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

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

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6/5

DATE: 12 September 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/84

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
PacWaste Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Launch of Country Reports for PacWaste Healthcare Waste Baseline Survey**

Dear members,

As you may recall, the PacWaste Project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP, carried out a regional baseline survey between March and May 2014 to determine the current management of healthcare waste at 42 hospitals and health centers across 15 participating countries.

SPREP is pleased to announce that the individual country reports are now available at www.sprep.org/pacwaste for the following participating countries:

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Republic of Marshall Is
- Nauru
- Niue
- Papua New Guinea
- Palau
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Timor Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

These reports outline the findings from the on-site audits and provide a range of recommended options to improve management and treatment of healthcare waste. The data from these reports will be used by SPREP to identify and prioritise regional and national interventions that will be undertaken in the next stages of the PacWaste project.

The report also provides hospitals and governments with current quantitative and qualitative healthcare waste data and can be used as a framework in the development of national and local policies.

For the healthcare waste component of the PacWaste project, all participating countries will be offered some form of assistance, commensurate with their needs and levels of resourcing as identified in the regional healthcare waste baseline survey.

This assistance will range from the provision of consumable biomedical items, equipment for managing and treating medical waste, in-country training workshops and development of healthcare waste management systems.

Therefore country participation and responsiveness will be critical to enable the successful provision of this assistance in the next stages of the PacWaste project.

Accordingly the PacWaste project team will shortly be contacting country focal points to prepare for these next stages of the project

Questions relating to the individual country reports can be directed to the PacWaste Project Manager, Mr. Stewart Williams (stewartw@sprep.org) or PacWaste Project Officer, Ms. Jade Tavane (jadet@sprep.org) at SPREP.

PacWaste continues to move forward in the other thematic areas of asbestos, E-waste and atoll integrated solid waste management.

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

Yours Sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General