

SOPAC

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION**

hosted by the
Government of the Kingdom of Tonga at the Fa'onelua
Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

22-28 November 2007



PACIFIC ISLANDS APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

hosted by the
Government of the Kingdom of Tonga at the Fa'onehua Convention Centre
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

22-28 November 2007

February 2008

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of SOPAC concerning the legal status of any country or territory or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of the frontiers of any country or territory.

The mention of any firm or licensed process does not imply endorsement by SOPAC.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO SOPAC	4
OPENING ADDRESSES	
Opening Address by Honourable Tuita, Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment	7
Reply to Opening Address by Fiji Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau	10
Outgoing Chair’s Address by Mr Donn Tolia, Permanent Secretary of Mines & Energy, Solomon Islands ...	11
Opening Remarks by Ms Cristelle Pratt, Director of SOPAC.....	12
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SOPAC SESSION.....	15
APPENDICES	
1 List of Participants	45
2 Agenda	53
3 Designation of National Representatives (as at February 2008)	55
4 Statements by Delegations	
Part I: Member Countries	57
Part II: CROP Organisations	75
Part III: Cooperating Governments, International Agencies & National Institutions	80
5 STAR Chair’s Report to Council	83
6 Programme Monitoring Evaluation Groups Reports and Associated Documentation	92
7 Regional Institutional Framework Verbatim Record (Agenda Item 11.1).....	103
8 List of Conference Room Documents	161
9 Acronyms	163

INTRODUCTION TO SOPAC

Objectives

The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) is an independent, inter-governmental, regional organisation mandated by several Pacific nations to:

- develop resource policy, and advise on the management and development of onshore and offshore mineral and aggregate resources;
- meet the needs for water resources, waste management, health and sanitation through the provision of resource policy and management advice, appropriate information and training;
- support the information requirements and enhance the skills required for management and operation of the energy sector in member countries;
- assist decision makers and planners to develop coastal zones and extract resources while protecting them from degradation;
- predict the effects of hazards on the health, wealth and development potential of member countries;
- assist decision makers and planners to understand ocean processes, develop ocean areas and extract resources while protecting oceans from over-exploitation and pollution;
- provide geoscientific and related education needs through the provision of a variety of training and education opportunities at all levels of geoscience and resource management;
- meet the demands for electronic information by member country governments and regional organisations to manage resources and risk;
- support National authorities in disaster management activities through advice information; and
- provide readily-available and current information in geoscience and related fields to member countries and others.

Member Countries

Member countries are currently Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Tokelau are Associate Members.

Background

The Commission comprises the Governing Council (the member country representatives), the Secretariat (based in Suva) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). TAG comprises advisors who are nominated by member countries and by supporting Governments and organisations, or are invited by the Secretariat.

The Commission's Work Programme is formulated from member country requests, and is carried out by its Secretariat based in Suva, Fiji Islands.

SOPAC was established in 1972 as CCOP/SOPAC (the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas) under the sponsorship of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In 1984, CCOP/SOPAC changed its legal status to become an independent, regional inter-governmental body, changing its name to SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission) in 1989. Another name change was decided in 2006 to "Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission" to better reflect the composition of the membership.

Funding

SOPAC is funded by a combination of statutory and voluntary contributions by its member countries and grants from donor governments and international agencies. An annual budget of around F\$30 million (in 2008) supports the implementation of the Work Programme and the operation of the Secretariat.

Supporting countries include Australia, Fiji and New Zealand as members, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, United States and the United Kingdom. The European Union, Commonwealth Secretariat and UNDP are the principal multilateral supporting agencies. SOPAC has formal and informal links with many other supporting agencies and institutions. Member countries provide considerable support during survey work, and ship time in the region is regularly contributed by other countries such as the France, Japan and Germany.

SOPAC Annual Session

The SOPAC Annual Session is a meeting of the Commission, and has four components:

- (a) a Plenary Session covers the procedural aspects of the meeting and the presentation of reports from member countries, donor Governments and organisations, and the Secretariat. This session is a meeting of the Council at which other delegates are invited as observers, contributing to the discussion of non-technical matters concerning SOPAC such as cooperation and funding.
- (b) a joint meeting of the Council and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to consider the SOPAC Work Programme. All TAG members participate as equals during this meeting.
- (c) a meeting of the Science Technology and Resources Network (STAR) which is an open forum for reporting geoscientific research in the Pacific and for exchanging information and ideas between scientists from SOPAC Member Countries and the international geoscientific community.
- (d) a Governing Council meeting to discuss the administrative and financial business of SOPAC, which may be open to observers who could speak when invited.

See the Table on the next page for a summary of past SOPAC sessions.

SUMMARY OF SOPAC ANNUAL SESSIONS

Session	Date	Venue	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	TAG Chairman	Rapporteur(s)
Preparatory	Jul 1971	Manila, Philippines	R.W. Willett, NZ	—	—	—
FIRST	Nov 1972	Suva, FJ	D. Green, FJ	S. Tu'a Taumoepeau, TG	R. Willett, NZ	—
SECOND	Aug-Sep 1973	Nuku'alofa, TG	S. Tongilava, TG	R. Richmond, FJ	R. Willett, NZ	—
THIRD	Sep 1974	Apia, WS	T. Enari, WS	P. Mueller, WS	J.W. Brodie, NZ	—
FOURTH	Sep 1975	Honiara, SB	R.B. Thompson, SB	G. Sawtell, CK	J.W. Brodie, NZ	—
FIFTH	Nov 1976	Rarotonga, CK	G. Sawtell, CK	S. Tongilava, TG	D. Kear, NZ	—
SIXTH	Oct 1977	Port Moresby, PN	N. Agonia, PN	R. Richmond, FJ	J.W. Brodie, NZ	J. Wright, UK
SEVENTH	Oct 1978	Wellington, NZ	D. Kear, NZ	S. Kingan, CK	J. Wright, UK	G. Shepherd, TS
EIGHT	Sep-Oct 1979	Suva, FJ	R. Richmond, FJ	A. Macfarlane, VA	M. Terman, US	J. Wright, UK
NINTH	Oct 1980	Tarawa, KI	T. Otang, KI	A. Macfarlane, VA	J. Wright, UK	J. Eade, NZ
TENTH	Oct 1981	Port Vila, VA	A. Macfarlane, VA	S. Tongilava, TG	J. Wright, UK	J. Eade, NZ
ELEVENTH	Nov 1982	Wellington, NZ	H. Thompson, NZ	S. Tongilava, TG	N. Exon, AU	J. Eade, NZ
TWELFTH	Oct 1983	Nuku'alofa, TG	S. Tongilava, TG	L. Ioane, WS	N. Exon, AU	D. Howell, US; J. Eade, NZ
THIRTEENTH	Oct-Nov 1984	Apia, Western Samoa	K. Eteuati, WS	S. Danitofea, SB	H.G. Greene, US	N. Exon, AU
FOURTEENTH	Sep 1985	Honiara, SB	J. Saliga, SB	S. Kingan, CK	H.G. Greene, US	D. Mallick, UK
FIFTEENTH	Sep 1986	Rarotonga, CK	S. Kingan, CK	G. Anderson, PN	J.V. Eade, NZ	D. Mallick, UK
SIXTEENTH	Oct 1987	Lae, Papua New Guinea	W. Seanson, PN	S. Sopoanga, TU	D.J. Mallick, UK	J. Eade, TS; M. Fisk, UN
SEVENTEENTH	Oct 1988	Suva, FJ	S. Sopoanga, TU	R. Rutland, AU	C. Helsley, US	J. Eade, TS
EIGHTEENTH	Oct 1989	Canberra, AU	R.W. Rutland, AU	K. Kolone (Interim)	R.N. Richmond, TS	J. Harper, TS
NINETEENTH	Oct 1990	Tarawa, KI	T. Tokataake, KI	C. Mortimer, VA	R.N. Richmond, TS	H. Creech, TS
TWENTIETH	Sep-Oct 1991	Port Vila, VA	C. Mortimer, VA	S. Tongilava, TG	B. Page, UK	A. Sherwood, TS
TWENTY-FIRST	Sep-Oct 1992	Nuku'alofa, TG	S. Tongilava, TG	A. Simpson, FJ	H.G. Greene, US	A. Sherwood/J. Eade, TS
TWENTY-SECOND	Oct 1993	Suva, FJ	A. Simpson, FJ	M. Kaminaga, MI	R.N. Richmond, TS	A. Sherwood, TS
TWENTY-THIRD	Sep 1994	Majuro, MI	J. Kabua, MI	National Rep. Australia	D. Pickrill, NZ	R. Howorth, TS
TWENTY-FOURTH	Sep-Oct 1995	Suva, Fiji	D. Ritchie, AU	C. Brown, CK	D. Pickrill, Canada	R. Howorth/L. Bukarau, TS
TWENTY-FIFTH	Oct 1996	Rarotonga, CK	R. Newnham, CK	G. Ayin, FSM	A. Macfarlane, UK	L. Bukarau/R. Howorth, TS
TWENTY-SIXTH	Sep-Oct 1997	Nadi, Fiji Islands	B. Rao, FJ	G. Ayin, FSM	D. Tappin, UK	L. Bukarau/R. Howorth, TS
TWENTY-SEVENTH	Sep-Oct 1998	Suva, Fiji Islands	S. Anefal, FSM	National Rep. Guam	D. Tappin, UK	L. Bukarau/P. Fairbairn, TS
TWENTY-EIGHTH	Oct 1999	Nadi, Fiji Islands	T. Barrett, NZ	K. Ruaia, Kiribati	T. Barrett, NZ	L. Bukarau/P. Fairbairn, TS
TWENTY-NINTH	Sep-Oct 2000	Tarawa, Kiribati	K. Ruaia, Kiribati	M. Kaminaga, RMI	K. Ruaia, Kiribati	L. Bukarau/P. Fairbairn, TS
THIRTIETH	October 2001	Majuro, Marshall Islands	M. Maddison, RMI	A. Itsimaera, Nauru	M. Kaminaga, RMI	L. Bukarau/C. Pratt, TS
THIRTY-FIRST	Sep-Oct 2002	Suva, Fiji Islands	A. Itsimaera, Nauru	S. Talagi, Niue	A. Itsimaera, Nauru	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-SECOND	Sep 2003	Alofi, Niue	S. Talagi, Niue	S. Nion, PN	S. Talagi, Niue	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-THIRD	Sep 2004	Coral Coast, Fiji Islands	A. Maino, PN	S. Potoi, Samoa	A. Maino, PN	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-FOURTH	Sep 2005	Apia, Samoa	T. Toomata, WS	D. Toifa, SB	T. Toomata, WS	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-FIFTH	Sep 2006	Honiara, Solomon Islands	T. Kaua, SB	S.N. Halatuitui/K. Mafi, TG	T. Kaua, SB	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-SIXTH	Nov 2007	Nuku'alofa, Tonga	B. Tu'ita, TG	S. Laloniui, TU	S.N. Halatuitui, TG	L. Bukarau, TS

Abbreviations used: AU – Australia; CK – Cook Islands; FJ – Fiji Islands; KI – Kiribati; MI – Marshall Islands; NZ – New Zealand; PN – Papua New Guinea; RMI – Republic of the Marshall Islands; WS – Samoa; SB – Solomon Islands; TG – Tonga; TS – SOPAC Secretariat; TU – Tuvalu; VA – Vanuatu; UK – United Kingdom; UN – United Nations; US – United States



Participants at the Official Opening of the 36th SOPAC Session at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga.

OPENING ADDRESS

by Honourable Tuita, Minister of Lands
Survey, Natural Resources and Environment
at the Official Opening of the SOPAC 36th Annual Session

Honourable Acting Prime Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Scientists and Observers, Secretariat Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my privilege and honour to welcome you on behalf of the Government and People of the Kingdom of Tonga to the 36th Annual Session of the Governing Council of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (or SOPAC as it is better known). We have had the privilege to host a SOPAC annual session on three previous occasions, first in 1973 and subsequently in 1983 and 1992.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and to welcome to our shores the distinguished members of the Science Technology and Resources Network (or STAR), which have this year addressed the twin themes: Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards with particular emphasis on Geoscience and the Challenge of Preparing Submission for an Extended Continental Shelf, as well as Coastal Hazards and Protection. Considering the fact that the ocean forms the bulk of all our national jurisdictions, it is a major resource, and most of our people live on the coast, the chosen themes are critical to our present and in particular our future livelihoods. Bringing leading scientists and technical professionals from within the region and the wider global community together through STAR, to discuss issues of relevance to our region has been a major achievement of SOPAC. I sincerely hope all participants, national, regional, and international, will have benefited from the 23rd meeting of STAR which ended here last Saturday.

SOPAC was founded in 1972 as a response to the expressed desire of a then small number of our island members including New Zealand for deepsea mineral resources prospecting and petroleum exploration due to implications in respect of the Law of the Sea. SOPAC's relevance is demonstrated by the growth over the past 35 years in the membership of the Commission to the present number of 21.

One of the key initial drivers that encouraged Tonga to become a founding member of SOPAC was the discovery of petroleum seepages on this island and the resulting publicity and the drive for exploration in the late 1960s. I recall well the

very strong case and commitment to SOPAC of our then National Representative, the Secretary of Lands Surveys and Natural Resources, Sione Latu'ila Tongilava. He was our representative for the first 25 years of SOPAC, but sadly he is no longer with us having passed on since Tonga last hosted an annual session. Sione, I understand was well recognised for his articulate interventions prefixed with the statement "as English is only my second language". He was indeed one of the founding fathers of CCOP/SOPAC soon to become SOPAC. So passionate was he about the need for a regional geoscience organisation that he named his three family cats CC, OP and SOPAC. Tonga would like to seek Council's indulgence to dedicate this 36th annual session to the memory of Sione and his contributions to SOPAC.

The number of countries targeted, and exploration companies showing interest in marine mineral exploration within the Pacific region appears continually to be on the increase. It is of interest to note that many of the targets selected have been those that have been identified over the intervening two decades through marine scientific cruises coordinated through SOPAC. Continued guidance on how to address arising legal, environmental and related issues would be welcomed.

Marine metallic minerals are not the only economically potential natural resource in our waters. Perhaps at this stage a more common "mineral" is aggregate. Building houses, hotels, bridges and seawalls all require concrete, which in turn requires sand. For many Pacific Island Countries, the most obvious source is the beach, where superficially one notes "oceans of sand". However, one often overlooks the fact that beaches are in dynamic equilibrium. Unsustainable mining of beaches, beach rock and our reefs has dire consequences in terms of environmental impact, and in atoll nations may mean accelerated loss of land. SOPAC has been spearheading scientific and technical studies in the region with regard to mapping coastal change, and in the sustainable development of marine aggregates, and seeking alternatives for the prevalent use of beach sand. Here in Tonga, this work has involved the assessment of mineable sand in shallow waters around Fafa Island, environmental impact assessments, and the development of guidelines for sustain-

able extraction of marine aggregates. The latter I understand forms the basis for the development of a regional set of guidelines.

Another major driver in the early days for Tonga and some of the other SOPAC members was in relation to the need for alternate energy sources, and hence the wave energy programme was launched. The continual rise in the cost of energy has been a major impediment to growth for all Pacific Island Countries. Given our vast distances in the Pacific, both within and between countries, there are additional costs of transportation. A key event organised by SOPAC this year was the Pacific Regional Energy Ministers' Meetings (PEMM) held in Rarotonga in February which has in its Communiqué laid down a challenge to countries and partner organisations to help better address issues related to energy. As with many ministerial communiqués, the key challenge now is that of resource mobilisation and implementation, within a reasonable time frame. Recent surges in global oil prices make this a particularly urgent matter.

Tonga as well as some other members of the SOPAC family is in the midst of compiling their submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) in respect of potential claims for an extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. With a deadline of May 2009, the compilation of a technical submission is a daunting task, particularly so for us small countries with limited financial and human resources. Whilst Tonga has mobilised national resources for the task, we note that SOPAC has played, and continues to play, a valuable role in the area of providing technical support to its member countries in this critical area. Whilst the potential for extension of the continental shelf is an urgent task, given a readily identified and fast approaching closing date, an even more critical need is for the Pacific island states to agree their maritime boundaries, which has important implications for how we sustainably manage our ocean resources both living (fisheries including highly migratory species such as tuna) as well as non-living (minerals and hydrocarbons) resource potential. I commend the role played by SOPAC supported by donors such as Australia in providing technical assistance in this regard. I stress however, the need to encourage initiatives within and between countries in the area of negotiations of shared boundaries. This final step rests with our respective governments.

In relation to hazards and disaster management, SOPAC and its partners in the Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network have made significant progress in assisting member countries in supporting the development of

national action plans in regard to disaster risk management, starting initially with Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands in 2006/2007. This is an excellent example of a regional organisation moving ahead with implementing priority actions under the Pacific Plan. The challenge of course will be in the national implementation phase and I am glad to note that excellent progress has been made in securing funds to commence this phase, and that other new initiatives are continually being developed. As a country prone to a number of natural disasters (Cyclone Waka in 2002, and the magnitude 8 earthquake of May 2006 are recent examples), Tonga welcomes support through SOPAC for the development of strategic action orientated plans outlining priorities, and more so their implementation.

The impact of the magnitude 8.1 earthquake and accompanying tsunami of April 1 in the Western Solomon Islands brought us back to reality in terms of our vulnerability to major calamitous events. This event meant a major blow to the economy of a member state already going through difficult times and collective sympathies and support are with the government and people of the Solomon Islands. I note SOPAC has participated in assessment teams and is actively engaged in discussions relating to programming future more detailed assessments. I also understand that in two side meetings in the course of the week, scientists and technical specialists are holding discussions with the aim of developing a strategic programme of work to better understand the tectonics and geology of the region, and through this gain a better knowledge of past seismic events and tsunamis.

Whilst I am speaking to natural disasters, I would at this time like to extend on behalf of Council our sympathies to the Government of Papua New Guinea which is, as we meet struggling to cope with the aftermath of the torrential rains and flooding associated with Cyclone Guba last week in Milne Bay and adjacent provinces.

I would like now to go back to the origins of SOPAC, from its humble beginnings in 1972 as a UN regional project to help assist countries in prospecting for marine minerals and hydrocarbons. As you will note from my earlier comments on disaster risk reduction, energy, aggregates, water and maritime boundary delimitations, SOPAC has grown over the intervening years in terms of its mandate and the kind of work it undertakes. One aspect that needs to be stressed however is the science and technical nature of the work.

I consider SOPAC as unique amongst the regional organisations in that it has a predominantly scientific and technical mandate (applied science

is perhaps more appropriate). SOPAC has built up considerable expertise and knowledge of the Pacific region over the past 35 years. It has developed a reputation for quality applied science and its ability to produce relevant technical advice and solutions to its island members. It is well equipped for this task. It is well known and respected in this line of work and has a wide network of contacts and linkages with cooperating agencies in the region and beyond.

Despite all this, in the recent 2007 Leaders' Forum held here in Tonga, the Leaders in relation to SOPAC agreed as follows:

“the need to rationalize the functions of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) with the work programmes of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with the view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP”. (paragraph 19 (b))

SOPAC is, of course, an independent body, but I believe we must consider the decision by the Forum Leaders, and do so in a constructive and positive way. I am equally sure that our own Leaders want us to consider and act on their decision in a rational and meaningful way. Indeed, I believe that they want us to consider their directive as a matter of due process, within a framework of principles, underpinned by good governance in order to achieve an outcome of more effective management of limited resources, excellence in terms of services and production, and greater effectiveness of delivery.

In considering our Leaders' decision in relation to SOPAC, I would like Council Members to note that one of the critical issues that is facing us today, and even more so in the future, is quality data and information and particularly of the ocean and its resources. In my humble opinion there is a need for Pacific island countries as independent states to be provided with independent scientific and technical data and information so that we are able to make independent decisions for each of our countries.

