Third MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

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

20 - 23 July 2015

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

CONCEPT NOTE

3rd MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-3)

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Tonga will host the Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) in Nuku'alofa from 20 to 23 July 2015 bringing together PMC members, development partners, Council of the Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), collaborating organizations and institutions. The PMC-3 will be held back-to-back with the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM). For the very first time the PMMM will bring together Cabinet Ministers responsible for meteorology and senior officials in the Pacific Islands and Territories to discuss, promote and explore avenues for resources for weather and climate services in order to contribute more effectively to the sustainable development needs of the PICTs.

Venue and Dates of PMC-3

2. The PMC-3 will be held at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre, in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, from 20 to 23 July, 2015 followed by the first PMMM held on 24 of July, 2015.

Objectives of PMC-3

3. *The **objectives of the PMC-3*** are to:

a) Facilitate coordination and networking among PMC members[1], development partners, CROP agencies, collaborating organisations and institutions relating to meteorological and hydrological services in support of national development agendas;

b) Facilitate discussions by PMC members on issues related to the advancement of meteorological and hydrological services in the Pacific which will contribute to the strengthening of community resilience; and

c) Provide an opportunity to share experiences/initiatives and to review progress of the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021 and from PMC-2

[1] PMC members – Directors/Heads of Meteorological Services of SPREP's members

Expected Outcomes of PMC-3

4. The ***expected outcomes of the PMC-3 meeting*** are:

a) Strengthened integration and coordination with development partners, CROP organisations, collaborating organisations and institutions.

b) Guidance on further implementation of the PIMS 2012-2021 and other relevant meteorological programmes and strategies;

c) Note the Agenda of the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology and provide inputs to the draft Declaration.

5. The Theme of PMC-3

The theme for the 2015PMC-3 is ***" Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific "***

6. The PICTs' NMSs and their CROP organisations, development partners, collaborating organizations and institutions take enormous pride in their contributions to sustainable development of the PICTs they have made to date:

(a) Weather and climate services as an **essential component in national and regional sustainable development framework** and sustainable development in the Pacific, particularly in poverty reduction efforts, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

(b) Increasing demand for decision oriented weather and climate information is putting pressure on the limited resources available to the NMSs. Providing reliable weather and climate related data, information and forecasts including warnings, especially timely information on pending extreme events, is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development in the Pacific. However, in many PICTs, meteorological monitoring and weather forecasting capabilities and capacities remain weak. Gaps exist in basic weather and climate data gathering and archiving capabilities, and the density and reliability of weather and climate recoding stations is low in most countries.

(c) Globally, 90 per cent of natural disasters are caused by weather and climate related hazards. In the Pacific, the majority of hazards are weather and climate related hazards. According to a World Bank report, the PICTs rank among the most vulnerable in the world to natural disasters. Cyclones accounted for 76 per cent of reported disasters from 1950 to 2004 followed by earthquakes, droughts and floods. There is strong evidence, both globally and in the Pacific, on an increase in the observed intensity of weather and climate related hazards and the frequency of more intense events.

(d) Weather and climate services play an important role in the current developments of the Pacific nations through their early warning services, advice on climate and weather extreme events and the successful integration of climate change in sustainable development matters. This is currently reflected in the proposed Pacific Regional Strategy on Resilience Development (SRDP).

Structure of the PMC-3 Meeting

7. The PMC-3 will provide PMC's members and their CROP organisations, development partners, collaborating organisations and institutions and other participants the opportunity to share information on current and future programs and projects related to the Pacific Key Outcomes(PKOs) of the PIMS2012-2021 and establish an implementation or technical plan on short term goals to be accomplished during the inter-sessional period of PMC. It will also provide the opportunity to discuss the progress on the implementation of the PIMS2012-2021. The sessions will also provide guidance to the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology and its outcome.

ABOUT THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

8. Twenty two years ago in 1993, the Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) first met in Vanuatu to discuss how National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) could best be supported in order to effectively contribute to strengthening the resilience and security of the Pacific Communities to climate change. The meeting was a recommendation from a study carried out in 1991 called the *Changing Climate in Paradise*[2] which emphasised the need for annual meetings by the Pacific Island Meteorological Services to provide a foundation for regional cooperation in climate monitoring and climate data services in support of climate change. Eighteen years and 14 RMSD meetings later in 2011, the First Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) was held in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands in August 2011 and endorsed the PIMS 2012-2021 and the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP), hosted and based within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

9. The PMC was established in accordance with the decision of the 21st SPREP Meeting in 2010 based on a recommendation from the 14th RMSD meeting. The PMC was established as a subsidiary of SPREP providing an authoritative guidance to weather, climate, climate change and extreme events and can make decisions as well as providing an opportunity for development partnerships to be established. The PMC-2 was held in Fiji from 1 to 5 July 2013.

10. ***The vision of the PMC*** is for the NMHSs of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to be able to provide reliable, timely, and culturally appropriate weather, climate, and early warning services to their nations and communities which help to safeguard life and property, and contribute to national development programs with contributions from sustained observing systems, telecommunications, data processing, and management systems serving decision makers and communities.

11. ***The objectives of the PMC*** aim to strengthen the capacity of the NMHSs thus contributing to the safety, well-being, and development aspirations of the people of the Pacific islands during the provision of weather, climate, and related development services by:

(a) Providing an open forum for members to discuss and collaborate on development in the implementation of the PIMS 2012-2021 as well as other issues related to the advancement of NMHSs in the Pacific Islands;

[2]RR Brook et Al, 1991: Changing Climate in Paradise-Feasibility Study on Climate Monitoring and Impacts in the WS Pacific. (http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/documents/14369.html)

(b) Building on mutual and complementary strengths to develop innovative approaches that help sustain national and regional development goals stated by each nation; and

(c) Collaborating with partner organisations and agencies such as the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and related sectors to achieve development objectives.

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