Minutes of the Third Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Pacific Hazardous Waste (PacWaste) project

Introduction

1. The Third Annual Steering Committee of the PacWaste project was held at the Otintaai Hotel, Tarawa, Kiribati on 20 October, 2015.

2. Present at the Meeting were representatives from the European Union, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

3. Also present were observers from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM). A full list of participants, including observers, is available in Annex 1.

4. Apologies were provided by Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Opening

5. The Meeting was opened at 9am by the Mr Moannata Ientaake, Permanent Secretary for the Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD) and was followed by welcoming remarks from Mr Stewart Williams, PacWaste Project Manager and Ms Ileana Miritescu, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources at the European Union Delegation for the Pacific, Suva.

Appointment of Chair

6. The Meeting appointed Mr Taulehia Pulefou, Officer in Charge of the Environment and Conservation Division at MELAD as the Chair.

Adoption of Agenda

7. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda, which is attached as Annex 2.

Country Presentations

8. Each of the country representatives delivered a short presentation on a key issue of relevance to the Meeting. The first session of country presentations were moderated by Ms Elizabeth Vanderburg, PacWaste Project Officer.

9. During the first session the following country presentations were made: Mr Vavia Tangatatala presented to the meeting about the issue of asbestos in Cook Islands; Sister Lydia Andrews presented on the progress being made in the area of improved healthcare waste

management in Fiji; Mr Presley Abraham presented on the recent pre-paid bag experience in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia; Mr Jaden Agir presented on the solid waste challenge faced by Nauru; and Ms Trinva Vilila presented on the topic of asbestos in Niue.

10. The representatives of Federated States of Micronesia and Palau enquired about asbestos disposal options, noting the example given by Cook Islands of securely dumping asbestos at sea. Mr Williams explained that there are three accepted asbestos disposal option – export, in-situ landfilling and dumping at sea in accordance with the requirements of the London Convention on Marine Dumping.

11. The representative of Palau enquired about standards for levels of asbestos in water. Mr Williams explained that asbestos only poses a human health risk when airborne and accordingly why WHO has no established limits for asbestos fibres in water.

12. The second session of country presentations were moderated by Mr Tim Hartley, PacWaste Solid Waste Project Officer.

13. During the second session the following country presentations were made: Ms Bweneata Kaoti presented on the topic of E-waste in Kiribati; Ms Portia Franz presented a general overview of E-waste, healthcare waste and asbestos in Palau; Mr Jorelik Tibon presented an overview of the PacWaste activities planned for Republic of the Marshall Islands; Ms Fiasosoitamalii Siaosi presented on the status of E-waste in Samoa; Ms Wendy Beti presented on waste management in Honiara – with a specific focus on landfill rehabilitation; Ms Sulieti Pongi presented on how waste is currently managed in Tonga; and Ms Susana Telakau presented on solid waste management in Tuvalu.

Observer Presentations

14. Mr Ross Craven of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade presented on the next stage of integrated solid waste management planned for Kiribati.

15. Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele of J-PRISM presented on the work undertaken to support disaster recover in Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Pam.

16. The Meeting thanked the observers for their presentations.

Background to European Union assistance in the Pacific (EDF10)

17. Ms Ileana Miritescu presented to the Meeting on the origins and aims of the PacWaste project.

18. The Meeting thanked Ms Miritescu for her presentation.

Second year work programme, milestones and results

19. Mr Stewart Williams, PacWaste Project Manager, delivered an overview of the PacWaste project's second year work programme, milestones and results.

20. The Meeting thanked Mr Williams for his presentation.

21. The representative of Samoa queried why Samoa had not been selected as a recipient of healthcare waste incinerators. Mr Williams explained that the provision of incinerators had been prioritised according to need, and that the baseline survey had found that Samoa had fully functioning incinerators with sufficient capacity to incinerate healthcare waste.

22. The representative of Palau queried whether the installation of incinerators was a part of the second year plan. Mr Williams clarified that this was the case and advised that the current shipping schedule was present on the flash drive given to all participants Mr Williams further noted that the location of the incinerators was an important consideration, and that care should be taken to ensure that they are located securely and in an area where their operational life would be maximised.