There is no doubt that some metropolitan countries have the national capacity to carry out fully their own national needs, and also provide to us from time to time with such scientific and technical support including relevant data and information. I have no doubt also, that scientists are independent and will undertake their work and produce reports to the best of their ability regardless of politics. But will other metropolitan countries and donors focus their attention on our needs or mostly on their needs? The question then

arises will we have full access to all our data and information? Perhaps we should consider the importance of the independence of scientific and technical work as a critical factor for our future (supplemented by other data and information from metropolitan institutions if they are made fully available) as an issue of sovereignty in a fast paced globalizing Pacific.

SOPAC's emphasis is and has always been on scientific and technical work and projects. SOPAC has also provided us with a perspective on the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach to problems and solutions, as well as thinking outside the box as scientists and technical experts are wont to do.

The other question, of course is whether we can afford it. If I understand the present situation, SOPAC has been able to secure financial support of about FJD\$30 million for 2008 for the implementation of the Secretariat Work Programme, supported by an estimated in-kind contribution of several millions of dollars from the STAR network.

It can be argued that this can be done more cost effectively under a bigger umbrella structure of a single technical regional organisation. That maybe true, but there will always be tendency for the broader responsibilities of a big organisation to lose focus on issues like scientific and technical programmes. Perhaps that is why almost all scientific and technical organisations tend to be independent in metropolitan countries. This approach proposed may thus lead to a serious risk to service delivery.

I am not saying that there should not be any rationalization. What I am saying is that I am sure that our Leaders want us to come forward with the best scenario where Pacific countries and their people will get the greatest benefit, allowing them to be independent so that they could “lead free and worthwhile lives”.

Perhaps the real need, in relation to decision para. 19 (b) of our Leaders, is not to see how SOPAC should be divided up, but rather to undertake a rationalization of all three mentioned organisations: SPC, SOPAC and SPREP. Perhaps the critical issue is how to make all three of them even more effective, rather than creating two bigger organizations. Perhaps the need is for CROP to be more effective even though it has in many ways failed. The time may have arrived for CROP to have an independent chair – with authority, who is accountable to all the chairpersons and governing councils of these regional organizations.

It is also important to note the importance of the issue of staff morale as well as their future.

Changeovers, redundancies and interim arrangements are part of organisational culture these days. But I believe that whichever course the Council will take this is a critical period of at least three years where work programmes, including advisory work, needs to be completed or reach a stage where they could be moved, if that is indeed the decision, without impact on service delivery. Furthermore, such a decision should allow staff to know where they stand and give them time to make decisions about their future. If the Forum is a family which it claims to be then staff is family and if SOPAC is a part of the Forum family, then its staff is family.

My comments are made as food for thought while you consider the implication and implementation of our Leaders' decisions. I hope you will take them in that spirit. But in considering the application of these decisions, it is our responsibility to ensure our decision will enhance the governance principles they agreed to, the vision and mission they approved, the four pillars they established and the Pacific Plan that they have endorsed. On top of that our decision should also ensure that what they expect SOPAC, or SOPAC activities, to do will reflect modes of excellence in terms of applied science and technical solutions and applications and prospers regardless of whether they are in the SOPAC house, or the SPC house or the SPREP house.

Above all Council must decide on a correct way forward based on the value it places on scientific

and technical advice and information. Council must decide on the correct way this can continue to be delivered, and if change is to come how best to ensure that the worthwhile programmes of SOPAC carry on without a gap, or hindrance such that we in the Pacific can address issues relevant to sustainable development of our natural resources and that we do develop resilience to disasters, natural or human-induced. An acceptable way forward is not good enough. It must be a correct approach which Council has ownership of. If time is needed for this to happen, then time must be allowed.

Finally, in closing I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a worthwhile and productive meeting. I would also encourage you to take the time from your busy schedule to enjoy some of Tongatapu's beauty and hospitality. This includes a visit to our natural oil seeps here in Nuku'alofa, which I understand is being arranged for this lunchtime.

I also look forward to joining you, to Chair our discussions on the implications for SOPAC of the recent Forum Leaders' decision.

With that Ladies and Gentlemen I have much pleasure in officially opening the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council.

Malo and 'ofa atu.

Reply to Opening Address by Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Fiji Islands

Acting Prime Minister of Tonga, Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment, Director of SOPAC, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests ...

My task on this occasion is purely transitory and therefore will be brief. It is my honour to be able to respond, on behalf of SOPAC Council members, to the Opening Address at this 36th Council Meeting of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, or SOPAC as we more commonly know it. For all of us, including myself, it is a great pleasure to be back in the Kingdom of Tonga, and for those of us who are here for the first time I am sure that the warm and hospitable welcome you have given will leave a happy and lasting impression.

At the outset may I, on behalf of Council, fully endorse your intention to dedicate this, the 36th SOPAC Council Meeting, to your former long-

serving National Representative, the Secretary of Lands Surveys and Natural Resources, the late Sione Latu'ila Tongilava. Fiji was privileged to host the First Session of the then CCOP/SOPAC which was attended by Sione. His and Tonga's commitment to this organisation becoming in effect a specialised scientific and technical regional organisation was clearly visible, as he did not hesitate to offer to host the Second Session here in Nuku'alofa in 1973. I understand this year is also the 10th anniversary of his passing, making therefore your intention particularly timely.

We note your particular reference to SOPAC today as unique amongst the current regional organisations in that it has retained its predominantly applied science mandate. SOPAC has built up a considerable expertise and knowledge base of the Pacific region over the past 35 years. It has developed a reputation for quality applied sci-

ence and its ability to produce relevant technical advice and solutions for us island members. As you stressed SOPAC's strength is and has always been on a multi-disciplinary approach to problems and solutions, as well as thinking outside the box as scientists and technical experts are trained to do. It is indeed well equipped for this task, well known and respected, and supported by the global network of technical advisers and star scientists.

It is therefore, as you have highlighted, very surprising to see the outcome in relation to SOPAC of the recent 2007 Leaders' Forum held here in Tonga. To repeat what you have just said, and in order for this Council to respond to the Leaders'

Statement of the Outgoing Chair, Honourable Toswel Kaua, CSI, CBE
delivered by Mr Donn Tolia, Permanent Secretary of Mines and Energy
Government of the Solomon Islands

Honorable Minister, Excellencies, distinguished national government representatives, Director of SOPAC and Secretariat Staff, delegates, scientists, ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, I would like to express / extend the sincerest apology of the substantive Chairman for SOPAC for the last 12 or so months and now the outgoing, Honourable Toswell Kaua (MP) representing Solomon Islands for not being able to attend this 36th Annual Session of SOPAC due to unavoidable numerous domestic commitments.

As representing the outgoing Chair, I wish to firstly thank the Minister for his opening statement to Council and the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for their splendid meeting arrangements and hospitality. I also bring very warm greetings from Honiara to you all.

The year 2006-07 since our last 35th Annual Session held in Honiara to date, has been an interesting year for SOPAC and has seen the organisation consolidate and considerably expand its work programme under the revised Strategic Plan 2005-2009. If I were to sum it all up in a few words it would be "2007 – the year of implementation". Significant milestones were the successful organisation and execution of the Regional Energy Officials Meeting, (REMM 2007), Pacific Ministers Meeting, PEMM, in the Cook Islands, the Regional Meeting of the National Disaster Managers in Palau, the implementation of the Regional DRR & DM Framework, and the launch of Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing Systems, HYCOS under the EU Water Facility, Brisbane to name but a few.

decision, we come here fully prepared to work under your guidance and wisdom to arrive at the correct way forward based on the value we place on scientific and technical advice and information. As you pointed out an acceptable way forward is not good enough. It must be a correct approach which council has ownership of and that is most important. Furthermore, if time is needed for this to happen, then time must be allowed.

Honourable Minister, in closing Minister may I once again thank you, and through you to the people of the Kingdom, for your warm welcome, and assure you that we will find time during our stay here to enjoy some of that Tongan hospitality.

However, with success comes new challenges and constraints. The Secretariat has had to contend with the challenge of being based in Suva, Fiji and the events of December 5, 2006 in terms of service delivery. Accommodation has been a major problem, relieved somewhat through short-term arrangements with the Fiji Mineral Resources Department. The signing of new contribution agreements with the EU projects have had to be on the hold whilst SOPAC as well as other Regional Organisations have had to go through Institutional Assessments. The challenge faced by the organisation following the Forum Leader's Communiqué two months ago here also in Nuku'alofa, would no doubt be I understand another major distraction from the need for greater service delivery.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you and on behalf of the Council acknowledge the many donors and development partners that are assisting the Pacific Island States, through SOPAC. We must remember that it is only by working together that we can build stronger economies, resilient and better living conditions for the people in our countries and thereby fulfilling the wishes of the Pacific Plan and more so the always referred Millennium Development Goals, MDG.

For our part the Solomon Islands since April 2 2007 have had to contend with the devastating impacts of a magnitude 8 earthquake and accompanying tsunami that left more than 50 dead and widespread damage to homes, properties and infrastructures in the Western and Choiseul Provinces. It has been gratifying indeed to see the

assistance of donors, governments and agencies, many or some of whom are represented here today. For my Ministry who is the local technical agency responsible for geological related hazards and the Solomon Islands NDMO, one aspect of such an event has been the numerous scientific and related agencies who arrived on our doorstep literally within hours of the event. Coordinating such a diverse, but well-intentioned group let me tell you is a nightmare and given the capacities and capabilities of our national agencies impossible given the urgent attention to relief. This has led us to ask if agencies such as SOPAC could in fact coordinate such work and the matter was indeed raised at the June Regional National Disaster Managers meet. Much has been learnt from the experiences of the April 2 2007 earthquake and Tsunami which should be a lesson to all in the region. This recent event further justify the need for thorough consideration be made for improved monitoring networking of tsunami generating seismism and volcanism nationally or regionally,

with a enhanced regionally well coverage tsunami warning system. This however will only be possible through regional cooperation coupled with external assistance.

Finally, Honourable Minister, it will be Tonga's turn to Chair the Governing Council over the next 12 months and I wish the incoming Chair all the very best during his term. These are interesting and testing times for the organisation that is ours, and 2008 will indeed be a critical year for SOPAC. May his leadership and guidance further enhance the reputation of SOPAC and strengthen the effectiveness of national governments to create a more prosperous community and lifestyle for all peoples of the Pacific.

Thank you all for your cooperation, understanding and perseverance during Solomon Islands tenure of chairmanship of SOPAC.

Thank you all for your attention.

Opening Remarks by the Director of SOPAC Ms Cristelle Pratt

Before I make my opening remarks this morning may I invite us all to stand and take a minute of silence to contemplate the losses experienced from two extreme natural events that have occurred in our Region in 2007 and in particular to think of those that lost their lives in the earthquake and tsunamis event in the western Province of the Solomon Islands in April 2007 and more recently from the torrential rains and flooding in the Provinces of Oro and Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea and also to our friend and colleagues of early SOPAC days as a member of Council for the Cook Islands Tony Utanga who passed away this year.

1. Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council, acting Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Honourable Utoikanamu; Minister for Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and the Environment Honourable Tuita, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Heads of SOPAC member Delegations, Chair of STAR and the Chairs of our Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups, Heads and Representatives of CROP agencies, Representatives of international, regional and national organisations, Science and Technical Advisers, Staff of the Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. On behalf of the SOPAC Secretariat, a very good morning to you all and welcome, to this, the opening of the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council.

3. This is the fourth meeting of the Governing Council that the Kingdom of Tonga has hosted, with the first being held here in 1973 at which five of the then seven members attended. We all know that today, some 34 years later SOPAC boasts a membership of 21 member countries and territories from our region and I am pleased to see that all member countries and territories are with us here today.

4. The theme for this 36th Session of the SOPAC Governing Council and for the 24th Meeting of the Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR) which was held last week here in Tonga is Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards. This year's STAR meeting was extremely successful and I was particularly pleased to participate and listen to some of a very rich offering of about 70 scientific and technical papers from regional and international scientists and technical professionals. This theme including our entire work programme comprise our raison d'être and are critical if we are to maximize development and minimize disasters.

5. The matter of extended continental shelf was discussed in a number of presentations and for some SOPAC member States this matter holds immediate scientific and technical challenges as they prepare their submissions to potential claims to an extended continental shelf, against a very pressing timeline of May 2009. Clearly the

potential benefits to accrue if they are successful in claiming extended continental shelf would be rights over those marine resources that occur on and below the seabed.

6. Several papers touched on the matter of maritime boundaries delimitation and for all SOPAC member states this is an immediate and critical opportunity to establish a sound ocean governance and security framework of your marine resources and space. It is especially pertinent for this region of large oceanic States where coastal and oceanic resources underpin many of our economies and communities' livelihoods, our security and our resilience that we urgently determine, delimit and declare our areas of stewardship and sovereignty.

7. In respect of hazards it is well and widely known that we live in one of the worlds most hazard prone regions and therefore the extreme natural events that occur within our region are unavoidable. The April 2007 earthquake and tsunamis event in the Solomon Islands was a sobering reminder to us of this and there is little if any argument that applied science and technical solutions are a necessary requisite if we are to indeed build safer and more resilient communities. In this respect the various STAR papers that responded to the theme on geohazards undoubtedly contributed to improving our understanding and highlighted the efforts required for risk reduction and disaster management and the need to consider embracing a whole-of-country approach.

8. There is no doubt that if we are to manage our resources sensibly and if we are to build resilience that applied science and technical solutions are absolutely necessary. Such informed solutions are equally important if we are to be considered in how we manage our peoples interactions with the natural resource base and the natural system,

as we must also manage their perceptions on the value of the natural resources that they have stewardship and ownership over and the natural system that they are key element of. We recognise more and more I believe that there is a need to link science use and management to protect the resource base and the integrity of our natural system, all within a sound policy framework. It is also an absolutely fundamental and critical element for sustainable development, which as we know is the mission of every one of our Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

9. This Session of the Governing Council of SOPAC is as important as each of the Sessions that have preceded this one, and I trust that the deliberations on the various technical and policy issues on the agenda for this the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council are both constructive and instructive.

10. Honourable Tuita Sir, on behalf of those of us that are visitors to your beautiful country may I through you thank your Government and your people for being so very welcoming and for showing such warmth and hospitality since we arrived in Tonga'tapu last week. In addition may I thank you for providing this excellent venue for our meetings and for this the 36th Session of the SOPAC Governing, which has and will allow us to conduct our work in comfort. I am certain that many friendships have already been and will be made during our stay here and I am sure that these friendships will endure time and distance in the true tradition of the extended family of SOPAC.

11. Chair of SOPAC, Honourable acting deputy Prime Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates and colleagues I thank you for your attention.

12. Malo'opito

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SOPAC SESSION

FORMAL OPENING SESSION

1. OPENING

1. The Thirty-sixth Annual Session of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) was held in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, from 22nd to 28th November 2007. It's Council Sessions including the joint session with its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the preceding three-day scientific meeting of its Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR) were all held at the Fa'onehua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa. The STAR meeting was its 24th with the theme "Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards with particular emphasis on Geoscience and the Challenge of preparing submission for an Extended Continental Shelf, as well as Coastal Hazards and Protection".

2. The master of ceremony, Tevita Tukunga of the Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment initiated the official opening ceremony by requesting delegates to be seated and then invited Reverend Dr Manase Tafea of the Tofoa Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga to offer the opening prayer.

3. The outgoing Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council, Mr Donn Tolia, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Geology, Mines and Energy (Solomon Islands) called the meeting to order and welcomed all the delegates. He acknowledged the host country, the Kingdom of Tonga; and declared that during the Solomon Islands' chairship, SOPAC continued to deliver services "despite the most recent emerging difficulties of the Forum decision."

4. The Director of SOPAC, Ms Cristelle Pratt, prior to welcoming all the delegates to the SOPAC Governing Council meeting, called for a minute of silence to contemplate the losses experienced from two extreme natural events that occurred in the region in 2007 – (1) the lives lost in the earthquake and tsunami events in the Western Province of Solomon Islands in April 2007; and (2) more recently from the torrential rains and flooding in the provinces of Oro and Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea. A founding father of SOPAC, Anthony Utanga of the Cook Islands who passed away this year, was also remembered.

5. The SOPAC Director further touched on the success of this year's STAR meeting where about 70 scientific and technical papers from regional and international scientists and technical professionals were presented. This year's STAR theme "including our entire work programme comprise our *raison d'être* and are critical if we are to maximise development and minimise disasters." She highlighted that the matter of extended continental shelf was discussed in a number of presentations and for some SOPAC member states this matter holds immediate scientific and technical challenges as they prepare their submissions for potential claims to an extended continental shelf, against a very pressing deadline of May 2009. Clearly the potential benefits to accrue if States are successful in claiming extended continental shelf would be rights over those marine resources that occur on and below the seabed. The Director's Opening Remarks will be included in full in the Proceedings volume.

6. The Honourable Tuita, Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Tonga delivered the Opening Address on behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga. Honourable Tuita welcomed all delegates and the Secretariat to Tonga and thanked the Outgoing Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council (the Government of Solomon Islands). He enumerated that his Government was hosting the SOPAC Session for the fourth time, having previously hosted in 1973, 1983 and 1992. He recognised and welcomed the Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR) and the theme for 2007, considering the fact that the ocean formed the bulk of all PICs national jurisdictions and a major resource, with most of Pacific people living on the coast. The chosen mix of themes was critical to the present and in particular future livelihoods of Pacific islanders. Bringing leading scientists and technical professionals from within the region and the wider global community together (through STAR) to discuss issues of relevance to our region was deemed a major achievement of SOPAC.

7. Honourable Tuita recalled that SOPAC was founded in 1972 as a response to the expressed desire of the then small number of our island members including New Zealand for deepsea mineral resources prospecting and petroleum exploration due to the implications of the Law of the Sea. SOPAC'S relevance is demonstrated by the growth over 35 years in the membership of

¹ A comprehensive list of ACRONYMS is included as Appendix 9 of this Proceedings volume

the Commission to the present number of 21; and drew attention to Tonga's own Sione Tongilava; the most dedicated of SOPAC's founding fathers who passed away 10 years ago. Honourable Tuita dedicated the 36th SOPAC Session to the memory of Sione and his considerable contribution to SOPAC.

8. Honourable Tuita further urged Council members to carefully consider the decision made by the Forum Leaders with regard to rationalising the functions of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) with the view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP. Honourable Tuita emphasised that this could be pursued as a matter of due process within a framework of principles underpinned by good governance. The aim was to achieve an outcome of more effective management of limited resources, excellence in terms of services and production, and greater effectiveness of delivery. Honourable Tuita concluded his address by calling on Council members to decide on a correct way forward based on the value it places on scientific and technical advice and information. The Council must decide how best to ensure that worthwhile programmes of SOPAC can continue to be delivered without a gap or hindrance such that "we in the Pacific can address issues relevant to sustainable development of our natural resources and that we do develop resilience to disasters, natural or human-induced." Honourable Tuita's Opening Address will be tabled in full in the Proceedings volume.

9. The head of the Fiji delegation and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Ratu Epeli Nailatikau delivered a short reply on behalf of the Council, where he fully endorsed the dedication of this 36th annual session to the late Sione Tongilava as the longest-serving Tongan national representative to SOPAC. Sione Tongilava's commitment was visible in his efforts to ensure that SOPAC was a specialised scientific and technical regional organisation. Also, the Honourable Nailatikau fully supported the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment that it was most important that the correct way forward (with respect to rationalising the functions of SOPAC) be found with the guidance of the Chair; which Council would have ownership of. His remarks will be included in full in the Proceedings volume.

10. Delegates from the following member countries were in attendance: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu

and Vanuatu. A full list of participants is annexed as Appendix 1.

11. The following national institutions attended as observers: BECA International Consultants Ltd, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), East West Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Geoscience Australia, Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS), IRD/OSTROM, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science & Technology (JAMSTEC), KEW Consult Ltd, Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute (KORDI), Landcare Research New Zealand, Matadrevula Advisory Services, Meteorological Service of New Zealand, National Institute of Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED/JICA), National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Nautilus Minerals, Pacific Water Association, Samoa Water Authority, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, The University of Texas at Austin, Tonga Community Development Trust, Tonga Electric Power Board, University of New South Wales, University of Hawai'i and Victoria University of Wellington.

12. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Pacific Power Association (PPA); the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); University of the South Pacific (USP), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) were the CROP agencies that were represented.

13. Contact details for participants are included in the List of Participants in Appendix 1.

14. On behalf of the Government of the Solomon Islands as Outgoing Chair, Mr Donn Tolia, expressed his gratitude to his fellow Governing Council members and the Secretariat for their support and assistance during Solomon Island's tenure as Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council. He then called for the election of new office bearers.

2. ELECTIONS

2.1 Chairs and Vice-Chair of SOPAC

15. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Tonga assumed the Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council; and the representative of Tuvalu was appointed Vice-Chair of SOPAC.

2.2 Chairs of STAR and TAG

16. Council accepted STAR's nomination of Professor John Collen of Victoria University of Wellington to continue as Chair of STAR and Joe Buleka of Papua New Guinea, to continue as Vice Chair.

17. The Honourable Tuita, Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment, also assumed the role of chairing the Joint Council-TAG Session, on behalf of the Government of Tonga.

2.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

18. Ms Lala Bukarau (SOPAC) was appointed rapporteur and was tasked with the Secretariat to prepare a summary record of proceedings of the 36th SOPAC Session, under the supervision of the Drafting Committee.

3. AGENDA AND WORKING PROCEDURES

3.1 Adoption of Agenda

19. The Governing Council adopted the revised provisional agenda as presented in AS36/3.1 Rev.1. The approved agenda is attached in Appendix 2. The draft working schedule was also adopted (AS36/3.1/Info 1) with the revised time changes of an 8.30 am start every morning and a 5.30 pm finish for the day. The Working Procedures (AS36/3.1/Info 2) were also noted.

3.2 Appointment of Drafting Committee

20. An open-ended drafting committee chaired by Tuvalu and comprising Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Australia, Fiji and Guam as the core group, was tasked with overseeing the production of a summary record of proceedings.

4. REPRESENTATION

4.1 Designation of National Representatives

21. Chair encouraged member country delegations to provide the Secretariat with details of any amendments to the list of national representatives provided in paper AS36/4.1. See details as at September 2007 in Appendix 3.

5. STATEMENTS

22. In the interest of getting through the meeting business in the allocated time of three days; member country delegations made short interventions mostly commending the host country for the wonderful hospitality being enjoyed by all delegates; acknowledging donor support; and making various remarks on the recent Forum Leaders' decision about SOPAC. Country state-

ments would be handed in for publication in full in the Proceedings volume (see Appendix 4). (Substantive member country statements particularly pertaining to the Regional Institutional Framework are also part of Appendix 7.)

23. Delegates from supporting and partner agencies followed suit expressing best wishes to the host country and their continued commitment to working in partnership with SOPAC to achieve common goals in the SOPAC region. Delegates were reminded to hand in written statements to the Secretariat to be tabled in full in the Council's 36th Session Proceedings.

5.1 Statements by Member Countries

24. These statements are tabled in full in Appendix 4.

5.2 Statements by CROP Organisations

25. These statements are tabled in full in Appendix 4.

5.3 Statements by Cooperating Governments and International Agencies

26. These statements are tabled in full in Appendix 4.

5.4 Statements by National Institutions

27. One written statement was submitted under this item (see Appendix 4, Part III).

JOINT COUNCIL-TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) SESSION

6. ISSUES COMMON TO PROGRAMMES

6.1 Director's Report

6.1.1 Introduction

28. The Director informed Council that the purpose of the TAG session over the next three and a half days was to assess the performance of technical work programmes over the period 2006-2007; and to present new initiatives and emerging issues, and the proposed work programme and budget for 2007-2008. She advised that the key focus of technical programmes in the period 2005 to 2009 of the current SOPAC Strategic Plan is

effective strategic management, good governance over the medium term with the accompanying business plan as the operational framework.

29. The Director highlighted that service delivery against work programmes was reliant on recruitment and retention of qualified technical personnel whose performances were monitored through a Performance Management System (PMS).

30. The Director informed the council that in 2007, independent reviews of the communications and outreach, and human resource management strategies were also conducted. Key recommendations that have little or no financial implications for SOPAC and will be implemented as soon as possible and those recommendations with financial implications would be mapped out and business cases prepared.

31. The Director's Introduction is tabled in full in paper AS36/6.1.1 that will be part of the post-meeting CD to accompany the Proceedings volume.

32. Chair acknowledged that the comprehensive introduction given by the Director would be taken as a brief annual report to Council.

6.1.2 2006 Annual Report Summary

33. The Director noted that the Annual Report Summary related to the time period of September 2005 to September 2006 and that its primary purpose was to promote SOPAC to development partners and inform the SOPAC membership; she acknowledged that the report was published very late in 2007 so opportunities to maximise its use as an advocacy and awareness tool was largely missed. The Director assured Council that the Annual Report for 2007/2008 would be published in early 2008. She sought comments on format and content of the document or any other suggestions that would improve it.

34. Papua New Guinea commended SOPAC on the annual report for being easy to read and even though it was late in being published it was a useful source of information and that he had no problems with its content or format.

35. Tuvalu commended SOPAC for its continued focus on member priorities and on sustainable development of small island states as stipulated in the Barbados Plan of Action.

36. Marshall Islands joined Papua New Guinea in commending the Secretariat for a very good annual report and posed a question to the Director on whether there was a timeline for comments on the format of the annual report.

37. The Director encouraged delegates to send comments in writing or by email and if there were any immediate suggestions, she would welcome hearing them, and clarified that any comments or suggested improvements for the next annual report could be sent over the next few months.

38. Tonga noted that the strategic plan should be incorporated into the annual report with regard to addressing the three pillars for sustainable development.

39. The Director assured the representative of Tonga that a way would be found to accommodate their suggestions to present progress against meeting strategic objectives under technical programme areas; however, she also noted that the full strategic plan would be too comprehensive to attach to the annual report but how to address progress against strategic plans and priorities identified under the Mauritius Strategy could be reviewed.

40. Council accepted the 2006 Annual Report Summary and agreed to use it in promoting the work of SOPAC.

6.1.3 Summary Report of 2007 Donor Report

41. The Director presented to Council the summary report of donor support to SOPAC in the period 2006/2007 (AS36/6.1.3).

42. The Director further noted that the project contributions from development partners were critical to programme delivery and that it was extremely important to acknowledge development partners who provided this support.

43. New Zealand thanked the Director for the detailed enumeration of donor support and offered congratulations on the success in securing important resources for SOPAC work. She queried whether the Director would be able to provide advice on the amount of support that was available for core business and core programmes that came from extra-budgetary support

44. The Director noted that SOPAC had programming arrangements with Australia and New Zealand but that with extra budget initiatives such as with the EU, core resources accounted for 3-5% of total funds and for other smaller projects (~\$100,000) overhead costs were about 12-13%.

45. Samoa stated her agreement with the Director that donor partners should be accorded the gratitude and appreciation they deserve and that it would be difficult to carry out work programmes without their assistance. She suggested that a fourth recommendation be inserted for Council to direct the Secretariat to continue to pursue

and secure new and additional resources and support from external sources, for the effective implementation of SOPAC work programmes to member countries.

46. Tuvalu commended the Secretariat for producing a brief and easy to understand annual report and acknowledged the Secretariat for its engagement at national and international levels for securing funding for SOPAC programmes. The delegate enquired about whether there had been any further developments on the issues raised during the last annual meeting on donors adopting a programmatic longer-term approach to funding for SOPAC.

47. The Director thanked Samoa for its recommendation and asked for the appropriate words in writing if Council was agreeable to the Samoa proposal. The Director further suggested, in response to Tuvalu's request for an update on the move towards the programmatic approach to funding, that development partners such as Australia and New Zealand could adopt the leadership role for championing this approach to funding, in order to encourage other development partners to follow their lead for engaging with regional organisations. She thought that this message coming chiefly from major donors such as Australia and New Zealand would be more compelling; and enhance donor coordination and harmonisation.

48. Papua New Guinea commended development partners for the assistance they provided in the region and requested that the recommendation proposed could be extended to include written letters of gratitude from SOPAC to development partners thanking donors for assistance in delivery of the SOPAC work programmes as well as urging them to stay actively engaged and to look favourably at future requests.

49. The Director was not sure that the Samoa and Papua New Guinea suggestions with respect to the recommendations in the paper were the same since securing additional resources and pursuing other non-traditional funds was somewhat different from merely expressing gratitude to current donors.

50. The delegate from Samoa stated that she had no objections to the additional input from Papua New Guinea to what was already suggested to continue to pursue and secure additional financial resources from external donors.

51. Australia thanked the Secretariat for the donor report and for the addition proposed by Samoa. The delegate advised that while it was good to think about actively securing funds, this should be balanced against effective implementation of current work plans.

52. New Zealand noted that another dimension in addition to securing additional resources were sustainability and security aspects, so that in securing more funding it was important to consider resources going into overheads since there was a great disparity between funds for business services versus programming. She questioned the Director on whether SOPAC had considered developing a policy around the level of overhead-related costs that were optimal and which ought to be argued for, since other CROP agencies had such policies and urged the Secretariat to think about developing such a policy and bringing it back to Council.

53. The Director clarified that arrangements with EU included overheads of 3-5% of total funds but that although these were small service costs, there was a large contribution for technical assistance; and apologised for not being comprehensive in her earlier reply in addressing this question.

54. Council:

- i) accepted the summary record of donor support.
- ii) acknowledged with appreciation the strong donor support received, which was essential for effective work programme delivery and requested the Secretariat to write to all donors and supporting partners to thank them for their support in enabling service delivery of SOPAC's work programmes and to request them to remain actively engaged and to consider favourably any future requests.
- iii) noted with appreciation that some member countries are contributing directly to supporting work programme delivery.
- iv) directed the Secretariat to actively pursue and secure additional financial resources from external sources and ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of the SOPAC work programmes.

6.1.4 SOPAC/EU Project Report (AS36/6.1.4; AS36/6.1.4 Suppl)

55. The Deputy Director presented papers AS36/6.1.4 and AS36/6.1.4 Suppl describing the progress on the 2006/2007 Work Plan for the SOPAC/EU Project, Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific ACP States. Council was advised that due to the substantial sizes of the attachments, these were provided only electronically on the pre-meeting CD sent to member countries prior to the meeting.

56. Council was informed that following their recommendation at the 35th Session in Honiara, the Secretariat with the RAO made a submission to the European Commission for an extension of EDF9 and the subsequent re-extension of EDF8 to the same end date. Unfortunately, only an extension of EDF9 was considered. Following formal advice in July 2007, a revised work programme and budget was developed to secure EDF8 staff beyond December 2007 given that EDF8 staff and resources were essential to the successful delivery of EDF9 activities. The Secretariat was also informed that any unspent EDF8 funds as at 31 December 2007 would need to be reimbursed and therefore lost to the region. In light of this, urgent discussions commenced with RAO, the EU Delegation and SOPAC EDF8/9 Project Staff on an appropriate EDF8 exit strategy to secure enough savings under 9ACP RPA5 to engage as many of the EDF8 technical and professional staff during 2008 to effectively complete and deliver programmed EDF9 tasks. All global costs (equipment, advocacy, regional workshops) were also transferred to EDF8.

57. Council was advised that a series of project advocacy and outcomes documentation and products as well as final reports and products were being consolidated for each country, highlighting key results and potential outcomes/benefits. These would include documentaries, maps, charts and terminal reports.

58. A summary of the work undertaken by the Project under each of the KRAs was presented to Council.

59. The Secretariat informed Council that the supplementary paper (AS36/6.1.4 Suppl) was the record of the discussions held on the 21 November 2007 and acknowledged that most countries participated and had made interventions on the way forward.

60. Vanuatu acknowledged the aggregate work executed by the Project and the interventions made in disaster risk management (DRM) with the development of NAP. He especially commended the work undertaken by the Project geologist on aggregate resource assessment which was then used to support the development of an aggregate guideline and policy document. Vanuatu commended the invaluable support provided to the Task Force during the development of NAP and requested the Secretariat for support in its implementation of priorities. Vanuatu raised that within the duration of the Project, Vanuatu had changed its Country Intern twice and recommended that for future Projects, coordinators be appointed from within the Ministry to ensure the sustainability of the position and the work plus ensures

that the person would also then be accountable to the Public Service Commission. Vanuatu noted the completion of the Project and supported the efforts made by the Secretariat in maintaining EDF8 staff under EDF9 and commended the Secretariat on integrating the Project work under the main SOPAC work programmes.

61. Fiji commended the Secretariat for the activities reported also noting Agenda Items 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.1.3 and the reports produced reflecting the achievements and progress made. He reflected on the business plan presented in 2006 and noted particularly the progress made in extending the benefits of work done right down to the community level. Fiji stressed that the priorities to Capacity Building (KRA5) were important to ensure continuity. The challenge for the Secretariat is the implementation of the 2008 action plan.

62. Tonga noted that KRA5 should be addressed under each KRA and stressed that Tonga required capacity development at all levels from individuals to institutions to government level to ensure sustainability.

63. Kiribati conveyed their appreciation and gratitude to the Secretariat for the delivery of scientific and technical services to member countries noting in particular the work carried out on the sustainable development of coastal zones. Kiribati sought clarification on whether with the end of EDF8 in December 2007, the Secretariat could still undertake unfulfilled requested tasks through EDF9, as indicated in their country statement.

64. The Secretariat responded that implementation of EDF8 components of the Project would cease with termination of that component in December 2007. EDF9 implementation was restricted to the six new ACP countries: Palau, Niue, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Nauru and Federated States of Micronesia. The Secretariat suggested that additional work in the EDF8 countries might be better pursued through bilateral arrangements and encouraged Kiribati to proceed in that direction.

65. Kiribati thanked the Secretariat for the clarification and agreed that they could seek bilateral assistance for the additional EDF8-type tasks they wished to extend to other areas within country.

66. Australia sought clarification on the recommendations being considered; those in the first paper or those in the supplementary paper. The Secretariat responded that since the two were related Council was being asked to consider all of the recommendations in both papers.

67. Consequently, Papua New Guinea asked for an explanation of the recommendation relating to the Secretariat seeking additional resources and funding to support EDF8 initiatives beyond the Project's lifetime; to which the Secretariat response was that the EDF8 Project was never intended for a whole-of-country approach but rather pilot studies for small areas, in a handful of specific sectors.

68. Papua New Guinea suggested that given the limited and restrictive nature of the EDF Project, additional work being sought by EDF8 countries could be pursued on a bilateral basis and not be the responsibility of the Secretariat to seek funding. While the Secretariat further elaborated that some EDF8 and 9-type initiatives were quite large and warranted treatment as a regional initiative; Papua New Guinea was still of the view that if funding could be sourced bilaterally; that countries should pursue that avenue.

69. New Zealand thanked the Secretariat for some achievements of the Project and enquired whether EDF8 and 9 components were fully integrated within the SOPAC work programme or not. The Secretariat responded that though the Project was now fully integrated within the work programmes, the original funding agreement required that it was reported separately. New Zealand's concern was that if the EDF8 and 9 projects were integrated as stated, aside from management and funding issues, there was no need for double reporting to Council. Relevant activities would be covered in the reports of the three programme managers (separate reporting from SOPAC to the donor would of course continue as agreed).

70. The Director reiterated that from the outset there was a requirement for the EDF Project to be reported separately. Sustainability of the Project activities beyond end date along with the recommendations of the mid-term review resulted in it being integrated into the SOPAC work programmes.

71. Council:

- i) noted the completion date of the EDF8 component of 31 December 2007 and the extension of the EDF9 component for a further 18 months from June 2007 until 31 December 2008 and approved the strategy adopted to retain EDF8 project staff for the additional 12 months to ensure that effective project delivery support is provided.
- ii) accepted the progress report on the SOPAC/EU Project for the 2006/2007 year.
- iii) noted the excellent work undertaken by the EU Project "Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific

ACP states in the three key focal areas in the island system: hazard mitigation and risk assessment; aggregates for construction; and water resources supply and sanitation".

- iv) recognised the completion dates for EDF8 and 9, and the need for technical expertise to continue the work begun under EDF8, up to the end of the EDF9.
- v) while recommending that the Secretariat seek additional resources and funding to support EDF8-type initiatives beyond the Project's lifetime; encouraged those countries able to secure bilateral funding support to pursue that avenue for continuing the initiatives piloted by the EDF Project.
- vi) recommended the Secretariat strengthen its advocacy and communication strategy in order to engage countries in the implementation of regional initiatives.

6.2 STAR Chair Report

72. Chair invited the Chair of STAR, Professor John Collen of the Victoria University of Wellington, to address Council.

73. The Chair of STAR read his report to Council (see Appendix 5); highlighting the activities undertaken during the STAR 2007 meeting. He reported that 120 scientists from around the world attended this year's meeting and that in terms of presentations it was the largest STAR meeting to date.

74. The meeting theme of the STAR Session was "Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards, with particular respect to 1. Geoscience and the extended Continental Shelf Challenge and 2. Coastal Hazards and Protection". Themes were selected each year by the host country in conjunction with the Chair of STAR; and the Director of the SOPAC Secretariat with the view to attracting extra scientists working in that particular area as well as to ensure that the host nation got specialist knowledge in areas that was of most interest to it.

75. For example, given Tonga's interest in extended continental shelf issues, the opening sessions of this year's STAR Session dealt with Extended Continental Shelf claims, covering not only the background geoscience and the positions reached by some of the member nations but also the processes involved in submitting applications and having them approved. The latter information was extremely valuable for members of those delegations yet to advance this issue in New York

and nicely integrated geoscientific, political and procedural aspects of this important issue.

76. The Chair of STAR also reported that STAR scientists spent much time prior to, and during the meeting on discussing the implications of Paragraph 19b of the Forum Leaders' 2007 Communiqué to be discussed under agenda item 11.1. There was considerable concern expressed over the future of STAR; given that it is closely linked to SOPAC. He drew attention to paper AS36/11.1 Suppl. 2 which contained recommendations unanimously endorsed by the group to be passed on to Council, through its Chair.

77. The Chair of STAR acknowledged that it was not its place to comment on the organisation or governance of SOPAC; but wished to communicate that the STAR group's sole concern was the continuation of the link between STAR's voluntary organisation of international scientists and the efficient delivery of geoscience to the region.

78. The Chair of STAR added his own perspective to further enlighten Council on what might be lost to the region should the unique link between STAR and SOPAC be a casualty of reform:

"I am always wary about using the tags "basic or experimental" and "applied" science, as the distinction is often not at all clear. Nonetheless, SOPAC is obviously an organisation charged with applying scientific and technical knowledge in practical solutions to perceived problems.

Why do I raise this? The world is facing two unprecedented and interconnected global crises – those of energy supply and environmental change. These will likely require new answers to problems that we don't yet know exist, and many of these solutions will come out of basic, not applied, research. The well known science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once said "The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka! (I've found it)' but 'That's funny...' This recognition of something out of the ordinary is what eventually leads to new insights and solutions. And my own view, perhaps a simplistic one, of the value of STAR to SOPAC is that, as well as giving the access to equipment and experience and databases and ships and libraries that others have spoken about, it keeps SOPAC in touch with the people who say "That's funny.....".

79. STAR acknowledges that change is inevitable but expresses the strong desire that a mechanism be found that will enable STAR and the benefits that it brings to the region to continue. STAR has been steadily growing throughout its lifetime; and with a little modification, if the region wished,

the meetings could become one of the premier scientific conferences of the Pacific Basin. Yet the attributes that give STAR its strength – its lack of a formal structure, its eclectic membership and independence – could also be a fatal weakness. Without the interaction with in-island scientists and the ability of its members to contribute their expertise to the region in their own way, STAR could very easily and very abruptly disappear.

80. The Chair of STAR concluded his statement by offering the services of its senior scientists to provide whatever advice and support to Council in its deliberations over this issue. The Report of the Chair of STAR to Council in 2007 (AS36/6.2 Suppl.) will be appended in full to the Proceedings of the 36th Session (see Appendix 5).

