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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 3/21/5	**TO:**	SPREP National Focal Points
DATE:	12 May 2016		CROP Organisations
CIRCULAR:	16/33		SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Invitation to attend the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services (ROK-PI CliPS) Project Regional Workshop & Communications to enhance Climate Services Training to be held from the 18th – 23rd July 2016 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.**

Dear Focal Points,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); I have the pleasure of inviting your government's participation in the Regional Workshop on Climate Prediction and Communication to enhance Climate Services Training from the 18-23rd July 2016 in the Cook Islands.

The workshop and training will be co-hosted by the Cook Islands Meteorological Service, SPREP and APEC Climate Centre (APCC) through the Republic of Korea-Pacific (ROK-PI CliPS) and Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Projects.

The Republic of Korea-Pacific Project aims to build the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and users of climate information and services through the strengthening of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) capacity to contribute to community resiliency and national development planning. Tailored climate prediction information using a region-specific system will be developed.

The FINPAC Project on Reduced vulnerability of Pacific island country's livelihoods to the effects of climate change provides support to build the capacity of NMHSs to link the highly technical products and services provided by NMHSs to the daily life of communities and villagers in the Pacific islands through training programmes for NMHSs staff on unique and innovative methods to educate end users on the value and use of weather and climate information.

The regional workshop and training will provide the opportunity for the participants to:

- Increase knowledge of seasonal climate prediction in the Pacific Islands NMHSs, and increase understanding on the utility and limitations of climate prediction.
- Provide hands-on training on the use of the online Climate Prediction System called "Climate Information Toolkit for the Pacific" (CLIKP)
- Introduce understanding of the downscaling equations that will be used in the downscaled prediction system to be delivered to the Pacific National Meteorological Services

- Strengthen the communication skills of Met Officers in order to better communicate climate and weather information to their audiences
- Train the participants on how to develop awareness materials from Met information and products through improved communication skills and hands on training using software applications.

The Secretariat will provide full funding and support for one participant from each of the following countries to attend the workshop: Cook Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The participants are required to have a strong technical background in seasonal climate prediction and have excellent operational experience in generating seasonal forecasts and have good understanding of statistical and dynamical downscaling.

As part of the Communications Training, the participants will also be expected to come prepared with relevant information and materials in order to develop awareness materials – the details of which will be provided to your successful nominated participant.

It would be appreciated if you could complete the attached Nomination Form for your nominee and submit it to us along with passport details no later than 25th May 2016.
The tentative programme is attached for your perusal.

I look forward to your urgent assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chape
Officer in Charge