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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
PacWaste National Focal Points

DATE: 19 April 2016

CIRCULAR: 16/24

SUBJECT: **Invitation to attend the 4th Annual PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting and Workshop**

Dear Focal Points,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the European Union, I have the pleasure of inviting your government's participation in the annual PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting and Integrated Waste Management Workshop, in the week of 18th - 22rd July 2016. This year the event will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Vanuatu.

PacWaste (Pacific Hazardous Waste) is a 7.85 million, four year project funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of healthcare waste, asbestos waste, E-waste and integrated atoll waste management.

Priority hazardous waste interventions are currently covering the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.

The objectives of the PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting are to:

- Report on PacWaste's progress to date;
- Update participating countries on future PacWaste activities; and
- Receive feedback and input from participating countries on PacWaste activities.

The objectives of the Workshop are to:

- Share regional best practices on the management of asbestos, healthcare waste, E-waste and atoll integrated waste management identified through the PacWaste project activities; and
- Encourage regional collaboration between PICs and OCTs and identify and engage on potential twinning activities.

The PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting and Integrated Waste Management Workshop are aimed at PacWaste Focal Points or senior level government officials with responsibility for:

- The management of asbestos materials and wastes to minimize negative impacts on human health arising from its use, removal and disposal;
- The management of healthcare wastes, training and systems development to minimize negative impacts on human health and environment arising from its creation, transport, storage and disposal;
- The management of electrical wastes, training and systems development to minimize negative impacts on human health and environment arising from its creation, transport, storage and disposal;
- The management of electron and electrical wastes, training and systems development to minimise negative impacts on human health and environment arising from its processing transport, storage, export and disposal; and
- The integrated management of solid wastes within an atoll environment, training and systems development to create a financially sustainable model that minimizes the negative impacts on human health and the environment arising from its processing, transport, storage, export and disposal.

The participants will be required to complete a high volume of pre-reading in preparation for the PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting and Integrated Waste Management Workshop. We will also request a brief presentation from each participant.

It is envisaged (budget allowing) that one participant from each of the following countries will be sponsored to attend the meeting and workshop:

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

It would be appreciated if you could complete the attached Nomination Form for your representative no later than Friday the 27th of May2016.

Please note that the Cleaner Pacific Roundtable will be held immediately after this PacWaste event in Suva, Fiji from the 25th to the 28th of July 2016. The Cleaner Pacific Roundtable (CPR) is a group of national officers, donors, partners, and other key stakeholders involved in waste management and pollution control in the PICTs. The purposes of the CPR are as follows:

- To coordinate and facilitate WMPC dialogue and networking in the region;
- To support the monitoring and progress reporting of the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025; and
- To share experience on waste management and pollution control and disseminate information on new and existing funding opportunities.

You may consider sending one representative to both events.

I look forward to receiving your early response. Once participants have been identified all finer details will be communicated directly with the nominated participants.

Thank you for your consideration of this valuable meeting and workshop series.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chape
Officer- in-Charge

SC/EV/fm