81. Chair invited Council members to comment on the STAR Chair's report.

82. Papua New Guinea thanked the Chair of STAR for his succinct presentation and eloquent validation delivered with passion on the future of STAR's relationship with SOPAC. Papua New Guinea acknowledged the vital contribution of STAR since its inception, and congratulated the (STAR) Chair and Vice-Chair (Papua New Guinea's Jo Buleka) for the confidence of the STAR group in re-electing both of them for another term. Papua New Guinea further noted the nature of STAR's relationship to SOPAC and he expressed confidence that some mechanism would be found to ensure STAR's future participation, including whether they become the premier scientific meeting of the Pacific Basin.

83. Marshall Islands joined Papua New Guinea in commending the very clear presentation by the STAR Chair and acknowledged the usefulness of the work of STAR scientists, which had been personally witnessed and understood by both speakers. Regardless of the Leaders' decision on the RIF, Marshall Islands urged STAR scientists to continue the good work that they do in the region; and that a mechanism should be found for this good work to be made known to the policy makers of the region so they also may understand and appreciate the importance of this work.

84. Council noted the STAR Chair's report; and the STAR comments with respect to the RIF and the future of SOPAC (and consequently STAR), which would be revisited later in the week under agenda item 11.1.

6.3 PMEG Chair Report on Cross-cutting Programme Issues

85. Chair invited the Chair of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group, Professor Gary

Greene of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, to address the SOPAC Governing Council on the cross-cutting programme issues noted by PMEG in their 2007 review.

86. The PMEG Chair noted that the PMEG was approved during the 33rd SOPAC Annual Session, and that members of PMEG were elected for three-year terms and selected based on experience and knowledge of the region and willingness to volunteer their services. The PMEG Chair stated that the purpose of PMEG was to bring to Council issues which would help strengthen work programmes but that this transparent process was not without its inherent risk. The Chair further noted that SOPAC should be congratulated for being prepared to engage in these activities and being transparent, and has constructively responded to issues brought forward.

87. The PMEG Chair reported that SOPAC was an effective, hardworking and dedicated organisation with a “can do” attitude but like all organisations of similar size SOPAC experienced problems that need addressing to improve on its ability to deliver on its programmes. The PMEG Chair further advised that annual reviews are important for good governance and that Council should continue with these efforts, but that PMEG should also be involved in the mid-term review of the strategic plan. He further suggested that there be an in-country representative within each PMEG.

88. The full text of the PMEG Chair’s address is tabled in the new paper AS36/6.3 Suppl and will be included in the post-meeting CD, and appended in full to the Proceedings of the 36th Session.

89. Following the report on cross-cutting issues, the PMEG Chair asked for the Chair’s indulgence to allow him to comment on Paragraph 19b of the 2007 Forum Leaders’ Communiqué. PMEG was tasked in its Terms of Reference to report on all internal and external activities that affect the operation of SOPAC, and since Paragraph 19b has significant implications for the organisation; the PMEG considered that it was duty bound to address the issue.

90. The PMEG Chair recorded that PMEG was not opposed to rationalisation but the paragraph was unclear on how rationalisation would take place or how it would improve the quality of service delivery; and that if it was to occur then more information was needed. PMEG thought that rationalisation could be a healthy exercise, but that without a clear process in mind, it could have the opposite effect. PMEG expressed the view that if the process was not done carefully, SOPAC member countries would lose important products.

In order to avoid this, the PMEG advised taking time to arrive at a clear process for rationalisation, and did not understand the need to rush given the dire consequences for member countries.

91. The full text of the PMEG comments on Paragraph 19b is tabled in paper AS36/11.1 Suppl 3; and will be reviewed by Council under the appropriate agenda item. The PMEG Chair concluded his remarks on the RIF by presenting graphs which demonstrated the financial health of SOPAC; and another presentation offering some light relief on how “attitude” was the way to give or get 100% out of life.

92. The delegate from Fiji commended the voluntary participation of STAR and PMEG members and the particular emphasis on good governance and programme delivery and noted that the process should be embraced by other CROP agencies. Fiji further supported the views expressed by STAR and PMEG, that rationalisation should be approached with proper assessment of SOPAC and stated that no decision on the fate of SOPAC had yet been taken by Council and that it was erroneous to say that SOPAC was being disintegrated.

93. Papua New Guinea advised that issues raised by PMEG were issues for which a consultative process should be undertaken to look at the specific impact of the Leaders’ decision on SOPAC based on Council’s decision on how to approach this issue. He pointed out that the word ‘disintegration’ was never at any time used in the Leaders’ decision. Papua New Guinea further counselled that a building-block approach should be taken and that the process be consultative to ensure that SOPAC does not suffer.

94. The Chair of PMEG acknowledged his use of the word ‘fragmentation’ that could well imply ‘disintegration’; and that he stood corrected.

95. Council noted the Chair of PMEG’s report on cross-cutting issues; and deferred substantial discussion on PMEG comments on the RIF to the appropriate agenda item.

96. The Programme Monitoring Evaluation Groups full reports can be found in Appendix 6.

6.4 CROP and PPAC Summary Reports

97. The Director presented paper AS36/6.4.

98. Samoa enquired about the position of the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC), which she presumed also played a vital monitoring role with respect to the implementation of Pacific Plan initiatives. She noted that at the recent CRGA meeting in Apia, the Samoan delegation had spoken of

the importance of PPAC and the need to see what was actually being delivered by CROP agencies at the country level. She wondered whether too much energy and effort was going towards facilitating regional action plans and frameworks with limited and focus on implementing key initiatives at the ground level. She further suggested that a matrix of SOPAC's assistance at the regional and national levels would be useful.

99. Papua New Guinea (as Chair of PPAC) reported that many countries did not file reports on areas where national action was required to dovetail into regional initiatives, and as a result it was not possible to identify efforts already being carried out by member countries in implementing the Pacific Plan. He clarified that it wasn't the lack of implementation; but rather the lack of reporting on implementation.

100. Tuvalu requested whether it would be possible to see actual CROP remuneration figures, with respect to harmonisation of CROP remuneration.

101. The Director thanked Papua New Guinea for clarifying reporting on the Pacific Plan and noted that SOPAC takes its role very seriously as lead coordinating agency for some key Pacific Plan initiatives, and gave the example of disaster risk management and its emphasis on the implementation of the regional framework and consolidation and implementation at the national level, as well as mainstreaming into national development plans. The Director stated that SOPAC endeavoured to provide timely reports to the Pacific Plan Office at the regional and national level and that it would be helpful to have harmonisation in reporting to reduce the number of reports being produced. The Director also clarified that remuneration figures as queried by Tuvalu would be discussed in greater detail under agenda item 11.2.

102. Council noted the Summary Reports of the 2007 meetings of the CROP and the 2007 meetings of the PPAC, acknowledging that items of relevance to SOPAC would be raised under appropriate agenda items.

7. COMMUNITY LIFELINES PROGRAMME

7.1 Report from the Community Lifelines Programme

103. The CLP Manager presented a summary of the 2007 Component Outputs with major achievements of the Community Lifelines Programme in: Resource Assessment, Development and Management; Asset Management; and Advocacy and

Governance noting the inter-linkages between the different projects within the programme in particular IWRM inter-linking ongoing water-related activities.

104. Guam recognised that ArcGIS was being utilised in American Samoa and Guam as well as in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia. Guam stated that they would appreciate SOPAC flexibility in accepting this system.

105. Samoa acknowledged the achievements of the CLP but sought clarification on the additional HYCOS staffing positions as referenced noting that at the Brisbane Meeting the Steering Committee was advised that the TOR of the positions would be circulated to members of the Steering Team. A request for a hydrological survey was not carried out because a staffing position was not filled as expected. Samoa reiterated its interest in the same. High-resolution satellite images had been acquired for Upolu and the request for the purchase of similar imagery for Savai'i was noted.

106. Marshall Islands thanked the Manager for CLP for work done in the region. He then raised the issue of reporting on the implementation of the Pacific Plan, in particular with respect to country activities and noted that it would be useful if SOPAC contacted the in-country PPAC person in SIDS responsible for reporting back to the Pacific Plan Office so that they could collaboratively prepare reports and ensure that all relevant information was reported; and that a total and complete record of activities/support are included in the PPAC reporting.

107. Fiji acknowledged the achievements and progress of CLP and raised a number of issues. Firstly, Fiji noted that SOPAC should focus on assisting countries with the development and implementation of their energy policies. Secondly, he noted that it would be useful if policymakers could be made aware of the outputs of the pilot projects in order to assist with raising awareness and advocacy with the view to leveraging funding. Fiji further commended the report on capacity building where accountability and sustainability at national level is addressed.

108. In response to Guam's comments, the Secretariat noted that SOPAC had, during 2007, upskilled its staff to provide assistance to Northern countries noting that the first training had been conducted in the Federated States of Micronesia. It was noted that USP currently only trains in ArcGIS where previously there had been efforts to standardise software products so as to enable improved levels of technical support to be provided

as well as inter-country exchange. Therefore, USP is encouraged to provide training in both ArcGIS and MapInfo as the failure to do this will cause additional cost to countries in purchasing alternate software (ArcGIS) among a number of other technical issues.

109. The Secretariat, in response to comments made by Samoa, reported that the HYCOS Project effectively had three staff since one project officer within the project was currently in transition, the additional numbers would in fact remain at two. The Secretariat also stated that the QuickBird satellite imagery for Upolu funded under EDF8 now provides 100% coverage to extend the power utility work. The request for Savai'i imagery was to have been funded under another Project within the programme; however, this did not eventuate due to the expense.

110. The Secretariat acknowledged the recommendations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands that there would be benefits in linking reporting through the national focal point responsible for reporting on the Pacific Plan Action Committee in order to reduce replication of the reporting process but that this could be a challenge with respect to timing and resources. SOPAC noted the comprehensive reporting framework of the Pacific Plan and that it added to the Secretariat's commitment to report against its own work programmes to the SOPAC Annual Session, CROP PPAC, as well as donors.

111. In response to comments made by Fiji that there was a need to develop energy policies in-country, the Secretariat offered to assist with this, and once policies were adopted and endorsed; SOPAC could assist in developing work plans. The Secretariat also highlighted the intention to use Fiji Department of Energy Staff to assist with replication of the energy labelling pilot project. The presentation of pilot project outcomes to policymakers in Tuvalu; and the development of Samoa's energy policy which was published in both Samoan and English were also noted.

112. New Zealand commended the staff of CLP for a busy year and that it was exciting to see technology being applied to development challenges of countries in the region. However, while acknowledging an affinity to CLP because all special grant funding went to this programme, New Zealand observed that this funding was ignored in the PMEG report. The work done as part of the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting was exciting given the importance of energy issues in the region. While noting with appreciation the reporting provided, New Zealand encouraged the Secretariat to move towards outcomes-based reporting to demonstrate the value of SOPAC

work in the region to policymakers. New Zealand asked the Secretariat whether any changes had been brought about as a result of SOPAC work in energy and gender, and water and gender.

113. The Secretariat responded that initially the gender work in these sectors faced many challenges since these are male-dominated sectors; however, the impacts in rural communities on women and children are large, and this was beginning to be acknowledged in development projects such as the LED lighting projects in Kiribati and Solomon Islands where a participatory approach with communities had been adopted. Ongoing work with communities in water, health and sanitation, rainwater harvesting, and capacity building activities were noted. Increased understanding of the need to involve communities had assisted in strengthening these sectors which was helping PICs achieve Millennium Development Goals.

114. Kiribati acknowledged the work of the CLP and requested the upgrading of their mapserver and establishment of GIS in their water and power sectors. Environmentally friendly projects conducted in outer islands were also noted with appreciation.

115. Vanuatu commended the progress made and advised Council on national development with the completion of the National Energy Policy and Master Plan, and National Water Plan. Vanuatu acknowledged the assistance of the Government of New Zealand in the funding for their National Strategic Plan and development of National Energy Policy and Master Plan. Activities presented have been addressed in both plans. In terms of capacity building, Vanuatu requested that the water demand management piloted in some countries be extended to Vanuatu. Vanuatu endorsed Fiji's comments on policy development to support sustainable development with investors coming in. Vanuatu also requested scientists and countries who may hold (hydrological, geological, geoscience) data and information on Vanuatu to help in rebuilding their information dataset as much of their information had been lost in a recent fire.

116. Tuvalu raised the need for member countries to have energy policies and given the recent success of the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting (PEMM), it was important that efforts at national level were in keeping with decisions made by the Leaders. It was also noted that Tuvalu's energy policy was endorsed; but SOPAC assistance was still needed to progress implementation.

117. Samoa noted the use of GIS for mapping water 'meter' assets in Fiji and are interested to be included in the 2nd phase of this pilot project.

The use of satellite images to assess coconut density on Rotuma (Fiji) interested Samoa because of the possibility of adopting the same approach on Savai'i. The exorbitant cost of satellite images which was to have been funded under WasSP was prohibitive.

118. The Secretariat thanked Kiribati and noted that the proposal to upgrade their mapserver was going ahead and appropriate equipment was being procured. Furthermore, the water and power sectors were part of the GIS asset management programme, where work in this area had been programmed for 2008 to progress this work into a number of new countries.

119. The Secretariat reported that it had responded to Vanuatu's plea for data providing copies of information and data held in Suva; and encouraged countries and scientists to provide Vanuatu with relevant data they held. The development of national policies has been supported by earlier developed and endorsed regional policies for water, energy, oceans, disaster and risk and climate including a number of framework documents which were all part of a bigger toolkit. There was a need to work effectively to develop policies in country, and that the Secretariat would assist but the onus was on countries to progress policies through their national governments. The ministerial focus on getting energy policy integrated into economic development policies to ensure long-term sustainable development was noted. The Leaders acknowledged the direction provided to the region by its Energy Ministers, when they endorsed the comprehensive implementation of the recommendations out of the Energy Ministers' April 2007 Communiqué, including the proposal that SOPAC convene another energy ministerial meeting in 2009 with the next officials' meeting.

120. The Secretariat noted issues raised by Tuvalu reinforced the earlier statement on policy and took forward the outcomes from the regional energy meeting.

121. In response to Samoa, the ability to replicate the water meter mapping project as implemented in Fiji within Samoa was acknowledged and was simply a matter of having base stations and rover equipment available, where such work would link with the MapServer and utilise the work already being carried out at EPC. SOPAC noted a significant level of work had been implemented with EPC on power utility projects and that there was close to 100% satellite imagery coverage of utility assets on Upolu. A household survey was conducted on Savai'i in order to estimate demand for energy and the opportunities and viability of using coconut oil, using the same methodology used on Rotuma.

122. The Secretariat in response to New Zealand's suggestion concurred that SOPAC reporting could be further improved and issues moved from outputs-focused to outcomes-based reporting as articulated in the Strategic Plan 2005-2009. There had been some discussion on how a partnership between SOPAC and member countries could be built on and how to achieve outcomes. Since donors are outcomes focused, the Secretariat should be as well and confirmed the intention to carry out a mid-term review of the SOPAC Strategic Plan in 2008 with PMEG involvement and consideration of how indicators could be developed and refined. SOPAC indicated that this would also provide the opportunity to convene an external review of the IT sector.

123. Council accepted the report on the 2007 Work Plan for the Community Lifelines Programme.

7.2 New Initiatives in the Community Lifelines Programme

124. The CLP Manager highlighted the new initiatives in the CLP including work conducted under Water for Life; initiatives to support the International Year of Sanitation; taking forward outcomes from the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting; the extension of PIEPSAP; biofuel activities; data information and security through the development of an energy database; delivery of activities under the Digital Strategy; internal review of the ICT programme; and development of a SOPAC IT strategy.

125. New Caledonia acknowledged the tremendous amount of work carried out by CLP. New Caledonia's strong interest in HYCOS, water resource assessments and water quality assessments were noted. Since New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis are highly dependent on imported fossil fuels, EU funding had been secured for renewable energy programmes and one output from this will be to share regional solar experience with SOPAC countries.

126. Council:

- i) noted and accepted the positive progress made with implementation of the ICT, Energy and Water and Sanitation sectors against the Pacific Plan.
- ii) noted the progress made in developing the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme proposal and commended the prioritisation, by countries, of this regional initiative within the GEF-Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Framework for its implementation.

- iii) noted the outcomes of the meetings of the Pacific Energy Ministers (PEMM) and Regional Energy Officials (REM) and recognised the urgent need for securing required levels of financial and human resources that will ensure the successful implementation of the initiatives articulated in the PEMM 2007 Communiqué; and the priorities in the Pacific Island Energy Policy and related Strategic Action Plan.
- iv) noted the decisions of the PPAC with respect to the PEMM 2007 Communiqué and the actions and resources necessary, both nationally and regionally, for these to be achieved.
- v) acknowledged the recommendation of the PEMM to Leaders to convene an Energy Ministers' Meeting in 2009 and tasked the Secretariat to secure appropriate levels of resources for this purpose including through reprioritising of existing resources as encouraged by the PPAC.
- vi) noted the progress made with the development of national energy policies, strategic action plans and the contribution made to other key areas within the energy sector through the PIEPSAP Project. Further, Council requested the Secretariat to consider building upon activities under the PIEPSAP delivered over the last three years, supporting further follow-up work and secure additional opportunities to ensure sustainability.
- vii) noted progress made in evaluating the feasibility of using biofuels within the region and encouraged the Secretariat to continue monitoring and evaluating the technical, economic and financial feasibility of biofuels in the Pacific. Further, Council recognised that work had commenced toward the development of biofuel standards that can be used as a basis for developing national biofuel standards.
- viii) noted the desirability and multiple benefits of establishing a remote backup site for SOPAC's data and information and directed the Secretariat to proceed with the urgent implementation of this initiative.
- ix) noted the ongoing participation and support of the SOPAC Secretariat in the implementation of the Digital Strategy which is then coordinated by SPC and encouraged it to secure appropriate levels of resources to maintain an active role in supporting the implementation of the Digital Strategy with respect to e-Government, information management policies, GIS and remote sensing and targeted capacity development.
- x) noted the urgent need for dialogue with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to establish and provide basic training in both MapInfo and ArcGIS in the immediate future. Council also recognised and commended the pivotal role that the Secretariat plays in-country in on-the-ground/on-the-job training and the application of GIS and Remote Sensing. Further, Council acknowledged that this would continue to be an area of further development and focus in the immediate term.
- xi) noted the internal review of the SOPAC ICT sector and supported a refocusing toward outreach functions that strengthen technical capacity in utilising spatial data and information to achieve sustainable development solutions; and internal establishment of a robust service support environment that ensures effective delivery of the SOPAC Work Programme.

7.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring and Evaluation Group on CLP

127. Dr Kifle Kahsai, Chair of the CLP PMEG presented the findings of their review. He highlighted how very difficult it was to do a comprehensive analysis given the limited time to review all programme activities.

128. The PMEG noted that the team recommended last year that an internal review of ICT outreach and operational functions in the Secretariat be conducted. He reported that there had been a failure by CLP to do more with information management. He urged the Secretariat to undertake the review in 2008 and to take seriously the need to address information management issues. He also highlighted that the SOPAC website needs serious upgrading.

129. PMEG commended CLP for an excellent job in the area of water; noting that there was especially good coordination with other agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency to avoid duplication.

130. PMEG noted the achievements from the regional Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting and commended SOPAC on its work in energy economics. He noted the need to concentrate more on energy efficiency since this was a priority issue in PICs, and recommended improving relationships with key partners such as the PPA.

131. Australia thanked PMEG for the thorough briefing and acknowledged that two days was indeed a short amount of time to deal with the breadth of work handled by CLP and wondered whether there was any way of extending the timeframe given the potential benefit of commencing

the review process earlier. It was felt that it would be helpful if PMEG findings could be tested at the national level with measurable outcomes on the ground.

132. Marshall Islands confirmed that it was important to continue with the valuable review of SOPAC work programmes by PMEG which is appreciated by member countries and he further suggested that it is equally important and valuable to include member countries in the process in order to reflect the views of the recipients of the work programmes of SOPAC.

