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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6/5

DATE: 10 March 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/18

TO: SPREP National Focal Points: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

CC: PacWaste National Focal Points

SUBJECT: PacWaste Project and Launch of Baseline Survey for Healthcare Waste

Dear members,

As you aware, the PacWaste project is a €7,850,000, four year project (2013-2017) funded by the European Union through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional hazardous waste management.

The first stage of the project is to collect baseline information on the current management of healthcare waste in participating Pacific island countries. This data will identify the priority countries requiring interventions in the next stages of the PacWaste Project. Australian company *Environ* has been selected to carry out the baselines studies and as a first step is planning health care sector audits in the participating countries **between March and May 2014**. *Environ* will review the collected data on the management of healthcare waste and establish best-practice options for management and disposal of health care wastes in the priority locations.

The team of four - *Mr. Geoff Latimer, Mr. Dean Osmond, Ms. Natalie Stella and Mr. Trevor Thornton* is scheduled to complete the audits at hospitals and other selected health facilities on the following dates (subject to minor changes):

COUNTRY	ENVIRON AUDITOR	ANTICIPATED DATE (2014)
Cook Islands	Mr. Geoff Latimer	4 - 9 April
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Ms. Natalie Stella	29 - 5 April
Fiji	All (first audit)	24 - 28 March
Kiribati	Mr. Trevor Thornton	28 - 30 April
Marshall Islands	Ms. Natalie Stella	7 -9 April
Nauru	Mr. Trevor Thornton	30 April - 2 May
Niue	Mr. Geoff Latimer	17-21 May
Palau	Ms. Natalie Stella	28 March
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	Mr. Dean Osmond	8-16 April
Samoa	Mr. Trevor Thornton	16 - 18 April
Solomon Islands	Mr. Dean Osmond	1 - 5 April
Timor-Leste	Mr. Dean Osmond	16 - 18 April
Tonga	Mr. Geoff Latimer	31 March - 3 April
Tuvalu	Mr. Trevor Thornton	22 -24 April
Vanuatu	Mr. Dean Osmond	27 - 31 March

The collection of this data is a key activity in the PacWaste project as it provides the information to identify options for the implementation of cost effective, sustainable solutions in healthcare waste management across the Pacific region.

Your support in ensuring the *Environ* audit team have access to relevant contacts during their dates of travel is requested to enable a productive, mutually beneficial audit process.

Further details on specific locations and hospitals will be provided to PacWaste focal points and in the absence of a project focal point, the SPREP national focal point in the upcoming weeks.

I look forward to your ongoing participation in this important programme.

Yours Sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General