23. The representative of Palau enquired how the technical specifications of the incinerators had been determined. Mr Williams explained that the PacWaste Technical Advisory Panel had determined that small high temperature healthcare incinerators were the best option for Pacific island nations**.**

24. The representative of Kiribati enquired about the details of the planned asbestos work programme. Mr Williams explained that the full list of proposed asbestos interventions had been distributed by way of a Circular in August 2015, and that the details were also enclosed on the flash drive provided to all participants at the start of the meeting.

Third year work programme and budget

25. Mr Stewart Williams, PacWaste Project Manager, delivered an overview of the PacWaste project's second year work programme, milestones and results.

26. There were no comments and it was agreed that countries could provide comments on the work plan and budget for a two week period after the draft minutes were circulated.

Closing

27. Mr Williams and Ms Miritescu made closing remarks to the Meeting on behalf of SPREP and the European Union respectively.

28. Ms Miritescu thanked the Meeting participants for the knowledge and experience that they contributed to the Meeting and noted the platform of partnership that was evident throughout proceedings.

29. The Chair thanked participants for their contribution and country presentations.

30. The Meeting was closed at 4.30pm.

Annex 1: Participants List

COOK ISLANDS

1. Mr Vavia Tangatataia
   Manager, Compliance Division
   National Environment Service
   Cook Islands
   Phone: (682) 21256
   Mobile: (682) 55500
   vavia.tangatataia@cookislands.gov.ck

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

2. Mr Presley Abraham
   Program Project Coordinator, KIRMA
   Office of Environment and Emergency Management
   Federated States of Micronesia
   Phone: (691) 370-3646
   Mobile: (691) 970-9617
   Email: kjjpal@gmail.com

FIJI

3. Ms Lydia Andrews
   Clinical Risk Manager
   Lautoka Hospital
   Phone: (679) 6660399
   Mobile: (679) 9265775
   Email: lydia.andrews@health.gov.fj

KIRIBATI

4. Mr Moannata Ientaake
   Permanent Secretary
   Ministry of Environment Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD)
   Tarawa, Kiribati
   Email: ientaake@gmail.com

5. Mr Taulehia Pulefou
   Senior Environment Officer
   Chemical and Waste Management Unit
   MELAD
   Tarawa, Kiribati
   Email: taulehiap@environment.gov.ki

6. Mr Tebikau Tibwe
   Acting Deputy Director
   Public Health Services
   Tarawa, Kiribati
   Phone: 28100 ext 280
   Mobile: 65608
   Email: tnoran@gmail.com

7. Mr Teema Biko
   Environment and Conservation Division, MELAD
   Tarawa, Kiribati
   Phone: 28425
   Fax: 28334, 68037
   Email: teemab@environment.gov.ki

8. Ms Bweneata Kaoti
   Project Officer
   Environment and Conservation Division, MELAD
   Tarawa, Kiribati
   Phone: 28425
   Fax: 28334, 68037
   Email: bweneatak@environment.gov.ki

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

9. Mr Jorelik Tibon
   General Manager
   Majuro Atoll Waste Company
   Phone: (692) 247 2700
   Email: Jorelik.tibon1@gmail.com

10. Ms Joann Komanta
    Pollution Officer, EPA
    Republic of the Marshall Islands
    Email: jkomanta@gmail.com

NAURU

11. Mr Jaden Agir
    Waste and Water Manager
    Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru
    Phone: (674) 5573191
    Email: jadenagir7@gmail.com

NIUE

12. Ms Trinya Luinalofa Enamoe Vilila
    Waste Management Officer
    Niue Department of Environment
    Phone: (683) 4021
    Mobile: (683) 6024
    Email: luina.vilila@mail.gov.nu

PALAU

13. Ms Portia Franz
    Administrator
    Office of Health Preparedness, Policy and Research
    Ministry of Health, Palau
    Phone: (680) 488 6750
    Mobile: (680) 488 0543
    Email: portia.franz@palauhealth.org

SAMOA

14. Ms Fiasosoitamalii Siaosi
    Principal Chemical and Hazardous Waste Officer Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)
    Phone: (685) 67200
    Mobile: (685) 7607838
    Email: fiasoso.siaosi@mnre.gov.ws

SOLOMON ISLANDS

15. Ms Wendy Beti
    Environment Officer
    Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)
    Phone: (677) 26036
    Email: Wbeti@mecm.gov.sb