133. Samoa thanked the evaluation team for the report and questioned whether the team looked at the effectiveness of training for HYCOS, noting that more advanced training was needed for the water resource division beyond basic training provided by SOPAC.

134. Kiribati agreed that evaluation from member countries should be part of the PMEG assessment and a longer time frame should be adopted; thanking the PMEG for the free service provided to date.

135. Tonga questioned whether the PMEG team was able to identify overlaps between IWRM and HYCOS. PMEG responded that the team was looking at interrelations between HYCOS and IWRM and that they had tried to look objectively at duplication in this area.

136. The Secretariat assured that the findings of PMEG were taken seriously and became part of the annual session recommendations; and as appropriate would implement those recommendations that would result in improved work programme delivery. With respect to time spent at the Secretariat by the PMEG evaluation teams, this was subject to constant discussions and although there was merit in extending the time frame, it was important to ensure that this did not become a costly exercise. Countries were interested in participating in the PMEG process and that having country representation in future PMEGs would be pursued. In response to Tonga's comments on overlaps between programmes, the Secretariat responded that there were in fact good complementarities between key water initiatives, and stressed the importance of coordination at the national level.

8. COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME

8.1 Report of the Community Risk Programme 2007 (AS36/8.1)

137. The Secretariat referred to paper AS36/8.1 Report of the Community Risk Programme 2007.

138. The CRP Manager presented a summary of 2007 outputs with major achievements of the Community Risk Programme in the three components of (1) Strengthening Resilience to Disasters; (2) Mitigating against Hazards; and (3) Mainstreaming DRM, noting in particular the development of the DRM National Action Plans.

139. The CRP Manager highlighted several activities undertaken in 2007 related to the following:

- i) Development of Disaster Risk Management National Action Plans for Vanuatu and RMI and related implementation programmes.
- ii) Implementation of EU EDF8/9 Project – Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific ACP States.
- iii) 2007 Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Meeting.
- iv) 13th Regional Disaster Managers' Meeting, Majuro.
- v) Pacific Disaster Net.
- vi) Pacific Disaster Risk Management (Training) Programme (PDRMP).
- vii) Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG).

140. The Secretariat presented a summary of progress of the 2007 work plan including the issues raised at the SOPAC 35th Session (2006) and by PMEG.

141. Samoa acknowledged with appreciation the report provided by the Secretariat and commended the management and staff of CRP for all the hard work which enabled the successful implementation of 2007 Work Programme activities. Samoa also expressed its appreciation of the financial and technical assistance provided under the CRP which enabled the implementation of their disaster risk management programmes in particular the National Disaster Awareness Day this year which marked the coming into effect of Samoa's Disaster and Emergency Management Act and National Disaster Management Plan and the inception of operationalising the national tsunami early warning system as well as the opportunity given to all the National Disaster Management Offices in the region to submit priority activities for inclusion in the CRP 2008 work programme.

142. Cook Islands acknowledged the work carried out by CRP and highlighted the progress in the Cook Islands and the assistance to date with the formulation of the emergency management legislation. They noted the request to national governments for assistance to be granted to disaster managers to work as an integrated group to ensure appropriate delivery. The Cook Islands

sought clarification if the Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) had considered institutes other than the University of the South Pacific noting that Auckland University offered professional qualifications in Disaster Management. The Cook Islands commended the Secretariat for other training initiatives carried out in the Cook Islands including Initial Damage Assessment, Introduction to Disaster Management and Emergency Operations Centres. The Cook Islands concurred with the comments of the Secretariat on the need for a whole-of-country approach for the successful implementation of DRM. The Cook Islands noted that with the current training programmes, stakeholders were given training in non-traditional emergency response roles building in-country capacity to deal with an emergency situation such as being a controller in the Emergency Operations Centre during a disaster. The Cook Islands registered their interest in the 2008 work programme.

143. Niue echoed the comments made in the report and expressed his appreciation of the support SOPAC has provided to Niue including recent interventions to address the demands and needs of the country, in particular the coastal development policy. Niue acknowledged that once the policy was produced there was still a need to enforce it.

144. Marshall Islands reflected on the position of Leaders this year with respect to the RIF but was pleased to note that SOPAC continued to perform in meeting the needs of the member countries. Marshall Islands expressed his appreciation to the CRP Manager for his commitment to the Marshall Islands in developing their NAP. He also encouraged SOPAC and its staff to continue to perform their duties as usual.

145. Vanuatu expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for programmed investments made in Vanuatu particularly on the development of NAP. Council was informed that Vanuatu was now looking at implementation with the Government encouraging sectors to build on decisions before development partners come in. Vanuatu thanked development partners for the support given to the development of the NAP and declared to Council that the Government had committed for the next two years to address immediate needs. Vanuatu noted that the success of the NAP process was a result of Ministers being involved and engaged in national and regional arenas through the assistance of Australia, New Zealand and UNDP.

146. Kiribati commended the CRP manager on the comprehensive report and work implemented and asked the Secretariat if there were opportunities to incorporate some of the DRM activities

into Phase II of the WB-funded Kiribati Adaptation Project (KAP II).

147. The Secretariat thanked Council for the words of gratitude and the interventions made. In response to the Cook Islands query on graduate courses available, he responded that USP was the only institute with whom discussions had been made however, Swinburne University acknowledges the TAF/OFDA courses as “recognition of prior learning” and credits these achievements towards the post-graduate course.

148. In response to Kiribati, the Secretariat advised that the Kiribati Government had indicated its desire to establish a Disaster Management office and would formally seek SOPAC’s support the facility. The Directorate continued regarding KAP II, that the Secretariat has worked closely with the World Bank, Australia and Kiribati governments in relation to water interventions made. Council was also reminded that the coastal initiative of the SOPAC work programme resulted in the establishment of the dredging company to mine aggregates from the lagoon.

149. Fiji expressed appreciation of the report and commended SOPAC on the progress made. He encouraged Council to advocate for the development of NAP in their respective countries in ensuring safe and resilient communities noting that Vanuatu was the only country with successful NAP development. Fiji requested that the Secretariat document the lessons learnt in DRM experiences in particular in the development of NAP in Vanuatu and Marshall Islands.

150. Cook Islands concurred with Vanuatu in ensuring Government commitment by inviting Ministers to meetings and joint sessions in order to expose them to initiatives being developed. In addition, the Cook Islands noted the need to also advocate and build the capacity of non-traditional emergency responders or DRM practitioners such as the Ministry of Works in the Cook Islands and the Outer Island Mayors who all play a critical role in emergency response in the Cook Islands.

151. Council accepted the report on the 2007 Work Plan for the Community Risk Work Programme, and noted the measures taken to address issues arising from the 35th Annual Session and the 2006 PMEG Report.

8.2 New Initiatives and Emerging Issues in the Community Risk Programme (AS36/8.2)

152. The Secretariat referred to paper AS36/8.2 on New Initiatives and Emerging Issues in the Community Risk Programme.

153. The Secretariat highlighted the following new initiatives:

- i) Regional Early Warning Strategy
- ii) EU B-Envelope
- iii) Annual Disaster Management Meeting
- iv) ACP/EU Natural Disaster Facility

154. Emerging opportunities include the Melanesian Volcanological Network, Regional Meeting of DRM and Finance/Planning Secretaries, AusAID NAP Facility, World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, SOPAC Post Disaster Engagement Policy, Inter NDMO Support Programme, Pacific DRM Partnership Network and Catastrophe Insurance Feasibility Study.

155. Marshall Islands thanked the CRP Manager for the clear presentation of new initiatives and emerging issues and sought clarification on whether the DM meeting was to be held annually as of 2008. The Secretariat confirmed that this was the intention under the proposed 2008 Work Programme.

156. The Cook Islands registered its appreciation of the work carried out by SOPAC and the donor partners. He sought clarification on the use of different terminology such as “multi-hazard” and “all hazards”. From the interventions by SOPAC through HLAT the term “all hazards” approach was used during dialogue and has thus been reflected in the Cook Islands emergency management legislation. He also queried whether the same applied to the Regional Early Warning Strategy which he felt indicated biological hazards and if this included pandemics as well.

157. Australia also noted its concern that, in light of the RIF and recommendations put forward under agenda item 11.1, it is important that any effort to expand the three current programmes be undertaken as a consultative process with the relevant CROP agency.

158. Fiji thanked the Secretariat for the report and sought clarification if satellite imagery before, during and after extreme events could be purchased under recommendation 5 on post-disaster technical assistance.

159. The Secretariat responded to the Cook Islands on the terminology adopted as “all hazards” for whole-of-government approach to DRM. The use of the terms can be considered as interchangeable. With respect to the REWS the focus was predominantly on various natural hazards. Other regional and international agencies have a mandate for the development of early warning systems to address hazards other than natural.

In response to Fiji’s comments the Secretariat advised Council that imagery was purchased for the Solomon Islands however, this decision was based on the need at the time.

160. Council was informed that the reports of two side meetings to address improved early warnings in relation to tsunami would present their reports.

161. The report of a Science and Technical Experts Working Group on Paleo-earthquake and tsunami history of active plate margins within the Pacific Islands Region, and the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System, Working Group for the South West Pacific are attached in Appendix 5.

162. Council:

- i) noted actions taken to progress various issues raised at the 35th Annual Session.
- ii) endorsed the Regional Early Warning Strategy (refer Attachment 3 of the Council paper) discussed and endorsed at the 13th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands and noted the institutional and regional resource implications for its urgent and necessary implementation.
- iii) acknowledged the support provided by the European Union to the Region to implement the Regional Framework under the ACP/EU Natural Disaster Facility, and noted the progress towards implementing Disaster Risk Reduction tasks through the EDF9 Envelope B Multi-Country Project for Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.
- iv) strongly supported SOPAC to progress the urgent development of initiatives with Australia and the World Bank and other partners of the Regional DRM Partnership Network to assist member countries in their efforts towards the development and implementation of National Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management.
- v) encouraged SOPAC to develop a post-disaster engagement policy, particularly to support and coordinate post-disaster technical assessment programmes, as well as developing mechanisms whereby regional NDMOs could link and assist neighbouring states during times of disaster and extreme events.
- vi) noted the challenges facing the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network and supported the need to ensure that SOPAC as facilitator of the Network had the necessary resources to enable its effectiveness.

8.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on CRP (AS36/8.3)

163. The Programme Review and Monitoring Group for the Community Risk Programme (PMEG-CRP) was carried out solely by John Norton (New Zealand) due to the unavailability of Dr Wally Johnson (Australia), and Dr Stan Goosby (Pacific Disaster Centre, Hawai'i).

164. The PMEG-CRP informed Council that the CRP staff are extremely committed to the work implemented and reminded Council that the Manager had only been in the position for a year. He noted the breadth of work undertaken by the programme and its interactions with the CLP and OIP and reiterated that the management systems to support programmes require attention. PMEG raised that there is a competition between the leadership/advocacy role CRP plays and the commitment required of countries for work plan implementation. PMEG noted that though policy developed reflected the DRR work there was still a need to have it done for DM as well.

165. Some of the highlights of the programme were presented including NAP, development of the Guidelines for NAP, development of Pacific Disaster Net; EU suite of on the ground risk reduction studies, early warning strategy, Pacific DRM Partnership network and the bi-ennial Regional disaster management meeting.

166. Some of the issues include programme progress and definition, potential risks to NAP programme delivery and management as a result of a substantial increase in funds, DRM Guide, country focus and leadership role, support to disasters including mapping of impacts, 2008 Work Plan and resourcing and focus for 2008 – consolidate the efforts.

167. New Zealand thanked PMEG for the report and noted the significant lift in programme budget for CRP in 2008 where the Secretariat rather than having to seek other resources now needed to meet the capacity to deliver on its work programme.

168. Australia extended its gratitude for the good report noting that it would have been beneficial to Council to have received the report in advance. Australia concurred with New Zealand's comments on capacity required and recommended to the Secretariat that for projects requiring additional funding that donors be charged adequate management fees on project funding to support implementation.

169. Council:

i) noted the highlights for 2007, the breadth of

activity of the CRP outputs and the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff for the work they are doing.

ii) reinforced its commitment to the NAP programme as a major core activity of the CRP and sought real progress on this in the coming 12 months.

iii) instructed the Secretariat to address programming and resourcing issues in the CRP to provide for improved programme control, reporting and progress on the Work Plan.

iv) noted that making progress on the CRP is hard work which requires programme leadership and advocacy and in-country commitment and that any arrangements to re-cast the functions of SOPAC keep this firmly in focus to avoid the risk of these programmes stalling.

9. OCEAN AND ISLANDS PROGRAMME

9.1 Report from the Oceans and Islands Programme

170. The Chair referred Council to paper AS36/9.1 relating to work undertaken under the Ocean and Islands Programme for 2007 and introduced the acting Manager OIP who presented on the work.

171. The acting Manager OIP emphasised the breadth of work undertaken in the OIP (socio-economic, physical analysis, mapping, modelling and socio-economic), describing key activities undertaken. He noted those activities that will be ongoing throughout 2008 and reminded Council that ongoing activities are also detailed in the OIP work plan and budget (paper AS36/12.2 which the Corporate Services Manager would address under agenda item 12).

172. Solomon Islands thanked SOPAC for the presentation and asked about the process SOPAC used to identify projects, noting with concern that some countries seemed to enjoy more SOPAC activities than others. The Secretariat explained that activities arise for a number of reasons, including through country requests throughout the year, ongoing national communications with national representatives and, in the case of the EDF Vulnerability Reduction Project, through two rounds of multi-stakeholder consultations.

173. Papua New Guinea acknowledged the importance of the work conducted by the OIP in small island states generally and, in particular, the value of the bathymetric studies conducted by OIP in Papua New Guinea. He requested that

copies of the bathymetric data collected on behalf of PNG be provided to the Papua New Guinea Geological Survey section. The Secretariat observed that the bathymetric data produced has been processed but commented that this data is not yet in a condition to produce final charts. Nevertheless, he confirmed that the data would certainly be passed on as soon as it was ready.

174. Papua New Guinea also queried the assumptions used in inundation models developed under the OIP. The Secretariat acknowledged the importance of assumptions in models, noting that SOPAC lacked strong data for inundation modelling; however, he also clarified that the models he had referred to during his presentation were actually water movement models, not inundation models.

175. Finally, Papua New Guinea asked whether the bathymetric equipment used for mapping could be used for hazard mapping. The acting Manager OIP confirmed that this was so, noting that bathymetry data was a key component of understanding risk.

176. Cook Islands expressed appreciation for the presentation and requested assistance from SOPAC in relation to extended shelf delimitation.

177. In response to a question by Tonga on the uses of hydrodynamic modelling, the Secretariat confirmed that modelling was key to understanding environmental impacts such as potential pollution risks from pipe installations along the coast.

178. Tuvalu gratefully acknowledged the work of the OIP in Tuvalu, particularly in relation to aggregate and requested that the work follow the same pattern as had occurred in Kiribati. The Secretariat observed that the OIP was undertaking an economic analysis and household survey to provide basic understanding of the nature of the aggregate situation in Tuvalu and that this mirrored the activities undertaken in Kiribati. He stated that, following this work, SOPAC would be in a better position to work on proposals for sustainable development of the lagoon aggregates resource. He acknowledged that this was a slow process but emphasised that it was necessary to produce sound proposals.

179. Vanuatu thanked the Secretariat for its 2007 activities. It joined the Cook Islands in requesting assistance with extended continental shelf work. He also asked about the range of data in the petroleum database. The Secretariat clarified that the new digitised petroleum database contains all of the original data associated with the database and reminded Council that a data

disk is now available for each country involved. However, he also observed that not all seismic data was yet available for some surveys as re-formatting some of these older products is a time consuming and complex process. Nevertheless, he stated that the completed data should be ready early next year.

180. Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the overview and commended the Secretariat for its focus on technical capacity building and encouraged SOPAC to continue with this. She noted that one of the biggest challenges faced by Samoa and other small island nations in their efforts to achieve sustainable development was lack of national technical capacity to sustain work programmes. Samoa advised that initial negotiations with USA on maritime boundary delimitation had commenced and asked when the full dataset established under the regional maritime boundaries project would be ready as such information may be useful for negotiations.

181. The SOPAC Director clarified that the maritime boundaries project is demand driven and, to this end, although Samoa had taken advantage of numerous training opportunities provided under the project to identify base points, no one from Samoa had been provided to work intensively with SOPAC. This was because Samoa, like Tonga, had developed its own arrangements to produce its technical solutions. She emphasised that SOPAC could only offer support if countries requested assistance.

182. The Director also reminded countries that, once base points, baselines and technical solutions have been identified, the information is sent to Geoscience Australia to ensure quality control of technical solutions. Once they are quality assured they are signed off and could then be used by countries in their negotiations. She emphasised that all the data generated in the maritime boundaries project was confidential until treaties were confirmed and accepted. After that point, the data would become public.

183. Kiribati thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, acknowledging SOPAC's move towards the collection of baseline data and its work in building the technical capacity of national staff. He acknowledged the aggregate work that the OIP had conducted in Kiribati and SOPAC assistance to staff attachments. He stated that Kiribati would like to work with SOPAC to conduct further work in Banaba related to the reassessment of phosphate reserves and, in this respect, gratefully acknowledged that the Secretariat had recognised the need to complete this work in the presentation. Finally, he stated that Kiribati would like to work with SOPAC on bathymetric work of

the outer islands. This was particularly important to Kiribati where the Government wants to decentralise services and it was recognised that such data would provide important environmental and development planning guidance.

184. Samoa enquired whether SOPAC would be in a position to assist in considering the impacts of aggregate dredging. The Secretariat observed that the aggregate work undertaken for Samoa had occurred under the EDF8 component of the Reducing Vulnerability Project which was now at an end. The work had occurred early on in the project when OIP modelling capacity had not been developed; and that the absence of specific baseline data could mean that further assessments would be a significant undertaking and would be most appropriately dealt with as a new task. Nevertheless, he stressed that a guideline document on best practice for aggregates had been prepared under the EDF8 component project and that this should still cover some aspects of Samoa's needs.

185. New Caledonia observed that the post of Manager for the OIP in SOPAC had been vacant since August. He commended the acting Manager for his work and commended SOPAC generally for the OIP achievements. He noted that there were several areas of complementarity of work between the government of France/New Caledonia and that of SOPAC, in particular marine survey, the funding of a high-level group for offshore geological data exchange and the submission of claims for continental shelf. He expressed satisfaction at the idea that the OIP was moving into habitat mapping. He also commented on the successful International GeoHab Conference hosted by New Caledonia in 2007 and noted that this represents a very significant cooperative achievement. The Secretariat acknowledged New Caledonia for its support.

186. Fiji observed that most in-country activities conducted by the OIP appeared to be targeted at very specific locations and took the form of pilot projects. He noted the need for SOPAC to ensure that all stakeholders understood the nature of these projects and increase efforts to demonstrate the benefits derived from these activities; and that it must be clearly shown that only through wider adoption would governments realise the full benefits of such work. The Secretariat confirmed that many project activities did take the form of pilot projects and agreed with the need to ensure that benefits are communicated at the national level.

187. Council considered and accepted the report on the 2007 Work Plan for the Oceans and Islands Programme.

9.2 New Initiatives in the Oceans and Islands Programme

188. The acting Manager OIP described a number of issues emerging in OIP and referred Council to paper AS36/9.2 which explained these issues in detail. Among other things, he emphasised the imminent end of the EDF Vulnerability Reduction Project and its impact on staffing levels, together with the need for a full time tsunami coordinator to support the large increase in activities related to the issue of tsunami. He also outlined the need to address issues of data storage, access and the recovery of historical data. The issue of coastal vulnerability was also raised and the great need to enhance regional approaches to shoreline monitoring. The issue of inadequate topographic data to support modelling approaches was also raised.

189. Cook Islands noted the interest of commercial investors in minerals in the Cook Islands and asked for SOPAC assistance in scrutinising potential investors and asked for assistance with respect to correct procedures for making decisions. The SOPAC Director acknowledged the importance of this work. She also confirmed that SOPAC had been approached for assistance and had provided the Cook Islands with information on regulations as well as guidelines.

