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

PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

CIRCULAR

FILE: HR 5/7/8
DATE: 26 May 2017
CIRCULAR: 17/26

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: Peace Corp Response Volunteer Placements to SPREP

SPREP is pleased to announce the following volunteer placements from the United States Peace Corp Response Volunteers (PCRV) Programme as part of its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat. The volunteers will be working closely with the SPREP team in different areas of the Secretariat to provide services and assistance to member countries.



Mr. Hakan Thyr, Project Management Specialist.
Hakan holds an Executive MBA in International Business and a Masters in Engineering Physics and Computer Technology from Uppsala University, Sweden, and a Masters in Computer Engineering and Computer Science from Clemson University, South Carolina, USA. He is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP®) and has extensive experience in international programme and project management having worked in a number of reputable organisations in the USA, Sweden and Denmark, including IBM (International Business Machines) and Dell. He will be working closely with the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).



Ms. Christina Tierno, Project Management Specialist.
Christina holds a Master of Environmental Studies in Resource Management and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, as well as a Bachelor of Environmental Science in Biodiversity and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland, USA. She is a Certified Project Management Professional and she joins SPREP from Arc Aspicio, LLC in Washington DC where she had been working as a Senior Manager for over four years. In this role, Christina consulted for the US Federal Emergency Management Agency supporting strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, change management, performance measurement, and other areas. She will also be working closely with the PCU.



Ms. Ruth J. Solano, Risk Management Specialist.
Ruth holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from St. Louis University, Philippines. She is a Senior Risk Management

Professional who has earned a designation of Associate in Risk Management (ARM) from the Insurance Institute of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and an Associate in Science, Legal Assistant (Honors) from San Diego Community College, San Diego, California. She had been working for the American Red Cross, San Diego, California for over two years as Team Leader of the Disaster Action Team and Program Leader for Disaster Services and previously worked for Peace Corps, Municipality of President Roxas, Capiz, Philippines as a Disaster Risk Reduction Management Specialist. Ruth has extensive experience in Risk Management and insurance (assurance) administration having worked for large international corporations. She will be working closely with the Executive Team.



Ms. Whitney Isenhower, **Environmental Reporting Specialist.**
Whitney holds a Master of Public Health in Health Behaviour and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. Her experience is in the areas of journalism and communications in health, the environment and sustainability. Whitney recently consulted on a malaria research project with Population Services International in Washington, D.C. and previously worked with UNICEF, Davidson College and Peace Corps. She will be working closely with the Environmental Monitoring & Governance Team.

Ms. Akiko Hamada-Ano, **Coastal & Marine Management Specialist.**
Akiko holds a Bachelor of Science in Conservation and Resource Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese Language from the University of Berkeley, California, USA. Akiko has been working at Peace Corps Philippines for two years as a Coastal Resource Management Consultant. She will be working closely with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Team.



The Peace Corp Response Volunteers will be based at SPREP for the next twelve months. They started official duties on Monday, 22 May 2017.

I am pleased to welcome our new volunteers to SPREP and I look forward to working closely with them in delivering relevant services to the region over the next year. I wish to acknowledge the kind support of the US Peace Corps for this great assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Director General