TONGA

16. Ms Sulieti Pongi
    Conservation and Waste Officer
    Department of Environment
    Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)
    Email: julie.hufanga@gmail.com

TUVALU

17. Ms Susana Minute Telakau
    Director of Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT)
    Ministry of Home Affairs
    Email: susey84@gmail.com

18. Mr Walter Pulogo
    Waste Operation Officer
    Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu
    Phone: (688) 20443
    Mobile: (688) 902687
    Email: wkauajnr@gmail.com

VANUATU

19. Ms Carol Rovo
    Senior Waste Management and Pollution Control Officer
    Department of Environment Protection and Conservation
    Phone: (678) 25302
    Mobile: (678) 5603713
    Email: crovo@vanutu.gov.vu

20. Mr Ronald Sandy
    Town Clerk
    Port Vila Municipal Council
    Phone: (678) 22113
    Fax: (678) 26692
    Mobile: (678) 7751292
    Email: rsandy@pvmc.gov.vu

EUROPEAN UNION

21. Ms Ileana Miritescu
    Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources
    European Union Delegation for the Pacific, Suva
    Phone: 679 331 3633
    Ileana.MIRITESCU@eeas.europa.eu

SPREP

22. Mr Stewart Williams
    PacWaste Project Manager
    Phone: (685) 21929
    Email: stewartw@sprep.org

23. Ms. Elizabeth Vanderburg
PacWaste Project Officer
Phone: (685) 21929
Email: elizabethv@sprep.org

24. Mr Tim Hartley
PacWaste Solid Waste Project Officer
Phone: (685) 21929
Email: timh@sprep.org

25. Ms Amber Carvan
PacWaste Communications Officer
Phone: (685) 21929
Email: amberc@sprep.org

26. Ms Faailo Maiuu
Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant
Phone: (685) 21929
Email: faailom@sprep.org

OBSERVERS

JICA/J-PRISM

27. Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele
Assistant Chief Advisor
J-PRISM/JICA
Samoa
Email: faafetais@hotmail.com

NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

28. Mr Ross Craven
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Email: Ross.Craven@mfat.govt.nz

Annex 2: Agenda

3rd EDF10 PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting and Workshops

Dates: Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd of October 2015
Venue: Tarawa, Kiribati

Attendees:

European Union
Ms Ileana Miritescu – Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources

PIFS
tba

SPREP
Mr Stewart Williams – Project Manager, PacWaste
Ms Amber Carvan – Communications Officer, PacWaste
Mr Tim Hartley – Solid Waste Project Officer, PacWaste
Ms Elizabeth Vanderburg – Project Officer, PacWaste
Ms Faailo Maiuu – Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant

Member Nations

1. Cook Islands (healthcare waste, Asbestos, E-waste)
2. Federated states of Micronesia (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
3. Fiji (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
4. Kiribati (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
5. Nauru (healthcare waste, asbestos)
6. Niue (healthcare waste, asbestos)
7. Palau (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
8. Papua New Guinea (healthcare waste)
9. Republic of Marshall Islands (healthcare waste, atoll solid wastes, asbestos, E-waste)
10. Samoa (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
11. Solomon Islands (healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste)
12. Timor-Leste (healthcare waste)
13. Tonga (healthcare waste, E-waste, asbestos)
14. Tuvalu (healthcare waste, asbestos)
15. Vanuatu (healthcare waste, E-waste, asbestos)

Observers
New Zealand MFAT – Mr Ross Craven
JICA/JPRISM – Mr Faafetai Sagapolutele

Australian DFAT - tba

Agenda

Monday 19th of October Mary's Motel Bairiki		
Time	**Activity**	**Speaker / Presenter**
1730 - 1830	Sign in and pick up Agenda	
1900 - 2100	Welcoming / Opening • Opening Speeches • Dinner • Performance	Mr. Tebikau Noran MOH (Kiribati)