190. Fiji thanked the Secretariat for the establishment of its baseline survey. On the issue of databank storage, Fiji encouraged SOPAC to finalise the databank since several potential investors were interested in investing in Fiji and the Government of Fiji therefore had a great need for the baseline data. The Secretariat acknowledged that data recovery and digitisation was of critical importance but also noted that it was a specialised and intensive task requiring significant resources. He continued that it would take dedicated capacity, resources and time to complete this task.

191. Finally, Fiji asked whether countries had to actively approach SOPAC to be involved and participate in the new and emerging initiatives. The Secretariat confirmed that emerging issues by their nature are not yet attached to specific countries and are often of regional importance in their nature. He indicated that if members were interested in participating in such activities, they should indeed approach SOPAC with an official request. He also noted that SOPAC has an established, multi-disciplinary team to conduct such technical work and that any specific activity was not necessarily approached by the same technical staff with the same technical response but was tailored to specific situations.

192. Council considered and:

- i) noted the imminent completion of the data digitisation project and the move of digital records to SOPAC to be housed as part of the OIP marine data collection. It endorsed continued free access (except for costs outlined above) to the Petroleum Data Bank via the custodian (SOPAC) who will undertake to record all details of access requests and report these on an annual basis to the Council.
- ii) reaffirmed the importance of rationalising the storage and recovery of historical datasets and ensuring their ready net-based access via the Ocean Information System. It agreed that adequate, appropriate, ongoing resources be committed to this important task to allow the reformatting and compilation of historical data and continued administration and maintenance of the system.
- iii) requested the Secretariat to remain actively engaged in the further development of marine and coastal survey methodologies including mapping, modelling, coastal vulnerability assessment and further urged the Secretariat to, as a matter of urgency, explore avenues to ensure that current levels of activity, staffing and technical capacity are maintained and enhanced.
- iv) requested the Secretariat to work closely with regional partners and organisations to develop a regional ongoing and systematic approach to monitoring shoreline systems; and develop local and regional understanding of how and why shorelines may be changing and what the most appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies may be.
- v) requested the Secretariat to work closely with donor, regional and national agencies to explore opportunities to fund and develop a regional coordinator position within the Secretariat to ensure a robust and effective Tsunami Warning System for the Pacific Islands Region.
- vi) acknowledged this important (baseline) information gap and urged the Secretariat to work with regional and international partners to develop programmes and approaches to address this important need. Council recognised that only with such an investment in accurate baseline information collection can accurate wave incursion, sea-level rise inundation and coastal zone hazard mapping be pursued with precision and accuracy.
- vii) recognised that habitat characterisation (identification and mapping) is an important step towards better management of marine resources and encouraged and supported SOPAC's efforts to enhance in-house capacity to collect and develop such products.
- viii) commended the significant progress made to date on providing technical solutions for maritime boundaries delimitation and the development and maintenance of the PIRMBIS and encouraged those members who have the potential to submit claims for an extended continental shelf to remain mindful of the fast approaching deadline on May 2009.

9.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring and Evaluation Group on OIP

193. Dr Gary Greene of the PMEG referred Council to the Programme Review report on the OIP (paper AS36/9.3) and presented a brief summary of the findings. He acknowledged queries raised in sessions 7 and 8 regarding the short time given to conduct the programme monitoring and evaluation exercise but also noted that the evaluations are conducted for free by volunteers, hence the limited time of the exercise. He also acknowledged the large volume of work and high quality of products which has moved through the OIP during 2007 and significant progress on many of the 2006 PMEG recommendations.

194. Papua New Guinea thanked PMEG for the review. He noted PMEG concerns about the lack of exposure by the OIP for the work it does and wondered if the issue of profile was also a matter for national representatives to address by raising the profile of work at a national policy level. He stated that national representatives had a responsibility to alert their governments about the work that OIP was conducting.

195. On a separate issue, Papua New Guinea wondered whether the PMEG was contributing to some scare mongering in relation to the RIF recommendations, particularly in relation to retention of scientific skills in the region. He acknowledged the importance of science but also observed that the number of young scientists in the region was growing. He suggested that the Forum Leaders had certainly considered all issues in making their recommendation and suggested that everyone work together to make the RIF review work.

196. Prof. John Collen (STAR Chair) agreed with the PMEG assessment of the need to raise the

profile of OIP work. He reiterated previous suggestions that OIP staff produce papers for submission to refereed journals, noting that this would not only raise the profile of work but also assist in staff professional development. He also suggested that SOPAC staff make use of the STAR scientists to review work and possibly speed editorial processes.

197. Cook Islands thanked the team for the review and commented that it agreed to the importance of training for scuba diving in the OIP. On the issue raised by the PMEG in accounting procedures, he suggested the development of more user friendly procedures to guide OIP staff.

198. Fiji thanked the PMEG review team for its work and report on the activities of the OIP and looked forward to what is planned and possible in 2008 with optimism and togetherness.

199. Tuvalu endorsed the recommendation by the PMEG that SOPAC establish metrics for outputs and outcomes. He noted that it was important to have clarification on how SOPAC products are used.

200. Australia pursued this theme, noting that, given SOPAC's \$30 million budget, there was a need to consider using a portion of this budget to assist the PMEG and STAR to undertake appropriate evaluations of SOPAC. She cautioned that Australia's recurrent development budget is now subject to proving effectiveness on an annual basis and Australia is looking to regional organisations they work with countries to produce measurable outcomes to prove effectiveness.

201. Finally on this issue, Cook Islands reinforced the importance of the PMEG 'watch dog' and extended his satisfaction at the knowledge that SOPAC had such a team to assist and guide them.

202. Council received the PMEG OIP report and accepted all the PMEG recommendations, requesting the SOPAC Director to address relevant concerns and recommendations as the opportunity and need arises in the coming year. Council also directed the PMEG OIP to review outstanding concerns and recommendations as part of their next report.

GOVERNING COUNCIL POLICY SESSION

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS

203. Chair introduced the Manager Corporate Services who presented most of the financial reports to Council.

10.1 Financial Report 2006

10.1.1 2006 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report

204. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS36/10.1.1, and presented the 2006 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Auditor's Management Letter.

205. The Secretariat explained that in accordance with Regulations 17(e) and 24 of the SOPAC Financial Regulations, the Audited Financial Statements of SOPAC for the year ended 31 December 2006 had been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and SOPAC's external auditors Ernst & Young audited the full set of accounts.

206. The Secretariat referred Council to the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2006 and Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006 (AS36/10.1.1), noting three important issues of membership contributions, United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund and capitalisation of assets.

207. Australia thanked the Secretariat for a well presented financial report. However, noted in reviewing the summary of extra budget funds, it showed no movement in some of the tasks between 2005 and 2006 and requested for explanations or justifications.

208. The Secretariat explained that those tasks are either completed or require additional funds for its completion. In some cases, the Secretariat has to seek endorsement from donors who have funded those tasks to move funds to other activities which require additional funding or are in deficit.

209. The Secretariat drew Council's attention to providing guidance with regard to the outstanding dues by United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund. Australia commended the Secretariat's efforts to date on resolving the matter and requested urgent reimbursement of funds to SOPAC and sought interventions from those countries for whom funds were provided. Papua New Guinea and Tonga stated that they will follow up and meet the amount owed. Solomon Islands commented that they will follow it up with their UN office in New York.

210. Federated States of Micronesia congratulated the Secretariat in getting an unqualified audit report. Fiji and Tonga confirmed that they would follow up with their member contributions.

211. Council received and accepted the 2006 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Auditor's Management Letter, and noted the

significant management letter point with respect to:

- i) Recoverability of membership contributions;
- ii) United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund; and
- iii) Capitalisation of property, plant and equipment.

10.1.2 Report on 2006 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds

212. The Secretariat presented paper AS36/10.1.2 on the 2006 Budget Variance and Virement of Funds, noting the Regular Budget Expenditure Variance Report (Annex 1), Explanations Report (Annex 2), Information on Savings Achieved (Annex 3) and Overall Variance Summary (Annex 4).

213. The Federated States of Micronesia queried how much of the EDF8 funds would be left after this year. The Secretariat responded that there would be hardly any funds left to return as to date about 95% of the 2007 budget had been exhausted.

214. Council noted and accepted the Report on the 2006 Budget Variance and Virement of funds.

10.1.3 Report on Assets and Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2006

215. The Secretariat introduced paper AS36/10.1.3 and reported to Council on the Non-Current (Fixed Assets) written off during the year by disposal due to irreparable damage.

216. Council accepted the report on assets and inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2006.

10.2 Report on 2007 Accounts to 30 June

10.2.1 Report and Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2007

217. The Secretariat introduced paper AS36/10.2.1, and presented to Council the Report on the 2007 Accounts to 30 June, stating that it had not been audited.

218. The Council noted and accepted the report on the 2007 Accounts to 30 June.

10.2.2.1 Membership Contributions

219. The Secretariat presented paper AS36/10.2.2.1 on the Status of Membership Contributions as of June 2007 and its supplementary as of 27 November 2007.

220. Solomon Islands and Palau explained that they would meet their outstanding contributions in due course. The Secretariat informed Council that Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia had paid in advance part of their contributions for 2008. The Secretariat also noted it had received Tonga's contribution for 2007 at the time this paper was presented.

221. Guam reaffirmed its commitments to SOPAC and its work programme and had provided almost US\$ 60,000 earlier this year for its member contributions.

222. Nauru drew Council's attention to its financial situation and stated that the Nauru Government is still unable to make the necessary payment to SOPAC for its membership. Nauru understood that the amount owed to the Secretariat is quite significant. Nauru would like to seek Council's kind consideration of the challenges that Nauru is facing and further seek exemption to any new measures that Council may wish to enforce. However, Nauru assured Council and the Secretariat that Nauru valued SOPAC's work to Nauru and that Nauru is committed to clear its arrears and will come up with a payment plan.

223. Fiji emphasised that the countries should pay up their country contribution and acknowledged the support from the donor community for their continuous support and confidence in SOPAC in past and future years, in particular AusAID, EU, Fiji, JICA, UN agencies, NZAID; to name a few. Fiji also noted that various projects undertaken by the Secretariat have touched the lives of families and villages in various communities in our Island nations. These benefits were made possible through the donors contributions in funding, manpower expertise and training of local staff.

224. The Secretariat acknowledged with thanks the continuous support from both New Caledonia and French Polynesia via their voluntary contributions to SOPAC. French Polynesia requested that in future this paper should include the voluntary contributions from the associate membership and that they were committed to paying their voluntary contribution of \$20,000 annually.

225. Papua New Guinea expressed concern at some of the recovery procedures on doubtful and bad debts being proposed in paper AS36/10.2.2.1

Supplementary, which had just been received by Council. This was an issue having wide-ranging impact on membership and he would have preferred an earlier submission of the document to members. These things have to be considered carefully; and being aware of how many countries were going through very serious financial difficulties, it was important to look at the recovery procedures thoroughly and maybe make comments out of session as Papua New Guinea would like to fully respond to some of these proposals.

226. The Secretariat acknowledged that the supplementary paper had just been circulated, and this was because the document (the Guidelines and Procedures Manual) was received in Suva just prior to the departure for Tonga, it was still in draft format and would be the operational manual to accompany the Financial Regulations. The document was substantial and was available to Council electronically at this point.

227. Samoa was glad to see that there were now proposed steps to recover outstanding member contributions which had become a concern as some overdue arrears went as far back as seven years. She also supported penalising those who had accumulated their dues to SOPAC and welcomed the gesture by member countries to settle their contributions as soon as possible.

228. Australia wanted it noted that in terms of considering the additional attachment to the paper in AS36/10.2.2.1 Supplementary from the Financial Regulations they echoed Papua New Guinea's concerns about it and that more time was necessary to fully digest what was being proposed (see under agenda item 11.3 for Council decision with respect to these concerns).

229. Council received the Status of Membership Contributions report, and recommended that the Chair of Governing Council request the countries with significant longstanding arrears to assume responsibility in ensuring that membership contributions be paid on time.

10.2.2.2 Membership Contributions Increase

230. The Secretariat introduced paper AS36/10.2.2.2 and presented to Council a case for increasing the current, assessed membership contribution by 10% relative to that set and agreed by Council at its 29th Annual Session (2000).

231. Papua New Guinea responded to the paper by saying that although Papua New Guinea valued what SOPAC does, he was not totally convinced by the reasons given for the proposed increase

and would like to see some increase in SOPAC involvement in Papua New Guinea. However if Council members agreed then Papua New Guinea would support it.

232. New Zealand queried the proposed increase, noting that the meeting had heard earlier about challenges some members have had in meeting current contributions. Further, the RIF process was to be considered and perhaps this was not an appropriate time to consider an increase in membership contributions.

233. Samoa advised that it did not accept an increase to member country assessed contributions in light of the recent Forum outcome on the Regional Institutional Framework and particularly given this period of uncertainty as to the future of SOPAC. Samoa added that she had difficulties with agreeing to increase assessed member contributions when already the Secretariat was having a difficult time in trying to get members to settle their dues on time. Whilst she recognised that the extra funds will be welcoming to SOPAC, she felt that even without the increase, the Secretariat would still be able to provide the level and quality of its current services to member countries.

234. The Republic of Marshall Islands recalled the SOPAC programme presentations during the last two days and the need for more resources was apparent. He was of the view that countries requesting assistance from SOPAC should in principle be supportive of the increase. He went on to endorse the proposed 10 % increase.

235. Fiji enquired if additional funds could not be found from within the organisation using other means.

236. Nauru mentioned that they were already facing difficulty in trying to come up with the necessary funds to settle their outstanding membership contribution and whilst 10% may seem minimal to some SOPAC member countries, to the Nauru Government it would be a substantial increase and add further to their current financial burden.

237. Niue also indicated their financial situation would make it difficult for Niue to support a 10% increase in membership contributions.

238. The Cooks Islands, Palau, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu supported the Secretariat paper and endorsed the 10% increase in membership contributions.

239. Tuvalu's support was based on Tuvalu being one of the most vulnerable countries to

natural hazards and the delegate felt that it must contribute to efforts on adaptation.

240. Council agreed with New Zealand's suggestion to revise the recommendation as follows:

“that Council recognised the pressures on the Secretariat in light of significant expansion of staff and programme resources and requested the Director to explore all avenues so that all new project funding and contribution arrangements include adequate provision for support service requirements.”

11. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Regional Institutional Framework

241. Chair introduced the item advising Council members to treat the item as being of critical importance to the Commission. Furthermore he informed members that due to this he would be allowing time for every delegation to make an intervention (even several as the case may be) and urged Council members to be clear and concise when making comments.

242. Chair's instruction to the Secretariat with respect to the minuting of this agenda item was that a summary of what Council agreed would be part of the summary record, while a verbatim record of all substantive interventions was to be prepared for appending in full to the Proceedings of the SOPAC 36th Session (see Appendix 7).

243. Chair invited the Director of SOPAC Secretariat to introduce papers AS36/11.1; AS36/11.1 Suppl.1; AS36/11.1 Suppl.2; and AS36/11.1 Suppl.3; and provide the context to each for the benefit of newly-arrived Council members, and CROP agencies who were in attendance only to participate in this agenda item.

244. Papua New Guinea was also invited to address Council in their capacity as Chair of the RIF Task Force. Most of what he said was already part of meeting documentation in paper AS36/11.1. From the outset Papua New Guinea informed Council that his brief was to engage in a process which would “mutually benefit” and be palatable to all.

245. Chair then encouraged all member country representatives to make interventions; most of whom read short written statements (see Appendices 4 and 7).

246. The majority wanted to respond positively to the Leaders' decision; and generally agreed that the processes for rationalisation neither disrupt

service delivery; nor subject SOPAC's current work programmes to fragmentation; and that the excellent science being mobilised through the STAR network must be retained as a highly valued resource for the region.

247. While most small island member states were against attaching timelines to the rationalisation processes because they didn't want the current level of service delivery diminished; a handful of the larger countries felt that delaying would cause the very disruption they were hoping to avoid. Different views were discussed on various other issues, including around the role of the SOPAC Governing Council and the Secretary General of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in the process of taking forward the leaders' decision.

248. At various stages during these discussions the Chairs of STAR and PMEG; and the chief executives of SPREP and SPC, were invited to address Council to assist it in getting some clarity and clear direction on the best way forward for implementing the Leaders' decision. The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat had addressed Council earlier on before departing the meeting to catch a flight. He provided background to the Leaders' decision and offered his assistance in the rationalisation process.

249. Council sat as a Committee of the Whole to consider the recommendations in paper AS36/11.1 Suppl. which was agreed to be a good starting point for drawing out a set of guiding principles for the way forward. After much discussion and debate from afternoon tea until after 8 pm, the Committee of the Whole finally adjourned after deciding to re-look at the text being negotiated with fresh eyes at 8:00 am the next morning.

250. The Secretariat was asked to clean up the text of the recommendations and provide copies to delegations overnight, so they might have more time to consider it before re-convening over the same issue in the morning.

251. In conclusion Council:

- i) noted that the core business of SOPAC is excellence in applied scientific and technical information and knowledge of earth systems, and demonstrating how this knowledge contributes to sustainable development for its island members.
- ii) noted that SOPAC has grown substantially over the past 35 years in many aspects into a well-established, and well respected regional organisation serving its Pacific Island members in developing natural resources, principally non-living resources, in a sustainable manner and strengthening resilience through

integrated solutions in its three programme areas: Ocean and Islands management, Community Lifelines development and Community Risk management.

- iii) recognised that partners currently identify with SOPAC to the extent that the Commission now enjoys a substantial, annual budget which includes the attraction of non-traditional “new” money to support service delivery to its members.
- iv) recognised further that throughout its existence the Commission has been regularly “reviewed” in regard to its future, its role, and its direction, to which it has responded positively and emerged with improved and strengthened delivery of services to its members.
- v) noted that some members expressed concern that whilst the 2007 Leaders’ Communiqué does not call for a review of SOPAC, it in fact goes further to suggest radical changes to SOPAC, but is not supported by any evidence of due diligence and consideration by members during the RIF process.
- vi) acknowledged with concern that change processes increase demands on the Secretariat, and cause stress on the staff, that will impact current levels of service delivery.
- vii) is fully cognisant of the need to maintain the momentum established by the Leaders decision, in order to ensure the continuity in both the quality and effective delivery of service in meeting the needs of the people.
- viii) recognised the critical need to adhere to a set of principles of:
 - Transparency;
 - Timeliness;
 - Cost effectiveness;
 - Focus on the RIF objective of creating an institutional framework that further improves service delivery to PICTS and assists with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan;
 - Consideration of staff welfare;
 - The need to address the full range of legal, organisational, administrative, governance, membership and financial implications.

252. Council therefore:

- i) Agreed to accept the challenge offered by the 2007 Leaders’ Communiqué which states “the need to rationalise the functions of SOPAC with the work programmes of SPC and SPREP,

with the view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP”.

- ii) Agreed the following course of action as a way forward in responding to the Leaders’ decision:
 - a) that a Committee of the “SOPAC Council as a Whole”, be established and adequately resourced, to guide and advise the Director during the consultative process with the Terms of Reference to be agreed at its first meeting.
 - b) that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the Director General of SPC and Director of SPREP, with the option of engaging the Secretary General of PIFS as appropriate, providing regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council in the preparation of a draft road map to be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration and approval with the intent of a final road map submitted to the Forum by 2010.
 - c) that during this consultative process some of the issues to be considered will include:
 - Proposing possible options for rationalisation and possible organisational models for the new arrangements taking into account realities such as the wider range of technical programmes, the possible rationalisation of certain common support services, the geographic location, and the membership differences.
 - Examining the costs and benefits of the options considered during the process, the technical programmes, the memberships, and the external supporting agencies, identifying opportunities for improved service delivery.
 - Proposing a realistic timing for implementation that would need to be taken into account including practical, legal, contractual obligations, and or any other problems that might require prior resolution as a result of rationalisation.
 - Finding a mechanism that will enable the benefits of STAR to be continued.
 - d) to emphasise to all stakeholders, especially members, donor partners, and Secretariat staff that in the interim the Commission would continue with its current work and efforts to secure resources for sustained service delivery keeping in mind consulta-

tions with the Director General of SPC and Director of SPREP.

