FIRST PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

Theme: "Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific"

24 July 2015

Fa'onelua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

The First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-1) will open at 09:00AM at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre on Friday 24 July, 2015.

SPREP will conduct the official opening ceremony by inviting the designated person to offer an opening prayer. The Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga will deliver the key note address and the official opening of the meeting. The Prime Minister may then be excused from the meeting to attend other matters of State or may choose to remain until after morning tea.

2. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

SPREP will conduct the organization of the meeting, which will also include the designation of the a Meeting Chair. The nominated Chair will introduce the provisional agenda of the meeting.

3. METEOROLOGY IN THE PACIFIC REGION

The Chair will invite keynote speakers to deliver their presentations.

The first presentation under this agenda will be provided by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). FMI will discuss the rationale for having a ministerial meeting, as well as describing the activities of the Finnish-Pacific Project (FINPAC) in strengthening the capacity of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and improving the delivery of services to the communities of the region.

The second presentation will be delivered by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the meteorological services programs around the world with a focus on the projects for development in the Pacific. It will also highlight some of the important ongoing support activities such as WMO Office in for the South-West Pacific, the Government of Canada and WMO Program on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), WMO Program on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Services and follow up action on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and WMO Climate Applications and Services Program.WMO will share the outcomes of the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress. WMO key priority areas for 2016-2019.

The third presentation will be delivered by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Climate Centre (APCC) on its support to the Pacific Islands in the field of meteorology.

The final presentation before morning tea will be provided by Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) on the value and the role of SPREP and the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC). Emphasis will be placed on how the PMC came into being, the partnership with WMO and other organisations and institutions through the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP), the development of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021, establishment of working groups under the PMC such as the Pacific Climate Services (PICS) Panel, and other developments at SPREP such as the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

Morning Tea Break will begin at 10:30AM.

4. METEOROLOGY SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC

After the morning tea break., the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, who is also responsible for meteorology will make an opening statement/presentation about opportunities and challenges for NMHS and the importance of national governments investment in meteorology.

The statement/presentation will be followed by interventions/statements from other Ministers on the above subject noting their specific national circumstances and conveying the status of their government to NMHS.

This will be followed by a technical presentation from WMO, SPREP and its partners on the challenges and opportunities faced by NMHSs. The Ministers will be informed about the NMHSs organization, operations, and delivering of services to communities.

Discussions will continue until Lunch Break at 12:30PM.

5. MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

After lunch, the meeting will reconvene and the Minister for Transports and Works of Fiji, responsible for Meteorology will make a statement/presentation on the importance of Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems including the role of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center in Nadi (RSMC-Nadi).

The statement/presentation will be followed by intervention/statements from other Ministers.

This will be followed by a technical presentation from the Solomon Islands about the challenges faced during the flooding event in April 2014.

6. CLIMATE SERVICES

The Minister of Transport of Tonga, responsible for Meteorology will make a statement/presentation on the value of climate services and highlight Tonga's experiences in developing reliable climate services.

The statement/presentation will be followed by interventions/statements from other State Ministers.

This will be followed by a presentation from WMO on the importance of investing in climate services. Ministers will be introduced to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and related activities Implemented in the Pacific region.

7. OUTCOME OF THE THIRD PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

The Ministers will be informed of the outcomes of the Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) held from 20 to 23 July.

The Ministers will be invited to make discuss, and make comments.

8. THE NUKU'ALOFA DECLARATION

The Chair of the meeting will introduce the draft Declaration. The purpose of the draft Declaration is calling for a way forward to support and strengthen meteorological services in the Pacific region. The Chair will also ask the Ministers to review and make comments on the draft Declaration.

After discussing and making comments on the draft Declaration, the Chair will call for it endorsement.

9. CLOSING OF MEETING

The Closing of the meeting will follow immediately after endorsement of the Declaration.Time permitting the Chair may give opportunity for Ministers to make statements before the official closing of the meeting.

The statement for the closing of the meeting will be from the Government of Tonga.

A dinner reception will be hosted by the Government of Tonga for the First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology at 6:00PM.