CLESH NEWSLETTER

Chemical Liquid E-waste Solid Hazardous

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Eco-School Program taken to Gizo Schools
- SI train on Oil Spill/ Ballast Water Declaration for TSF Discharge at GRML site
- 3Rs Sticker awareness in Gizo
- New Tractor for GTC
- GRML TSF commissioning
- Gizo Environment week
- Pikinini Clean up team in brief

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SI Train on OIL SPILL/Ballast Waters Workshop in Honiara





A two days training on oil spill and ballast water was conducted in Honiara for various line Ministries (SIMSA, Environment, Quarantine, Customs, National Referral Hospital, Environment Health, Police) SINU (School of Marine), NFD, GPPOL, SPOL and Markwarth at JINAS Restaurant conference room. This workshop training outlined the dangers and measures of oil spill as well as possible strategies to use when reacting to any accident oil spill and ballast waters in the Solomon Island.

Two-day training on invasive species transported through ballast water training was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 8-9 October for government and private sector agencies.

When a ship is not carrying cargo, it takes on seawater for stability. When a ship is about to take cargo on board, it discharges the seawater.

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While most of the animals and plants do not survive a journey from one country to another, some that survive may establish in harbours and ports. Those animals and plants not native to the country can spread from ports and harbours causing problems for local species.

Ballast water is one way invasive species are introduced to the country. There are many examples of invasive plants and animals causing economic and environment harm.

"While there are not many documented cases in the Pacific Islands, there are plenty of examples from New Zealand, Australia and America where animals like mussels are brought in ballast water and then released into the water causing problems", says SPREP's Pollution Advisor, Anthony Talouli.

"There has been a case in Marovo Lagoon last year where there was an algal bloom and this caused a lot of fish being killed", says Agnetha Vave-Karamui, from the Solomon Islands Department of Environment.

"We are not sure of the cause of this fish kill but a similar result could be seen if a harmful organism was released from ballast water", Vave-Karamui adds.

The Marovo Lagoon fish kill shows how important this training is. It highlighted the need to put in place measures for ships to follow so that they don't discharge species that will cause problems for Solomon Islands.

The ballast water management convention is an international agreement to deal with the spread of invasive species. Because ballast is an important part of shipping operation, there are other important international and regional agreements that countries need to be aware of. The safety of the ship and its crew on the open sea is also important so countries need to make sure that they do not put ships at risk of capsizing.

The training helps the Solomon Islands to understand ballast water issues and the convention with its guidelines. The training ended on Thursday 12 September and the Solomon Islands NAPPLAN will be finalized on Friday 13th September 2013.

Above Caption: Workshop Participants took part in hands-on training of how to manage oil-spill. The photo above left shows some of the officers from Environment, National Referral Hospital, Environmental Health, SIMSA, SPOL and Quarantine undertaking training on using Tier 1 equipment.

Gizo Eco-School Program Workshop



Caption: Group photo of Workshop Participants , Gizo , Western Province



Caption: Groups presenting trial school action plans. Below: Presentation of certificates to workshop participants during the closing.



Caption: Mr.Fred Napthalai (Chief Health Inspector) and Ms.Rosemary Apa (Chief Environment Officer) presenting the certificates to workshop participants in Gizo.

On Friday last week, a one day workshop on Clean School or Eco-School Program was successfully held for school teachers in Gizo, Western Province. A total of 10 teachers from 3 schools within and 2 schools near Gizo Town were invited to participate in the workshop.
This workshop of Eco-School Program was organized by the Western Provincial Government Planning Office and Gizo Town Council with collaborative support from some officers from the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology and Japan International Cooperation Agency.

This program on Eco-School is an output activity under the **J**apanese Technical Cooperation Project for **P**romotion of **R**egional **I**nitiative on **S**olid Waste **M**anagement referred to as *J-PRISM Project*. This is a five year project implemented in collaboration between the Solomon Islands Government, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Japanese Government since 2011.
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the Eco-school program in Gizo Schools to become role model schools focusing on environmental awareness, school composting and rubbish separation and recycling as part of daily school activities to change the mindset of future leaders of the country.

Most of the participants really understood what is expected from workshop and program. A head mistress who attended the program stated that she now sees that this program does not need any budget and sees the significance of this Eco-School Program.

The principal from Titiana Community High School stated “I learned that this Eco-School Program taught and reminded me how to be a responsible person for dealing with solid waste management”.

Chief Advisor of J-PRISM Project Visit Honiara Team



The Chief Advisor of J-PRISM Project visited the Honiara team from 8th to 11th October 2013. During his visit to the Solomon Islands, he visited the relevant counterparts organization which includes Honiara City Council, Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology and Ministry of Health & Medical Services.
Mr.Shiro also accompanied counterparts during their follow-up visit to some schools in Honiara as part of the Eco-School Program. Before he left the country he met with the relevant stakeholders to discuss on progress of the J-PRISM project in the Solomon Islands and provide advice on planned activities.