- e) to immediately respond by writing to the Forum Chair, Chairs of the SPC and SPREP Governing Councils, Chair of STAR, donor partners and key stakeholders advising of the outcomes of its consideration of the issue at the 2007 Council Meeting.

11.2 CROP Annual Remuneration Review Report

11.2.1 Professional Staff

253. The Directorate introduced AS 36/11.2.1 on CROP remuneration Review Report which included the proposed salary adjustments agreed by CROP Heads at their meeting of August 2007, with respect to professional staff. Council was advised that SOPAC participated in the CROP harmonisation process along with other CROP agencies.

254. New Zealand agreed with the recommendations and commended the Secretariat's involvement in the remuneration harmonisation exercise. New Zealand also noted that other CROP governing bodies had endorsed the decision for the proposed salary adjustment except for SPBEA due to affordability issues.

255. Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga concurred with the New Zealand comments and also agreed to the recommendations made in the paper.

256. Australia thanked the Secretariat for preparing the paper and concurred with the other delegates in that this was a good example of CROP harmonisation.

257. Samoa recommended that Council endorse the recommendations as they stand, and Papua New Guinea seconded.

258. Council:

- i) approved the application of 80% of the average of the 3 reference markets as outlined in Table 4 in accordance with the CROP consensus.
- ii) approved that salary adjustments be effective from 1 January 2008.

11.2.2 Support Staff

259. The Directorate introduced AS36/11.2.2 on CROP Remuneration Review Report which includes the proposed salary adjustments agreed by CROP Heads at their meeting of August 2007, with respect to support staff.

260. Council was advised on the 2006 Support Staff Triennial Review undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers and confirmed that the Fiji All Organisations Market is the appropriate market against which the Suva-based support staff salary scale should be benchmarked. At their meeting of 27 August 2007, CROP Heads agreed to increases for support staff.

261. New Zealand reiterated his previous comments that the sums involved are comparatively small and it is imperative that the hard work of SOPAC's staff be recognised. New Zealand recommended accepting the recommendations, and was seconded by the Cook Islands.

262. Council:

- i) approved the increases as outlined in Table 2 in accordance with the CROP consensus.
- ii) approved that salary adjustments be effective from 1 January 2008.

11.3 Report on Review of the Financial Regulations

263. The Secretariat introduced AS36/11.3 noting the 2006 Review of the Financial Regulations submitted at the 35th Session. The Regulations had been circulated for comments and no further comments had been received. He referred to the Financial Guidelines and Procedures Manual, which had just been received from the Auditor prior to the meeting. The Guidelines and Procedures Manual was available for Council to review however, due to the large size of the document he recommended that digital (rather than hard) copies be obtained from the Secretariat.

264. Australia referred Council to paper AS36/10.2.2.2.1 on the status of membership contributions; requested clarification on whether the attachment to the paper had been lifted out of Guidelines and Procedures Manual or the Financial Regulations. She agreed to look at the documents out of session.

265. The Secretariat clarified that the Financial Regulations was a policy document whereas the Guidelines and Procedures Manual was what the Secretariat would apply during day-to-day business. The attachment to paper AS36/10.2.2.2 referred to by Australia was from the Guidelines and Procedures Manual. The Secretariat also noted that there were opportunities to discuss this further with the Suva-based missions.

266. New Zealand in light of Australia's response noted that amendments to the Manual could take place as an inter-sessional discussion on AS36/11.3.

267. Cook Islands moved for Council to accept the recommendation.

268. Council approved the amended SOPAC Financial Regulations and agreed to consider the related Financial Guidelines and Procedures Manual inter-sessionally.

11.4 Secretariat Accommodation and Related Institutional Issues

269. The Directorate introduced Agenda AS36/11.4 on Secretariat Accommodation and Related Institutional Issues. Council was informed that due to the expansion of the work programmes the Secretariat urgently needed space. Council was reminded that it had approved the use of savings to construct a building however, due to the situation in Fiji in December 2006, when construction of the building was due to begin, the exercise has been deferred indefinitely. Ideally, the Secretariat did intend to relocate the organisation as a whole to maintain the integration of the programmes to another location, although costs were prohibitive. Subsequently, with the agreement of the Mineral Resources Department, part of their equipment warehouse was refurbished and the Community Risk Programme operations moved there in 2007. The Secretariat also informed Council that discussions with MRD and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade were favourable and a positive outcome on additional accommodation was anticipated.

270. On matters relating to the Agreement Establishing SOPAC and issues relating to it, the Secretariat reported that Council at its 35th Session formed an open-ended subcommittee of Suva-based missions to prepare a revision for circulation and consideration before the 36th Session. In July the subcommittee met to discuss the matter; and in light of the RIF process and the implications for SOPAC, the subcommittee agreed to defer further work on the Agreement.

271. On the Memorandum of Understanding between SOPAC and Fiji, this matter was also deferred for the same reasons.

272. The Secretariat also presented the key findings of two independent reviews of (1) SOPAC's Communications Strategy; and (2) Human Resources Management Capability. Contracts for the reviews were awarded to SAMBA! and Price-WaterhouseCooper, respectively.

273. Council:

i) acknowledged the urgent, immediate need for additional office space to ensure effective

work programme delivery and requested the Secretariat to work closely with the Government of Fiji as host Government of the SOPAC Secretariat to explore appropriate options.

ii) decided that in light of the Leaders' decision with respect to the RIF, the intent to review and amend the Agreement Establishing SOPAC; and to develop an MoU between SOPAC and the Government of Fiji, be deferred indefinitely.

iii) recognised and encouraged the proactive measures being undertaken by the Secretariat to strengthen its Human Resources Management and its Communications and Outreach functions and noting the role of PMEG, as it strives to enhance programme and project delivery.

iv) noted that implementation of specific recommendations under the two independent reviews would have financial implications on the core budget.

12. 2008 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

12.1 Reserve Fund Ceiling

274. The Manager of Corporate Services referred Council to paper AS36/12.1 reporting to Council, as required, the annual ceiling on

the Reserve Fund. He noted the relevance of this fund to Financial Regulation 14. Having explained the assumptions underlying the value, he reminded Council that it had agreed in previous meetings to maintain the reserve at FJ\$400 000.

275. The delegate for the Cook Islands acknowledged the interventions of Council in previous years and recommended support for the recommendation of the Secretariat.

276. Council agreed that the Reserve Fund ceiling remain at FJD 400,000.

12.2 Approval of 2008 Work Plan and Budget

277. The Deputy Director introduced paper AS36/12.2 on the draft 2008 Work Plan and Budget, noting that this paper had been revised following discussion by Council earlier in the week on item 10.2.2.2 (Membership Contributions Increase). He reminded Council that Programme Managers had already highlighted key activities of the 2008 Work Plan under session items 7.2, 8.2 and 9.2. The Manager of Corporate Services

then presented further detail on the budget for 2008, noting unsecured funding and efforts to cover these through savings and other means.

278. The delegate for Australia thanked the Secretariat for the presentations and congratulated it on its impressive progress against the 2007 Work Plan. She also reminded the Secretariat of recommendations made earlier in the Session to appropriately resource the PMEG mechanism to enable it to further evaluate SOPAC work programmes, especially in relation to outcomes at the national level, as well as operations at the headquarters level.

279. The delegate for the Cook Islands acknowledged the comments by Australia and noted with pleasure the amount of funds that the Secretariat had been able to secure, highlighting that, for the past three years, 98 per cent of funds had been secured. He moved for Council to accept the recommendations in paper AS36/12.2 and invited the Secretariat to commence work.

280. The delegate for Vanuatu thanked the Secretariat for its explanation of the 2008 Work Plan and Budget and for its hard work in securing funds to implement the work for member countries.

281. Council considered and approved the 2007 Revised Budget of \$18,404,082 and the 2008 Work Plan and Budget of \$30,126,987.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

282. The Secretariat referred to paper AS36/13.1 on the constitution of PMEG under the technical programmes. The concept of PMEG and their terms of engagement were approved at the 33rd Annual Session of SOPAC in 2004; and 2007 was the third year of PMEG engagement.

283. The Secretariat suggested that the process of engagement of PMEG members be a rolling one with perhaps a PMEG member moving out each year; and reported that PMEG chairs had suggested greater involvement of island nations with a request that there be at least one PIC national (with strong expertise and interest in a relevant area) in each PMEG. The suggestion was welcome and has had support through discussions under agenda items AS36/7.3, 8.3 and 9.3.

284. Papua New Guinea, while acknowledging the usefulness of guiding the Secretariat, ex-

pressed reservation at involving only Suva-based missions. He preferred that resources be found to engage home-based nationals.

285. Council

- i) noted the invaluable role played by PMEG in their assessment and refinement of SOPAC's technical programme and thanked PMEG members for their voluntary service over the past three years.
- ii) instructed the Secretariat to commence discussions with PMEG, STAR, TAG for suitable nominations with regard to replacement noting the need for continuity and the greater involvement of member countries in the PMEG process, with a view to agreeing these inter-sessionally.

14. VENUE AND DATE OF 37TH ANNUAL SESSION

286. The delegate from Tuvalu informed Council that his Government intended to host the 37th SOPAC Annual Session, and he was going to be liaising closely with the Secretariat regarding dates and other details at a more appropriate time. This intent is documented in Tuvalu's Country Statement to the SOPAC 36th Session (see Appendix 4, Part I).

287. Council acknowledged Tuvalu's intent to host the 37th Annual Session of the Governing Council of SOPAC by acclamation.

15. ADOPTION OF AGREED RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

288. Since the meeting schedule had been exceeded by more than twelve hours, there was therefore no time to produce the record of the final day's discussions; and for the Drafting Committee to complete its work. Council agreed to the suggestion by the Director that this item be considered out of session. With the exception of Samoa, Guam and Tonga, the Drafting Committee chaired by Tuvalu all have Suva-based representatives. The Director proposed that the Drafting Committee meet in Suva the following week to clear the summary record for agenda items 11 to 16, with a view to sending out the full summary record for whole-of-Council clearance over the holiday period.

16. CLOSING

289. Chair invited the SOPAC Director to make final comments. The SOPAC Director thanked the Chair for his stewardship of the meeting. She acknowledged the long hours that delegates had invested in the meeting, thanking Council for the clear directives they had given her for 2008.

290. She thanked the PMEG groups and the STAR for their contributions throughout the week. She expressed particular thanks to the Government of Tonga for hosting the session and thanked the Government of Tuvalu for offering to host the next session in 2008. She finished by thanking the staff of the SOPAC Secretariat for their support to her throughout the year and at the meeting.

291. Chair thanked all the delegates for their patience during the session, acknowledging the importance of the issues that had been discussed. He thanked the Director of SOPAC for her as-

sistance and advice throughout the meeting. He then thanked the SOPAC staff for their service to the meeting, as well as the staff of the various departments of the Government of Tonga for their assistance and logistical support of the SOPAC 36th Session.

292. He acknowledged the efforts of the chairs of the STAR and PMEG groups who had assisted throughout the meeting. He looked forward to carrying out his duties as Chair during 2008.

293. Fiji offered the vote of thanks on behalf of Council to the Chair for his work throughout the meeting, attributing the achievements of the meeting to the excellent stewardship from the head table.

294. The Chair declared the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council closed at 4:16 pm, Thursday, 29 November 2007.

APPENDICES

1	List of Participants	45
2	Agenda	53
3	Designation of National Representatives	55
4	Statements by Delegations	
	Part I: Member Countries	57
	Part II: CROP Organisations	75
	Part III: Cooperating Governments, International Agencies & National Institutions	80
5	STAR Chair's Report to Council.....	83
6	Programme Monitoring Evaluation Groups Reports and Associated Documentation	92
7	Regional Institutional Framework Verbatim Record.....	103
8	List of Conference Room Documents	161
9	Acronyms	163

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER COUNTRIES

American Samoa

Mr Theodore Leiato
American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)
PO Box PPB
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Tel : (684) 644 2772
E-mail : ted@aspower.com

Australia

Ms Judith Robinson
Assistant Director General
Pacific Branch
Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)
GPO Box 887
Canberra, ACT 2601
Australia
Tel : (612) 6206 4005
Fax : (612) 6206 4720
E-mail : judith.robinson@ausaid.gov.au

Ms Carrie-Anne Best
Australian High Commission
PO Box 214
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3388281
Fax : (679) 3382695
E-mail : Carrie-AnneBest@dfat.gov.au

Cook Islands

Mr Atatoa Herman
Secretary
Ministry of Works
PO Box 102
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel : (682) 20034
Fax : (682) 21134
E-mail : aherman@mow.gov.ck

Following with same address as above:

Mr Keu Mataroa
Executive Officer
Tel : (682) 20034
Fax : (682) 21134
E-mail : k.mataroa@mow.gov.ck

Mr Teruautu Ringi
Project Officer
Aid Management Division
Ministry of Finance & Economic Management
PO Box 3981
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel : (682) 29521
Fax : (682) 29520
E-mail : ringit@project-aid.gov.ck

Federated States of Micronesia

Mr Marion Henry
Assistant Secretary
Division of Resource Management & Development
Department of Economic Affairs
PO Box PS-12, Palikir
Pohnpei FM96941, Federated States of Micronesia
Tel : (691) 320 5133
Fax : (691) 320 5854
E-mail : MarionH@mail.fm

Mr Mathew Chigiyal
Manager
Licensing, Statistics and Computer Section
National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
PO Box PS122, Palikir
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Tel : (691) 320-5181
Fax : (691) 320-2383
E-mail : mchigiyal@mail.fm

Fiji Islands

Ratu Epeli Nailatikau
Minister for Foreign Affairs & External Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade
PO Box 2220
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3309628
Fax : (679) 3301741

Following with same address as above:

Ms Judy Harm Suka
Principal Assistant Secretary
Tel : (679) 3309654
Fax : (679) 3317580
E-mail : jnam@govnet.gov.fj

Mr Hen Loon (Luna) Wong
E-mail : lwong@govnet.gov.fj

Mr Murray Isimeli
E-mail : misimeli@govnet.gov.fj

Mr Kemueli Masikerei
Acting Director of Mineral Development
Mineral Resources Department
National Representative of Fiji Islands to SOPAC
Private Mail Bag, GPO
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3381611
Fax : (679) 3370039
E-mail : kmasikerei@mrd.gov.fj

Following with same address as above:

Mr Isireli Nagata
E-mail : isireli@mrd.gov.fj

Mr Lasarus Vuetibau
E-mail : lvuetibau@mrd.gov.f

French Polynesia

Mr Bruno Peaucellier
Head of the International Relations Department
Office of the President of French Polynesia
National Representative of French Polynesia to SOPAC
PO Box 2551, 98713 Papeete
Tahiti, French Polynesia
Tel : (689) 472270
Fax : (689) 472271
E-mail : bruno.peaucellier@presidence.pf

Guam

Mr Michael J. Gawel
Acting Chief Planner
Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)
PO Box 22439, GMG
Barrigada, Guam 96921
Tel : (671) 475 1846
Fax : (671) 477 9402
E-mail : Mike.Gawel@guamepa.net

Kiribati

Mr Takuia Uakeia
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development
PO Box 64, Bairik
Tarawa, Kiribati
Tel : (686) 21099
Fax : (686) 21120

Ms Reenate Willie
Assistant Mineral Development Officer
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development
PO Box 64, Bairiki
Tarawa, Kiribati
Tel : (686) 21099
Fax : (686) 21120
E-mail : reenatew@mfmrd.gov.ki

Mr Birimaka Tekanene
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 62, Bairiki
Tarawa, Kiribati
Tel : (686) 21242
Fax : (686) 21025
E-mail : biri.tekanene@gmail.com

Mr Mourongo Katatia
Assistant Water Engineer
Ministry of Public Works & Utilities
PO Box 498, Bairiki
Tarawa, Kiribati
Tel : (686) 26192
Fax : (686) 26172
E-mail : mourongokatatia@yahoo.com.sg

Marshall Islands

H.E. Mr Mack Kaminaga
Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
PO Box 2038
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3387899
Fax : (679) 3387115
E-mail : rmisuva@gmail.com

Nauru

Mr Julian Itsimaera
Director of Regional Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Government Offices, Yaren District
Republic of Nauru
Tel : (674) 444 3133 Ext 241
Fax : (674) 444 3105
E-mail : julian.itsimaera@naurugov.nr

Ms Carla Adami
Economic Advisor
Department of Finance
Government Offices, Yaren District
Republic of Nauru
Tel : (674) 444 3133
Fax : (674) 444 3105
E-mail : carla.adami@naurugov.nr

New Caledonia

Dr Yves Lafoy
Senior Advisor for Scientific & Technical Cooperation
Deputy Head, Office of Regional Cooperation and External Relations
National Representative of New Caledonia to SOPAC
BP 465 – 98845 Nouméa Cedex
New Caledonia
Tel : (687) 270237
Fax : (687) 274014
E-mail : yves.lafoy@gouv.nc

New Zealand

Ms Deborah Collins
New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID)
Nga Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
195 Lambton Quay
Private Mail Bag 18-901
Wellington, New Zealand
Tel : (644) 4398 8268
Fax : (644) 4398 8514
E-mail : deborah.collins@nzaid.govt.nz

Mr Dimitri Geidelberg
NZAID Manager (Regional)
New Zealand High Commission
PO Box 1378
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3311422 Ext 120
Fax : (679) 3300842
E-mail : dimitri.geidelberg@mfat.govt.nz

Niue

Mr Ernest Nemaia
Trade Officer
Niue Trade Office
PO Box 90504
Auckland, New Zealand
Tel : (649) 302 2204
Fax : (649) 917 4959
E-mail : eknemaia@hotmail.com

Mr Andre Siohane
Water Division
Public Works Department
Alofi, Niue
Tel : (683) 4297
E-mail : waterworks@mail.gov.nu

Palau

Mr Isaac Soaladaob
Director of Bureau of Foreign Affairs
c/- Ministry of State
PO Box 100
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940
Tel : (680) 488 1189
Fax : (680) 767 3680

Papua New Guinea

H.E. Mr Peter Eafeare
High Commission
Papua New Guinea High Commission
P O Box 2447
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 330 4244
Fax : (679) 3300178
E-mail : kundu@Fiji Islandsconnect.com.fj

Mr Joe Buleka
Director
Geological Survey of Papua New Guinea
PMB, Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea
Tel : (675) 321 5895
Fax : (675) 321 5961
E-mail : joe_buleka@mineral.gov.pg

Ms Masio Nidung
Maritime Boundary Project Coordinator
Office of the State Solicitor
Department of Justice & Attorney General
P O Box 591, Waigani, NCD
Papua New Guinea
Tel : (675) 301 2942
Fax : (675) 323 0241 or 3012965
E-mail : masio_nidung@justice.gov.pg

Dr Russell Perembo
University of Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea
Tel : (675) 326 7117
Fax : (675) 326 0187
E-mail : rperembo@upng.ac.pg

Samoa

Ms Sharon Potoi-Aiafi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
GPO Box L1859
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 20698
Fax : (685) 21504
E-mail : Sharon@mfa.gov.ws

Ms Filomena Nelson
National Disaster Management Office
Ministry of Natural Resources
Private Mail Bag
Apia, Samoa

Mr Lameko Talia
Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
PO Box 2246
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 23732
Fax : (685) 20857
E-mail : lameko.talia!@mnre.gov.ws

Mr Amataga Penaia
Ms Masinafana'e Ngau Chun
Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
Private Mail Bag
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 23701
Fax : (685) 23176
Email : amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws

Following at same address as above:

Ms Masinafana'e Nfau Chun
Tel : (685) 23701
Fax : (685) 23176
E-mail : Masina.NgauChun@mnre.gov.ws

