



Organisation météorologique mondiale
World Meteorological Organization

**Statement on the Occasion of the
Opening of the Sixteenth Session of
Regional Association V (South-West Pacific)**

M. Jarraud
Secretary-General

(Jakarta, Indonesia, 2 May 2014)

TEMPS WEATHER
CLIMAT CLIMATE
EAU WATER

A large, faint, light blue version of the WMO OMM logo is centered in the background of the lower half of the page. It features a globe with a sunburst and a laurel wreath.

SG 5/2014

**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE
SIXTEENTH SESSION OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V (SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC)**

by

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**Excellency, Mr Mangindaan, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia,
Mr Fa'anunu, acting president of Regional Association V and Permanent Representative of
Tonga with WMO,
Dr Sakya, Chairman of BMKG and Permanent Representative of Indonesia with WMO,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,
Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to address the opening of the sixteenth session of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association V (South-West Pacific). I would like to welcome all representatives of WMO Members, as well as those of our partners, and all observers and guests.

It is my particular pleasure to welcome to the session Tuvalu, the 190th Member of WMO, and I hope that the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau will also join our Organization soon.

On behalf of WMO, I wish to thank the Government of Indonesia for hosting this session in Jakarta. I am sure all the Members of the regional association have appreciated this generous offer after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, where the session was originally scheduled to take place and to which I wish to renew WMO's heartfelt sympathy and support for this tragedy.

On this occasion, I also wish to extend the sympathy of WMO to the Governments and peoples of the Solomon Islands and Tonga for the losses and damages suffered by the flash floods and tropical cyclone Ian, respectively, as well as to the other Members of the Region that in the last years have been affected by weather and climate extremes.

I wish to thank the acting president of RA V, Mr Fa'anunu, and the former president, Mrs Harijono, for their leadership during the intersessional period. My appreciation is also extended to the

chairperson, leads and theme leaders and to all working group members, for their valuable services for the Association.

Moreover, I would like to express WMO's special gratitude to Dr Sakya, Chairman of BMKG, and all his staff, for the excellent arrangements made for this session and the Regional Conference that has preceded it.

In this regard, I wish to recall that a number of WMO meetings have recently been held in Indonesia, including the RA V Workshop on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System and the fifteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems, both in 2012, and the International Workshop on the Global Atmospheric Watch Programme in Tropical Regions, last year. I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia for its great support to WMO.

Excellency, Mr Fa'anunu, acting president of RA V, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The *WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate for 2013*, released last March, once again demonstrates the dramatic impact of droughts, heat waves, floods and tropical cyclones in all parts of the planet. The report confirms that the year 2013 tied with 2007 as the sixth warmest year on record, continuing the long-term global warming trend.

These trends were also proven in the South-West Pacific. In Australia, 2013 was the hottest year on record, with temperatures reaching 49.6°C in Moomba, South Australia. Australia also suffered major flooding in Queensland and New South Wales and several severe bushfires. New Zealand experienced its warmest winter and the third warmest year on record. Drought conditions affected the northern Marshall Islands, with shortages of drinking water and damaged food crops, while heavy rains impacted the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia and New Caledonia. The tropical cyclone activity was below average in the South-West Pacific but well above average in the Western North Pacific. We are all aware of the devastating impacts of typhoons Haiyan (Yolanda) and Usagi (Odette).

The reports of WMO were the basis, and confirmed the results of, the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC. Observed impacts of climate change include the alteration of the hydrological cycle, with changing precipitation and melting snow and ice, affecting quantity and quality of water resources. Sea level rise is severely impacting SIDS and highly populated low-lying coastal regions. Many species — terrestrial, freshwater and marine — are reacting to ongoing climate changes modifying their geographical ranges and behaviour. The impact on crop yields, in general, has been negative, with potential consequences for food security. Climate-related extremes, such as heat waves,

droughts, floods, cyclones or wildfires are having significant socio-economic and environmental consequences.

To address the challenges of weather and climate extremes, it is essential to strengthen the human resources and institutional capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Disaster Management Organizations. In the last years WMO has continued to support its Members in their efforts, especially developing countries, LDCs and SIDS. Let me mention the implementation of the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) in South-East Asia, the Severe Weather Forecasting and Disaster Risk Reduction Demonstration Project (SWFDDP) in the Southern Pacific and the Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Projects (CIFDPs) in Fiji and in Indonesia. Following the damages caused by Typhoon Haiyan, a fact-finding and needs assessment mission was carried out by WMO in the Philippines last month, which identified user requirements for strengthened meteorological and hydrological services.

Special attention is being given by WMO to the challenges of Small Island Developing States, to which the United Nations has dedicated 2014 as International Year. The Third International Conference on SIDS that will open in Apia, Samoa, on 1st September will focus on building partnerships for sustainable development. WMO is engaged in leveraging partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donors to strengthen the capacity of meteorological services in several Pacific Islands. Among other aspects, technical assistance and training are being provided to meet ICAO requirements for aviation meteorology, delivery of weather forecasts and development of climate services through the Global Framework for Climate Services.

Excellency, Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the last session of your regional association before the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress and the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Council that will prepare it. Therefore, it offers an important chance to clarify future priorities, challenges and opportunities for the Region, as well as to provide recommendations to WMO governing bodies. I believe that the Regional Conference held prior to the session provided a number of important suggestions in terms of institutional challenges, implementation of WMO priority programmes and activities, and contributions to global processes, including the Third SIDS Conference.

During the intersessional period, the regional association has made a number of important advances, particularly the refinement and implementation of the Strategic Operating Plan 2012–2015 and the Regional WIGOS and WIS Implementation Plans, through the established new working mechanism and structure. This session also has the important task to consider the draft

WMO strategic priorities and identify the most effective use of limited resources. In other words, to realize maximum benefits to Members, we need to clearly address priority areas for the combined efforts of NMHSs and partners. To these suggestions I wish to add my own perspectives, and share with you what I believe are some key aspects:

- Human resources and institutional capacity development, especially for developing countries, LDCs and SIDS;
- Adequacy of the existing observing systems and improvement of the Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for RA V and the Regional WIS Implementation Plan for RA V;
- Enhancement of public weather services with adequate early warning systems for disaster risk reduction;
- Establishment of an RA V RCC network, which will contribute to the implementation of GFCS at national and regional levels;
- Quality management, competency, and cost recovery especially in developing countries, LDCs and SIDS; and
- Cooperation and partnership for improving outreach to the communities.

A big part of your session will be to discuss the Regional Strategic Operating Plan with a focus on the priority areas and key aspects to guide the work of RA V for the next four years, and a clear articulation of a small number of high-priority work areas for the strengthening of regional cooperation.

It will not be possible for me to be with you throughout this session, so I have designated Ms Elena Manaenkova and Mr Robert Masters to represent me, and other senior staff from the WMO Secretariat will be assisting them. Do not hesitate, however, to contact me if you should need to do so during the rest of my stay.

In concluding, I would again like to reiterate WMO's gratitude to the Government of Indonesia and wish all the delegates a fruitful and successful session, as well as a pleasant stay in Jakarta.

Thank you.