Gizo Follow-up School Visit

Some of the Gizo counterparts made a follow-up visit to some of the schools who participated in a workshop on Eco-School Program in Gizo.

One of the schools visited which have started introducing the Eco-School Program was Ngari Community School.

Some of the activities which have already been introduced by workshop participants to students in the class room was reusing of waste materials into handicrafts for classroom beautification.






Caption Above : Gizo SWM team follow-up visit to Ngari Community School on Eco-School Program . **Above-bottom left:** A craft made by student at Ngari CHS from reused materials introduced by a workshop participant in the classroom.

Honiara Follow-up School Visit

A total of seven (7) schools who participated in the two days Eco-School Program Workshop in September 2013 were visited by Honiara J-PRISM Counterparts from HCC, MHMS and MECDM between 9th –16th October 2013.

Some of the observations from the follow-up school visits was that the workshop participants requested some assistance from counterparts to present the idea to school administration whilst some schools already have done this. Others requested for a small workshop to present the program to teachers both from Primary and Secondary division.

The first small awareness workshop was held on 21/10/13 at Panatina School which involves both teachers from Primary and Secondary division.

Due to the busy schedule of schools towards preparations for class exams and closing for school break, the program will kick off in the new year 2014 when schools resume.



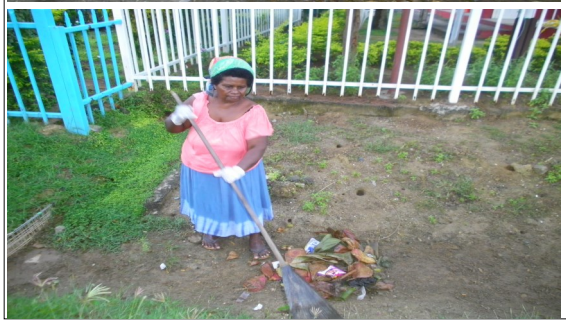




Caption Above and below right: Counterparts from HCC, MHMS, MECDM follow-up visitation to Mbua Valley, Palm Drive International, Panatina School, Mbokonavera and St.Nicholas Schools.

Women's Group Clean Up Gizo Street





A group of women are taking the lead to clean up the streets in Gizo town. These women have undergone some workshop and now are working together to keep their town clean. The women usually clean up the streets on Monday and Friday every week.

If you go out in the early hours of the morning during these two days, you can see women sweeping the drainage and roads before doing their other tasks.

Caption-Above left : A J-PRISM counterpart in Gizo, Ms. Margaret Moveni is also involved in the group of women doing cleaning up in Gizo
Left : One of the elderly women in Gizo who is also involved in Cleaning up of the main street every Monday and Friday including the drainage.

Annual Environment Week Celebrated in Gizo

A week long annual environment week was held in Gizo from 15th to 18th October 2013.

The opening speech was delivered by the Provincial Secretary, Mr. Adrian who confirmed the Western Provincial Government's support to purchase a tractor to assist the Gizo Town Council for its work in Gizo Town.

There were also awareness programmes which was ongoing throughout the week on various issues environment issues.

As of the awareness campaign on waste management, 3Rs sticker which will be issued to Gizo will also be utilized through vehicles for promoting the message on reduce, reuse and recycle by the Gizo team.



Caption: Gizo Town Clerk, Mr.Derald Michael, delivering his remarks during the official opening of the Annual Western Province Environment Week.



Caption: Western Provincial Government , Provincial Secretary, Mr. Adrian Tony delivering the keynote address during the official opening program.



Caption: Chief Environment Health Inspector of Western Province/MHMS, Mr. Fredrick Naphtalai, giving his remarks during the program

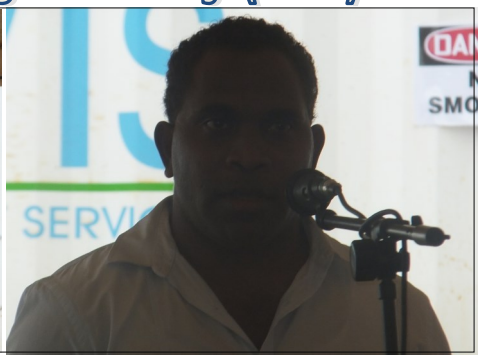
Commissioning of GRML Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)



Hon.Braddley Tovosia



GRML General Manager, Mr. Stean Barrie



SSPM, Dr. Philip Tagini

On Friday 25th September 2013 , the GRML started with its dewatering process of its TSF tailings dam. This was conducted after a long process of monitoring of its dam before the action was conducted at the mine TSF site.

