

## ANNEX I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 12RMSD



### TWELFTH REGIONAL MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE DIRECTORS

30 -JUNE to 6 -JULY 2007

Rarotonga, Cook Islands



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## Executive Summary and Recommendations

1. At their 12<sup>th</sup> RMSD meeting in Rarotonga on 2-6 July, Directors of National Meteorological Services (NMSs) of SPREP member countries and collaborating partners adopted the following key recommendations. The detailed proposals and other recommendations are contained within the meeting report.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

2. The Directors reaffirmed and renewed their commitments to further enhance cooperation and partnership with each other and with all stakeholders as they continue to work towards achieving their vision “... **for all meteorological services in the Pacific region being able to provide all appropriate meteorological services to their nations.**”<sup>1</sup>

3. A first step towards achieving this vision is for Pacific Islands NMSs to have “... **skilled and fully trained professional, technical support personnel operating appropriate systems and working from adequate facilities within an appropriate infrastructure**”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>As in Footnote 1.

## **OBSERVING SYSTEMS**

4. SPREP, WMO, and SOPAC in collaboration with relevant partners to establish a Pacific regional technical support facility to maintain and calibrate met/climate observing systems in the Pacific Islands. The proposed facility would complement and act as a back up to New Zealand MetService engineering workshop in Paraparaumu, Wellington and other similar facilities currently performing this vital role. SOPAC was identified by the RANET Pacific Communications Meeting held in conjunction with the 12RMSD<sup>3</sup> as a possible host for the proposed facility.

5. Urged relevant organizations and partners to review current institutional arrangements relating to PI-GCOS, PI-GOOS and Pacific-HYCOS activities and take appropriate action.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

6. Adopted the report and recommendations of the RANET Pacific Communications Meeting, held in Rarotonga, June 29-30, 2007. (See Annex X ).

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

7. Urged Pacific Islands NMSs to actively seek assistance from their governments and/or development partners to upgrade and/or replace aging infrastructure

8. Requested SOPAC and SPREP to get information on siren systems used for tsunami warnings suitable for operational use in Pacific Islands from the International Ocean Commission (IOC)/International Tsunami Information Center and distribute them to Pacific Islands NMSs.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY**

9. Urged New Zealand NIWA, SOPAC and other collaborating partners to continue the production of the Island Climate Update (ICU). The meeting noted the importance of further enhancing collaborations amongst ICU partners, in particular with end users to ensure climate forecasts are used in national planning and economic development.

10. In light of the potential benefits associated with the Tropical Cyclone Climatology Database Project that is being undertaken by the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), New Zealand NIWA and MetService, and the U.S.A NOAA, the meeting participants urged Pacific Islands NMSs to provide copies of non-digitized TC data to the NOAA GCOS Manager. It further requested the NOAA GCOS Manager to ensure copies of the digitized TC data is send back to the originating Pacific Islands NMS.

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<sup>3</sup> See Annex X for the RANET meeting recommendations

11. Requested the BoM Pacific Islands-Climate Prediction Project (PI-CPP) Team to assist Pacific Islands Countries in providing seasonal climate forecasts and other products coming out of the project in both English and local languages. It further requested the PI-CPP Team to explore other cost effective ways of distributing the forecasts and products, such as posting them on the present PI-CPP website and/or creating a separate website.

12. Requested New Zealand NIWA and MetService, Australia BoM, and U.S.A. NOAA GCOS, in consultation with Pacific Islands NMSs, to work closely together in digitizing and rescuing Pacific Islands' historical climate data and other meteorological records.

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

13. Requested Australian BoM and SOPAC Tsunami Risk Assessment Project Team to circulate copies of the final assessment reports to SPREP member countries involved in the project.

14. Urged Pacific Islands NMS Directors and Pacific Islands Disaster Managers to work together to develop and implement joint national and regional public awareness programmes on procedures for issuing severe weather warnings and seasonal climate forecasts to the public. In this regard, the meeting urged SPREP and SOPAC to ensure future RMSD and Disaster Managers meetings are held back to back as best possible to improve the awareness and coordination of their respective programmes and activities.

### **APPLICATIONS OF METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY**

15. Requested the Task Force on Aviation established at the 11<sup>th</sup> SPREP RMSD meeting, Noumea, 2006, chaired by Australia, with Tonga, Fiji, Samoa and French Polynesia as members, to identify challenges and opportunities in the region with respect to the provision of quality aviation services (Reference, ICAO Annex 3 – Quality Management).

16. Agreed to include New Caledonia in the Aviation Task Force.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

17. Urged New Zealand MetService to schedule their annual routine preventative technical visits to Pacific Islands prior to the beginning of each cyclone season, preferably in October.

18. Urged Pacific Islands NMSs requiring NZAID financial support to approach NZAID through the formal channels, e.g. through their Foreign Affairs Ministries.

19. Requested Pacific Islands NMSs to review the proposed Australian BoM project: *“Strengthening tropical cyclone warnings and community response capacities of the Pacific Island Countries”* draft project document and provide inputs to BoM.

20. Requested the expansion of the US NOAA Pacific Training Desk training programme to include attachment of participants at RSMC Nadi upon completion of their training in Honolulu.

