please note that additional representatives from each country will also be welcomed to attend the workshop, however, any additional representatives would attend on the basis of self-funding only.

6. Key Contact

For further information, please contact: Mr Anthony Talouli, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division, SPREP: anthonyt@sprep.org

I look forward to receiving your early response and in closing thank you for your consideration of this workshop.

Yours Sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General
DS/AT/ph