During the declaration of the commissioning of the treatment plant ceremony, the Minister of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology, Hon. Bradley Tovosia gave the keynote speech with some of the highlights as quoted:

- The installation of the treatment plant is integral to the tailings storage facility dewatering program.
- Aligning of and bringing into conformity certain different policy intentions at some point therefore has been realised as central to the success of the dewatering program. Trust, transparency and accountability are indispensable to such a sensitive operation such as the one now being witnessed.
- The two discharge licenses granted to GRML by my Ministry through Environment and Conservation Division under the Environment Act are key realisations in this endeavour.
- One of the significant conditions, amongst others, attached to the licenses was the installation of the water treatment plant to ensure the discharge is conducted in the most responsible manner considering the potential adverse consequences associated with the release on the environment and communities.
- The Government of Solomon Island wishes to acknowledge the cooperative and sometimes hesitant efforts shown by GRML in working with responsible government agencies, to reach a most desired and sensible outcome. However, this is not the end of the road as this is only the beginning, with some challenges anticipated along the way in discharging the excessive water from the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).
- Your effort to install this water treatment plant shows your commitment towards the safety of the downstream Metapono and Kolobisi communities and the environment of Solomon Islands. Lest one forgets, a majority of Solomon Islands population is rural-based whose livelihoods and wellbeing are heavily dependant on their surroundings.
- As part of the arrangements for the dewatering program and, to assure the operations are undertaken to acceptable standards, the Solomon Island Government team will also continue to provide weekly monitoring at the water treatment facility over the next six months. This is to ensure that the facility is working normal and all the conditions under the licence for the dewatering are met by GRML.
- Over the last six weeks water samplings were done twice a day and results were received by the Government and the KTDA - MDA (Kolobisi Tailings Dam Association – Matepono Down Stream Association) representatives.
- While the government trusts GRML to fully comply with the license conditions, I must warn that any breach of the conditions found during monitoring may result in revocation of the licence.

GRML TSF Site in Pictures



Caption: **Above left**– Arsenic and Cyanide Treatment Facility at GMRL. **Middle**– TSF dam at GMRL. **Above right**– A PNG

Metapono Downstream Community Awareness

The GRML and officers from the Guadalcanal Province, Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology were involved in awareness raising program at the Metapona Downstream communities (MDC) with representative officers from Goldridge Mining Ltd.

This community awareness program was significant prior to the discharge of TSF water into the Tinahula River which also flows downstream to the Metapono River and surrounding community. During the awareness programs , the community were given time to raise some of their concerns during the joint stakeholder community awareness.



Caption above: SIG Officials and staff from GRML attending the community awareness at MDC



Caption above: Sam Maneka , Chairman of Metapona Downstream Community speaking to the community



Caption above: SIG stakeholders staff giving awareness to the Metapona Community



Caption above: Community members from downstream at Metapona attending the community awareness

New Tractor for Gizo Town Council



Caption left : Official handing over of the new tractor to Mr.Derald Michael of Gizo Town council by Mr.Kuve, the Honorable Premier of Western Province.



Caption left: Hon. Premier of Western Province, Mr.Kuve testing the new tractor. Looking on is Mr. Derald Michael.

On the afternoon of Monday 11th October 2013, a new tractor funded under the Provincial Government Strengthening Program (PGSP) was officially handed over to Gizo Town Council by the Hon. Premier of Western Province, Mr.Kuve to Gizo Town Council during a short handover ceremony at the Gizo Market.

The 3Rs awareness stickers were also launched during the official handover ceremony. Stickers were issued to a lot of vehicle owners and others have requested stickers but were run out. This was a good initiative by Gizo team in educating people on the importance of waste management in Gizo.

With the new tractor, it will now assist the team to carry out its waste collection schedules and improve the waste management in Gizo town.

3Rs Sticker Awareness in Gizo

Solid Waste Management team in Gizo recently launched a 3Rs (Reduce , Reuse, Recycle) Stickers Awareness Program during the same time as the handing over of the new tractor to Gizo Town Council (GTC).

The 3Rs Sticker awareness was issued to different vehicle owners and others are also demanding the stickers.



Caption: Official launching of the 3Rs Awareness stickers was also conducted during the handing over of the new tractor in Gizo.





Caption-middle and right above: Mr. Dobson Aseri, Assistant Clerk of Gizo Town Council, putting up the stickers on vehicles at

Students from Titiana School who were part of the Gizo Pikinini Clean up





Fred and Dobson assisting in Gizo Pikinini Clean up



Students from Gizo Primary School involved in Pikinini Clean up team

Pikinini Cleanup Team in brief with Satoshi and Kouhei (JOCVS) in Honiara, Gizo, Seghe and



Pikinini Clean up team with Students from Vura Primary School





Students from Seghe Primary School who were part of the Pikinini Clean up

Mr.Satoshi will leave SI for Japan in early January 2014. His successor is Ms.Hanako who will join the team in June 2014.



Arts and Crafts lessons with Satoshi at Multi-purpose Hall



Pikinini Clean Up team take it to Lawson Tama Sport field



Pikinini Clean up team with Palm Drive International School stu-

For further enquiries or information contact:

Environment Unit
c/- Environment and Conservation Division
Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management &Meteorology
P.O.Box 21, Vavaya Ridge, Honiara
Tel: 677-23031/ 28049 Fax: 677– 28054