21. Requested WMO in collaboration with SOPAC, SPREP and Pacific Islands national governments to organize, as a matter of highest priority, a high level dialogue amongst all parties involved in the provision of backup services to RSMC Nadi and those Pacific Islands receiving services from RSMC Nadi. The goal of the dialogue is to review the current allocation of backup responsibilities for issuance of tropical cyclone warnings in the event RSMC Nadi is unable to fulfill this role.

22. Given that the present back up arrangements do not cover the full range of services required by Pacific Islands that depend on RSMC Nadi, the meeting requested Fiji and all stakeholders to pursue a more robust backup arrangements for services other than those agreed to under Attachment 6A Fiji-New Zealand TCWC contingency arrangements, Annex 3, ICAO TCAC, and those services provided for under the WMO Manual on Marine Meteorological Services, No. 558.

23. In light of the importance of this matter to the region, the meeting requested Pacific Island Countries, SOPAC, SPREP and WMO to raise this matter at the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Meeting to be held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 16-17 October 2007. It further requested that the findings and recommendations of the WMO led mission to Fiji in July 2007 form a part of each organizations' submissions to the Forum meeting.

24. Urged Pacific Islands NMS Directors to bring the RSMC Nadi issue to the attention of their governments.

25. Urged Pacific Islands NMSs to second their meteorologists to Nadi RSMC especially during times of acute staff shortage and preferably during tropical cyclone seasons, to support the forecasting operations at RSMC Nadi where possible.

26. Requested developed National Meteorological Services (BoM, Meteo France, US NOAA, and NZ MetService and NIWA) in association with relevant organizations (SOPAC, SPREP, and WMO) to undertake training programmes for Pacific Islands NMSs in electronics, forecasting including aviation and maritime, data management and aviation. The detailed recommendation of the RANET Pacific Communications meeting relating to training needs for technical staff and maintenance support provides guidance for training programmes in these areas.

27. Requested New Zealand MetService, Australian BoM, to collaborate with Pacific Islands NMSs on the possible use of Severe Convection tool. It also requested SPREP and WMO to encourage ECMWF to continue to make public their ESP grams forecasting tools via their website, and seek the possibility of training on the use of the tools.

28. Requested New Zealand MetService, Australian BoM, UK Met Office and other partners to explore the possibility of organising a region-wide training course aimed at fast tracking and upgrading existing Assistant Forecasters to WMO Class I meteorologists, using the U.K. model put forward to the 2007 WMO Congress in Geneva as a guide.

## **PLANNING AND ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

### **Strategic Planning Issues**

29. Requested the Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology in the Pacific Region (SPDM) 2000-2009 Review Team to assess progress made in implementing the 2000 Pacific Meteorological Services Needs Analysis project (PMSNAP) before the review of the SPDM Operational Framework and the Pacific Regional Meteorological Strategy (11RMSD meeting recommendation). The meeting also requested the Review Team to include Pacific hydrological programmes and activities (e.g. Pacific HYCOS) as part of the SPDM review.

30. Urged Pacific Islands NMSs and development partners to further explore the concept of establishing a Pacific Meteorological Organization (PMO) and report back to the 13RMSD. A useful model for consideration is the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO) model.

31. Requested WMO to assist with and secure resources to undertake a feasibility study on the challenges and opportunities facing the establishment of PMO and report back to the next RMSD meeting.

32. Urged Directors to ensure their governments are fully aware of developments relating to the possible establishment of a PMO.

33. Regarding the draft Rarotonga declaration proposal prepared by Australia relating to the PMO, the Directors requested more time to consider the proposal and agreed to refer the matter to their governments.

34. Urged Directors to take note of the ongoing efforts lead by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to reform regional organizations.

35. Encouraged all participants to relay the key findings and recommendations from this meeting to the upcoming Forum Leaders meeting in Tonga in October as is currently the case with reports of regional meetings of the Water and Energy sectors. The objective is to promote at the highest political level the central and vital role Pacific Islands NMSs play in achieving the vision, goals and objectives of the Pacific Plan.

### **Future RMSD Meetings**

36. Requested the Chair of RMSD meeting to continue serving as Interim Chair in between meetings to ensure meeting recommendations and actions are followed through and to coordinate relevant follow up activities and reports.

37. Requested SPREP and WMO to jointly organise future RMSD meetings.

38. Requested SPREP and WMO to issue meeting invitations to members 2 months prior to the date of the meeting.

39. Requested SPREP and WMO to prepare and issue official meeting papers and supporting documents in English (and French, if possible), no later than six weeks before the date of the meeting. It further requested SPREP and WMO to prepare and issue a one page summary of each if the full meeting papers and supporting documents are not available in French.

40. Requested SPREP and WMO to prepare a draft meeting report for consideration and as far as practical adoption by the RMSD meeting during its final plenary session. The revised draft report must be distributed by the meeting Secretariat to all participants no later than 90 days after the conclusion of the meeting. The final report should be circulated to all participants soon after.

41. Requested SPREP and WMO to review and confirm the move from the current 12-18 month period between RMSD meetings, to a biennial arrangement (every 2 years). The meeting also encouraged members and partners to utilize other opportunities such as biennial meetings of the WMO RA V and its subsidiary bodies (e.g. Tropical Cyclone Committee) to ensure issues arising out of RMSD meetings are deal with in between RMSD meetings.