# CIRCULAR

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| **FILE:** | SPREP 4/1/5 | **TO:** | SPREP National Focal Points |
| **DATE:** | 23 April 2018 | | CROP Organisations |
| **CIRCULAR:** | 18/20 | | SPREP Partner Organisations |

**SUBJECT: Groundbreaking for the Pacific Climate Change Center and launch of the 25th SPREP Anniversary celebrations**

Dear Focal Points,

Construction for the Pacific Climate Change Centre will commence with the groundbreaking ceremony to take place on 11 May, this year at the site at SPREP headquarters in Avele, Apia. This event will also launch our commemoration calendar celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement that established SPREP in 1993.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be conducted by the Hon. Prime Minister of Samoa, the Ambassador of Japan to Samoa and I, before special invited guests. If you are in Samoa over this time please do let my team know, as we welcome you to join with us in this special event. The Pacific Climate Change Centre may be hosted at SPREP, yet it belongs to us all, a Pacific regionally owned resource to support our region in our efforts to address climate change.

The construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre is funded by the Government of Japan through the support of the Government of Samoa. I recently participated in the tender selection process managed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Tokyo. The construction company selected as part of the tender process with the Governments of Japan and Samoa will be awarded the contract by the end of April with verification of the contract now underway.

We look forward to this milestone occasion that marks a new era for our Pacific island region as we endeavor together to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

This event will also mark the start of our celebrations to commemorate 25 years of working together to protect and improve our Pacific environment and ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. We have special activities to take place over the coming months starting in May.

For this year only we will be using our special SPREP 25 year logo featured above, should you wish to use this please contact us at sprep@sprep.org and we will provide you with the various formats of this logo.

We will also be in contact with past SPREP colleagues and those who have worked with SPREP over the past 25 years to reminisce and share memories of environmental achievements, and partnerships formed. SPREP staff will be in touch with a number of former staff and we look forward to hearing of your highlights over the past 25 years of work with SPREP.

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Our SPREP 25 Year calendar of events is highlighted as per the below, it is through incorporating this special commemorative year as part of our SPREP work plans that we look forward to this celebration taking place across the region. Please note this is a draft calendar only, activities may be subject to change.

| Month | Events |
|---|---|
| May | Launch of the new SPREP website and the SPREP 25 webpage<br>Groundbreaking of the Pacific Climate Change Centre |
| June | SPREP Open Day and birthday celebrations |
| July | A month of activities coordinated by Island and Ocean Ecosystems |
| August | A month of activities coordinated by Waste Pollution Management and Control |
| September | A month of activities to commemorate the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef |
| October | A month of activities coordinated by Environmental Monitoring and Governance |
| November | A month of activities coordinated by Climate Change Resilience |
| December | The launch of the SPREP Legacy Network to celebrate the close of our spe year |

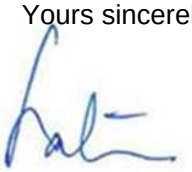
We will also be commemorating our special year with a targeted social media campaign starting in May that highlights not only the environmental achievements of SPREP over the past 25 Years, but also to give profile to our Members and partners that has helped support and make these achievements possible.

We thank you all for your support over the past 25 years and we look forward to celebrating achievements, highlights and memories, with you all as part of this special milestone.

This month of May is a special one for us, as we look to the past but also prepare for our voyage into the future, embarking on a new journey with the construction of our regional Pacific Climate Change Centre.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact us at sprep@sprep.org

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
**Director General**