**REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE OF WDS/SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION AT THE severe weather forecasting disaster risk reduction demonstration project swfddp – south pacific project meeting of the regional subproject management team**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 27-28 July 2018)

Mr Gerald Fleming, Chair of the OPAG on Public Weather Service Delivery (PWSD) attended the meeting as an invited expert to brief those present on items relevant to the PWSD programme with particular emphasis on Impact-Based Forecast and Warnings Services (IBFWS).

In his presentation, Mr Fleming reviewed the “WMO Strategy for Service Delivery and its Implementation Plan” (WMO No. 1129) and outlined how the Guide was based around six steps to improved Service Delivery. For each of these six steps the Guide defines five different stages of development, from “Undeveloped” to “Advanced” and gives practical advice on how an NMHS or other meteorological service organisation might progress through these stages. Mr Fleming emphasised that, for an NMHS to get full value from the publication, it needed to be entirely honest with itself about its current stage of development.

The “WMO Guidelines on Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Forecast and Warning Services” (WMO No. 1150) was then introduced, along with a brief description of the paradigm shift which IBFWS represented for NMHSs. The linkages between the understanding and forecasting of geophysical hazards on the one hand and societal and economic impacts on the other were examined, and the need to account for the concepts of Vulnerability and Exposure was emphasised.

Underlying this paradigm shift was an implication of significant changes to the role of the operational forecaster, and Mr. Fleming considered these along with the likely changes needed in forecaster training. WMO was in the process of agreeing an updated PWSD Forecaster Competency Framework and this framework emphasised the “soft skills” which the forecaster of the future would need, along with a rigorous training in the atmospheric sciences.

Finally, Mr. Fleming outlined some specific PWSD-related issues of relevance to the community involved in the SWFDDP, including:

1. Developing the competence to issue warnings in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) format;
2. Engaging fully and actively with the WMO Register of Alerting Authorities;
3. Contributing fully to the Severe Weather Information Centre and the World Weather Information System.

In the discussion that followed, Mr Dan Beardsley (U.S.A.) noted that it was increasingly easy to takes the first steps in IBFWS. The WMO publication was readable and short. Pilot projects were underway in Myanmar and there were already some papers published of relevance, including two by Kootval and Davies. The U.S.A. was facilitating pilot projects under the Weather Ready Nations project; six were now ongoing. Case studies will be written up and published.

Mr Ofa Fa’anunu (Tonga) commented that they were making a start, and were looking at traditional knowledge as a complement to the science. Tonga was trying better to connect with the communications aspects, and traditional knowledge will be a route into this. A 5-yr project was planned in conjunction with Samoa and with engagement from the Bureau of Meteorology of Australia. Dialogue with users was included.

Mr Beardsley noted that a good start was to get together the top 3 or 4 persons from the NMHS and those from the Disaster and Crisis Management Personnel. This would facilitate the development of hazard charts using the combined knowledge, and lead to response planning where each agency could agree in advance the tasks they would address.

Mr Taula Katea (Tuvalu) commented on the need for further studies and work on coastal hazard maps. Tuvalu was engaged in the establishment of HF radio stations on all the islands to improve communications capability. Ms Linda Tonawane (Solomon Islands) noted that they had completed a traditional knowledge project.

Mr Yoshi Tahara (Japan) gave an account of IBFWS-related activities in JMA. Looking back 20 years ago, JMA had just provided weather warnings. They have tried additional activities to better communicate with local government. It is difficult to save extra lives; better preparatory work was necessary and progress can be slow. JMA made some improvements in 2017 with the provision of supplementary information.

Mr Mike Bergin (Australia) commented on the value of having good examples. He noted that the RAV sub-project had inserted an additional “D” into the title to reflect the focus on DRR. The question of what training should look like in the next phase of the sub-project required careful consideration. The RSMT might consider the value of inviting someone from the DRR community to these meetings.