Tuesday 20th of October Otintaai Hotel		
Time	**Activity**	**Speaker / Presenter**
07-30-8.50	Bus Transport to Venue	Mr. Teema Bika ECD (Kiribati)
0850 - 0900	*Participants to be seated*	
0900-9.10	Welcome Speech	MELAD (Kiribati) Ms. Ileana Miritescu (EU) Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)
0910 - 0915	Adoption of Agenda (Chair)	Sec Ministry of Finance (Kiribati)
Session 1		
0915 - 1030	Country Presentations (Part A) - Asbestos experiences in the Cook islands - Healthcare waste progress in Fiji - Recent pre-paid bag experience in Kosrae - E-waste management in Tarawa - the solid waste challenge - PacWaste Asbestos Pilot in Action	Moderator Ms. Elizabeth Vanderburg (SPREP) Mr. Vavia Tangatatala (Cook Is) Sister Lydia Andrews (Fiji) Mr. Presley P. Abraham (FSM) Bweneata Kaoti (Kiribati) Mr. Jaden Agir (Nauru) Ms. Luina vilila (Niue)
1030 – 1100	Morning Tea	
1100 - 1230	Country Presentations (Part B) -Health care need in Belau Hospital -Plans for a pre-paid bag launch -E-waste status issues in focus -Landfill rehabilitation in Honiara -E-waste processing revisited	Moderator Mr. Tim Hartley (SPREP) Ms Portia K. Franz (Palau) Mr. Jorelik Tibon (RMI) Ms Fiasoso Siaosi (Samoa) Ms Wendy Beti (Solomon Islands) Ms Sulieti Pongi (Tonga)

	-Planning for a solid waste project -Prepaid bag in Port Vila and Luganville	Ms Susana Telakau (Tuvalu) Mr. Ronald Sandy (Vanuatu)
1230 – 1315	Lunch	
1315 – 1335	Observer Presentations -Stage 2 for Integrated Solid Waste Management in Kiribati -Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu – asbestos issues in post disaster cleanup	Mr. Ross Craven (MFAT) Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele (JICA/JPRISM)
Session 2		
1335 –1340	Background to European Union assistance in the Pacific (EDF10)	Ms Ileana Miritescu (EU)
1340 – 1410	Second Year Work Programme, Milestones and Results • Asbestos management • Healthcare waste management • E-Waste management • Atoll waste management	Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)
1410 – 1425	Discussion	All
1425 – 1455	Third Year Work Programme • Asbestos management • Healthcare waste management • E-Waste management • Atoll waste management	Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)
1455 – 1520	Discussion	All
1520 - 1530	Closing • Closing remarks • Meeting End	Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP) Ms Ileana Miritescu (EU) Sec Ministry of Finance (Kiribati)
1530 - 1600	Afternoon Tea	

Wednesday 21st of October Venue TBA		
Session 3		
Time	**Activity**	**Speaker / Presenter**
0730-850	Transport to Venue	
0900 - 1230	Workshop 1 – Healthcare Waste Management & the PacWaste project – moving toward a sustainable and effective system	Dr. Trevor Thornton (Deakin University) Sister Lydia Andrews (FIJI) Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)

1230 - 1330	Lunch	
1330 - 1600	Workshop 2 - Pre-Paid Bag System – Back ground and how to make it work - experiences in Tarawa, Kiribati	'Green Bag Performers' Mr. Ross Craven (MFAT) Mr. Taulehia Pulefou ECD (Kiribati) Mr. Teema Bika ECD (Kiribati)

Thursday 22nd of October Meet at TUC Boardroom		
Session 3 Continued		
Time	**Activity**	**Speaker / Presenter**
0730-850	Transport to Venue	Tba
0900 - 1230	Workshop 3 - Introduction to the Tarawa lagoon landfill method and compaction planning and field demonstration	Mr. Harry Langley TUC (Kiribati) Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)
1230 - 1330	Lunch (packed lunch)	
1330 - 1600	Workshop 4 - E-waste processing operations – progress and challenges/The container Deposit program in Tarawa and impact on the recycling system/The Bulky Waste Challenge and progress with the Calls for EOI	Ms. Bweaneta Kaota ECD (Kiribati) Mr. Teema Bika ECD (Kiribati) Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)

1900 – 2100	Closing Dinner (Location to be announced)

Friday 23rd of October Various locations	
All day	Follow up with connections, projects made throughout the week -Optional Visits -Kiribati Mangrove Planting Project -Red Beach Landfill Recovery Project -Bekinabieu and Betio landfill visit

Attachments:

1. PacWaste Third Year Work Programme and Budget (flash drive)
2. PacWaste Country Reports (flash drive)
3. PacWaste September 2015 Newsletter