Ms Siosina Lui
Tel : (685) 20855/20996
E-mail : Siosina.Lui@mnre.gov.ws;

Solomon Islands

Mr John Walton Wasi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Honiara
Solomon Islands
Tel : (677) 21250
Fax : (677) 20351
E-mail : jwasi@dfa.gov.sb

Mr Donn Tolia
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Mines & Energy
Solomon Islands National Representative to SOPAC
PO Box G37
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel : (677) 28609/21521
Fax : (677) 25811
E-mail : donn@mines.gov.sb

Following with same address as above:

Mr David Natogga
E-mail : david@mines.gov.sb

Thomas Toba
E-mail : t_toba@mines.gov.sb

Tokelau

Mr Thomas Tafia
General Manager
Department of Energy
Fakaofu Tokelau
Tokelau
Tel : (690) 3125 and (685) 20822
E-mail : ttafia@clearnet.nz

Tonga

Dr Sione Nailasikau Halatuituia
Secretary
Ministry of Lands, Survey & Natural Resources & Environment
National Representative of Tonga to SOPAC
PO Box 5
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel : (676) 23611
Fax : (676) 23216
E-mail : naila@lands.gov.to

Following at same address as above:

Mr 'Asipeli Palaki
Deputy Director Environment

Mr Tevita Tukunga
Principal Energy Officer

Mr Maliu Takai
National Disaster Management Office

Tuvalu

Mr Samuelu Laloni
Deputy High Commissioner
Tuvalu High Commission
PO Box
Suva, Fiji Islands

Mr Faatasi Malologa
Director of Lands & Survey
Department of Lands & Survey
Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel : (688) 20170
Fax : (688) 20167
E-mail : fmalologa@gmail.com

Vanuatu

Mr Christopher Ioan
Director
Department of Geology, Mines & Water Resources
PMB 9001
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel : (678) 22423
Fax : (678) 41383
E-mail : chris_ioan1@yahoo.com.au
cioan@vanuatu.gov.vu

Mr Job Esau
National Disaster Management Office
PMB 014
Port Vila, Vanuatu

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE PACIFIC (CROP)

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Mr Greg Urwin
Secretary-General
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3312600
Fax : (679) 3301102
E-mail : gregu@forumsec.org.fj

Pacific Power Association

Mr Tony Neil
Executive Director
Pacific Power Association
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3306 022
Fax : (679) 3308032
E-mail : tony.neil@ppa.org.fj

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Mr Aleki Sisifa
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Private Mail Bag, GPO
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3370733
Fax : (679) 3370021
E-mail : aleki@spc.int

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Mr Asterio Takesy
Director
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 21929
Fax : (685) 20231
E-mail : asteriot@sprep.org.ws

University of the South Pacific (USP)

Dr Kifle Kahsai
Ass. Dean, Research
Earth and Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Science & Technology
University of the South Pacific
PO Box 1168
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3232052
Fax : (679) 3231539
E-mail : kahsai_k@usp.ac.fj

Dr Susanne Pohler
School of Marine Studies
Faculty of Islands and Oceans
University of the South Pacific
PO Box 1168
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3232953
E-mail : pohler_s@usp.ac.fj

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

IOC/UNESCO

Dr Nick D'Adamo
Head - Perth Regional Programme Office of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
UNESCO
c/- Bureau of Meteorology
5th Floor, 1100 Hay Street (cnr of Harvest Tce)
West Perth 6005
Western Australia
Tel : (618) 9263 2222
Fax : (618) 9226 0599
E-mail : nick.d'adamo@bom.gov.au

Dr Laura Kong
737 Bishop St, Ste 2200
Honolulu, HI 96816
United States of America
Tel : (808) 532 6422
Fax : (808) 532 5576
E-mail : l.kong@unesco.org

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Ms Rebecca McNaught
IFRC
PO Box 2507
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3311855
Fax : (679) 3311406
E-mail : bec_mcnaught@ifrc.org

International Union for the Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCN)

Mr Kami Taholo
Regional Director Oceania
IUCN Oceania
5 Ma'afu Street
Suva, Fiji Islands
E-mail : Taholo.Kami@iucn.org

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Australian National University

Tevita Fatai

Bureau of Meteorology

Mr Rick Bailey
BoMET
700 Collins St
PO Box 1289
Melbourne, 3001
Australia
Tel : (613) 9669 4103
E-mail : r.bailey@bom.gov.au

Following with same address as above:

Mr Phil Parker
Tel : (613) 9669 4797
Fax : (613) 9669 4695
E-mail : p.parker@bom.gov.au

CSIRO

Prof Stewart Burn
Senior Principal Research Scientist
CSIRO Land & Water
PO Box 56, Highett 3190
Victoria, Australia
Tel : (613) 9252 6032
Fax : (613) 9252 6244
Mob : 04919 106 425
E-mail : Stewart.Burn@csiro.au

East-West Center

Ms Meril Fujiki
Seminars Development Coordinator
East-West Center
1601 East West Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848
United States of America
Tel : (808) 944 7352
Fax : (808) 944 7600
E-mail : FujikiM@EastWestCenter.org

Fiji Meteorological Organisation

Mr Rajendra Prasad
Director
Fiji Meteorological Service
Private Mail Bag
Nadi Airport, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 6724888
Fax : (679) 6720430
E-mail : rajendra@met.gov.fj

Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr Hermann M. Fritz
Assistant Professor
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
210 Technology Circle
Savannah, GA 31407-3039
United States of America
Tel : (912) 966 7947
Fax : (912) 966 7836
E-mail : fritz@gatech.edu

Geoscience Australia

Mr Phil Symonds
Senior Adviser-Science & Law of the Sea
Petroleum and Marine Division
Geoscience Australia
GPO Box 378
Canberra, ACT 2601
Australia
Tel : (612) 6249 9490
Fax : (612) 6249 9920
E-mail : Phil.Symonds@ga.gov.au

Following with same address as above:

Mr Mark Alcock
Project Leader-Law of the Sea Project
Tel : (612) 6249 9356
Fax : (612) 6249 9956
E-mail : Mark.alcock@ga.gov.au

Mr Phil Cummins
Tel : (612) 6249 9632
Fax : (612) 6249 9986
E-mail : phil.cummins@ga.gov.au

Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences

Mr Phil Glassey
Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences
Private Bag 1930
Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
Tel : (643) 479 9684
Fax : (643) 477 5232
E-mail : p.glassey@gns.cri.nz

Mr David Heron
Geologist, GIS Specialist
GNS Science
PO Box 30-368, Avalon
Lower Hutt, New Zealand
Tel : (644) 570 1444
Fax : (644) 570 4600
E-mail : D.Heron@gns.cri.nz

IRD/ORSTOM

Mr Bernard Pelletier
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
UR 082 – UMR Géosciences Azur 6526
Laboratoire de Géologie-Géophysique
BPA5, 98848 Nouméa'
New Caledonia
Tel : (687) 26 07 72
Fax : (687) 26 43 26
E-mail : Bernard.Pelletier@noumea.ird.nc

Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science & Technology (JAMSTEC)

Dr Kazuhiro Kitazawa
Planning Department
JAMSTEC
2-15 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka, Kanagawa 237-0061
Japan
Tel : (81) 468 67 9191
Fax : (81) 468 67 9195
E-mail : kitazawa@jamstec.go.jp

Mr Daisuke Suetsugu
JAMSTEC
2-15 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka, Kanagawa 237-0061
Japan
Tel : (81) 468 67 9750
Fax : (81) 468 67 9315
E-mail : dai@jamstec.gov.jp

KEW Consult Ltd

Ms Kisa Kupa
KEW Consult Ltd
PO Box 848
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 28886
Fax : (685) 28885
E-mail : kisa@kew.com.ws

Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute (KORDI)

Mr Kyeong-Yong Lee
KORDI
Sa-dong 1270 Sangrock-ku
Ansan, Kyunggido
South Korea
Tel : (82) 31 400 6371
Fax : (82) 31 418 8772
E-mail : kylee@kordi.re.kr

Following with same address as above:

Mr Hyun Sub Kim
Tel : (82) 31 400 6365
Fax : (82) 31 418 8772
E-mail : hyskim@kordi.re.kr

Landcare Research New Zealand

Mr Peter Newsome
Landcare Research
Private Bag 11052
Palmerston North 4410

New Zealand
Tel : (646) 353 4975
Fax : (646) 353 4801
E-mail : newsomep@landcareresearch.co.nz

Matadrevula Advisory Services

Dr Russell Howorth
Matadrevula Advisory Services
Serua
PO Box 14-841
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel/Fax : (679) 3598001 or 3305633
Mob : (67) 9921706
E-mail : russell@matadrevula.com

Meteorological Service of New Zealand

Mr Penehuro Lefale
Manager
International Cooperation & Development
MetService
PO Box 722
Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Tel : (644) 470 0818
Fax : (644) 473 5231
E-mail : pene.lefale@metservice.com

National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED/JICA)

Mr Hiroshi Inoue
National Research Institute for Earth Science & Disaster
Prevention
3-1 Tenno-dat
Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-0006
Japan
Tel : (81) 29 863 7607
Fax : (81) 29 863 7610
E-mail : inoue@bosai.go.jp

National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Mr Doug Ramsay
NIWA
PO Box 11115
Gate 10, Silverdale Road
Hamilton, New Zealand
Tel : (647) 859 1894
Fax : (647) 856 0151
E-mail : d.ramsay@niwa.co.nz

Dr Ian Wright
NIWA
PO Box 14-901
Wellington, New Zealand
Tel : (644) 386 0300
Fax : (644) 386 0573
E-mail : i.wright@niwa.co.nz

Following with same address as above:

Mr David Wratt
Tel : (644) 386 0588
Fax : (644) 386 0574
E-mail : d.wratt@niwa.co.nz

Dr James Goff
NIWA
PO Box 8602
Christchurch
New Zealand
Tel : (643) 343 8033
Fax : (643) 343 5548

Following with same address as above:

Dr Barry Biggs
Tel : (643) 343 7875
Fax : (643) 348 5548
E-mail : b.biggs@niwa.co.nz

Dr Alastair Suren
Tel : (643) 343 7830
Fax : (643) 348 5548
E-mail : a.suren@niwa.co.nz

Nautilus Minerals

Dr Samantha Smith
Nautilus Minerals
PO Box 1213
Milton, Qld 4064
Australia
Tel : (617) 3318 5555
Fax : (617) 3318 5500
E-mail : sls@nautilusminerals.com

Following with same address as above:

Mr Michael Johnson
Tel : (617) 3318 5510
Fax : (617) 3318 5500
E-mail : mdj@nautilusminerals.com

Pacific Water Association

Mr Latu Sauluitoga Kupa
Pacific Water Association (PWA)
PO Box 848
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 28886
Fax : (685) 28885
E-mail : latu@kew.com.ws

Samoa Water Authority

Mr Tulaniu P. Kerslake
Donor Projects Manager
Samoa Water Authority
PO Box 245
Apia, Samoa
Tel : (685) 20409
Fax : (685) 21298
E-mail : Philip@swa.gov.ws

Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Prof Dean Roemmich
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0230
United States of America
Tel : (1) 858 534 2307
Fax : (1) 858 534 9820
E-mail : droemich@ucsd.edu

The University of Texas at Austin

Mr Frederick W. Taylor
Sr Research Scientist
Institute For Geophysics
The University of Texas at Austin
4412 Spicewood Spgs Rd
Austin, TX 78759-8500
United States of America
Tel : (512) 471 0453
Fax : (512) 471 8844
E-mail : fred@utig.utexas.edu

Mr Cliff Frohlich
The University of Texas at Austin
40100 Burnet Rd
Austin, TX 78758-4445
United States of America
Tel : (512) 471 0460
Fax : (512) 471 8844
E-mail : clif@ig.utexas.edu

Mr Matthew Hornbach
The University of Texas at Austin
10100 Burnet Rd
(R2200) Bld 196 (ROC)
Austin, TX
United States of America
Tel : (512) 636 5030
Fax : (512) 471 0348
E-mail : matt@ig.utexas.edu

Tonga Electric Power Board

Hon Ramsay R. Dalgety, QC
Tonga Electric Power Board
PO Box 869
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel : (676) 87 23400
Fax : (676) 23632
E-mail : regulator@tonfon.to

University of Hawaii

Dr Loren W Kroenke
School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
1680 East West Road, Post 808
Honolulu HI 96822
United States of America
Tel : (808) 956 7845
Fax : (808) 956 5154
E-mail : kroenke@soest.hawaii.edu

Dr Fernando Martinez
Research Marine Geophysicist
Hawaii Institute of Geophysics & Planetology
School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
1680 East West Road
Post Bldg, Rm 814
Honolulu, HI 96822
United States of America
Tel : (808) 956 6882
Fax : (808) 956 3188
E-mail : fernando@hawaii.edu

Dr James Potemra
University of Hawaii
SOEST/IPRC
1680 East West Road

Honolulu, HI 96822
United States of America
Tel : (808) 956 2737
Fax : (808) 956 9425
E-mail : jimp@hawaii.edu

Victoria University of Wellington

Associate Professor John Collen
School of Earth Sciences
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington, New Zealand
Tel : (644) 463 5345
Fax : (644) 463 5186
E-mail : john.collen@vuw.ac.nz

Following at same address as above:

Dr Stephen Eagar
School of Earth Sciences
Tel : (644) 463 6192
Fax : (644) 463 5186
E-mail : Stephen.eagar@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Adele Whyte
School of Biological Sciences
Tel : (644) 463 5233 Ext 8051
Fax : (644) 463 5331
E-mail : adele.whyte@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Jonathan Gardner
Tel : (644) 463 5574
Fax : (644) 473 5274
E-mail : jonathan.gardner@vuw.ac.nz

SOPAC SECRETARIAT

Private Mail Bag, GPO
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel : (679) 3381 377
Fax : (679) 3370 040/3384 461
E-mail : director@sopac.org
Website : www.sopac.org

Cristelle Pratt, Director
E-mail : cristelle@sopac.org

Bhaskar Rao, Deputy Director
E-mail : bhaskar@sopac.org

Mohinish Kumar, Manager Corporate Services
E-mail : mohinish@sopac.org

Mosese Sikivou, Manager Community Risks
E-mail : mosese@sopac.org

Paul Fairbairn, Manager Community Lifelines
E-mail : paul@sopac.org

Arthur Webb, Acting Manager Ocean & Islands
E-mail : arthur@sopac.org

The following Secretariat staff also attended:

Anare Matakeviti <anare@sopac.org>
Allison Woodruff <allison@sopac.org>
Akuila Tawake <akuila@sopac.org>
Andrick Lal <andrick@sopac.org>
Avinash Prasad <avinash@sopac.org>
Delaine Tagaloa Cooper <delaine@sopac.org>
Elizabeth Whippy <elizabeth@sopac.org>
Emily Artack <emily@sopac.org>
Helen Pearce <helen@sopac.org>
Jens Kruger <jens@sopac.org>
Jutta May <jutta@sopac.org>
Kamal Khatri <kamal@sopac.org>
Laisa Baravilala-Baoa <laisa@sopac.org>
Litea Biukoto <litea@sopac.org>
Litia Waradi <litia@sopac.org>
Mathias Kleppen <mathias@sopac.org>
Mereseini (Lala) Bukarau <lala@sopac.org>
Michael Bonte-Grapentin <michael@sopac.org>
Naziah Ali <naziah@sopac.org>
Netatua Pelesikoti <neta@sopac.org>
Noud Leenders <noud@sopac.org>
Paul Eastwood <paule@sopac.org>
Paula Holland <paula@sopac.org>
Sakaio Manoa <sakaio@sopac.org>
Wolf Forstreuter <wolf@sopac.org>

Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Groups (PMEG)

Ocean & Islands Programme

Dr Gary Greene
Professor – Marine Geology
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
8272 Moss Landing Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039
United States of America
Tel : (831) 632 4400
Fax : (831) 632 4403
E-mail : greene@mlml.calstate.edu

Community Risk Programme

Mr John Norton
E-mail : john.norton@nettel.net.nz

Science, Technology & Resources Network (STAR)

Chair of STAR

Associate Professor John Collen
School of Earth Sciences
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington
New Zealand
Tel : (644) 463 5345
Fax : (644) 463 5186
E-mail : john.collen@vuw.ac.nz

APPENDIX 2

ADOPTED AGENDA

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES NETWORK (STAR) SESSION

Theme: Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards, with particular emphasis on Geoscience and the Challenge of Preparing Submissions for an Extended Continental Shelf, and Coastal Hazards and Protection

OPENING SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. OPENING
2. ELECTIONS
 - 2.1 Chair and Vice-Chair of SOPAC
 - 2.2 Chairs of STAR and TAG
 - 2.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. AGENDA AND WORKING PROCEDURES
 - 3.1 Adoption of Agenda
 - 3.2 Appointment of Drafting Committee
 - 3.3 Appointment of Sub-Committees (should any be necessary)
4. REPRESENTATION
 - 4.1 Designation of National Representatives
 - 4.2 Membership Issues
5. STATEMENTS (The intention is that these statements be tabled for inclusion in the Proceedings, and not presented verbally in full)
 - 5.1 Statements from Member Countries
 - 5.2 Statements by CROP Organisations
 - 5.3 Statements from Co-operating Governments and International Agencies
 - 5.4 Statements from National Institutions

COUNCIL – TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) SESSION

(Member countries and other delegates discuss the SOPAC Technical Work Programme)

6. ISSUES COMMON TO PROGRAMMES
 - 6.1 Director's Report
 - 6.1.1 Introduction
 - 6.1.2 2006 Annual Report Summary
 - 6.1.3 Summary Report of 2007 Donor Support
 - 6.1.4 SOPAC/EU "Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific ACP States" – Report
 - 6.2 STAR Chair Report
 - 6.3 PMEG Chairs Report [On Cross-cutting Issues]
 - 6.4 CROP and PPAC Summary Reports
7. COMMUNITY LIFELINES PROGRAMME
 - 7.1 Report from the Community Lifelines Programme
 - 7.2 New Initiatives in the Community Lifelines Programme
 - 7.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on CLP
8. COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME
 - 8.1 Report from the Community Risk Programme
 - 8.2 New Initiatives in the Community Risk Programme
 - 8.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on CRP

9. OCEAN AND ISLANDS PROGRAMME
 - 9.1 Report from the Ocean and Islands Programme
 - 9.2 New Initiatives in the Ocean and Islands Programme
 - 9.3 Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on OIP

GOVERNING COUNCIL POLICY SESSION

(Items in this session could be restricted to Member Countries and CROP Organisations if the items require only Council consideration. Otherwise this session will be open)

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS
 - 10.1 Financial Report 2006
 - 10.1.1 2006 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report
 - 10.1.2 Report on 2006 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds
 - 10.1.3 Report on Assets & Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2006
 - 10.2 Report on 2007 Accounts to 30 June
 - 10.2.1 Report and Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2007
 - 10.2.2 Membership Contributions
 - 10.2.2.1 Membership Contributions
 - 10.2.2.2 Membership Contributions Increase
11. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
 - 11.1 Regional Institutional Framework [RIF]
 - 11.2 CROP Annual Remuneration Review Report [Professional & Support Staff]
 - 11.2.1 Professional Staff
 - 11.2.2 Support Staff
 - 11.3 Report on Review of the Financial Regulations
 - 11.4 Secretariat Accommodation and Related Institutional Issues
12. 2008 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET
 - 12.1 Reserve Fund Ceiling
 - 12.2 Approval of 2008 Work Plan and Budget
13. OTHER BUSINESS
14. VENUE AND DATE OF 37th ANNUAL SESSION
15. ADOPTION OF AGREED RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
16. CLOSING

APPENDIX 3

DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (as at February 2008)

American Samoa: Chief Executive Officer, American Samoa Power Authority, PO Box PPB, Pago Pago 96799. Telephone: (684) 699-1462, Fax: (684) 699-8070

Australia: H.E. Mr James Batley, High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, PO Box 214, Suva, Fiji Islands. Telephone: (679) 338 2211, Fax: (679) 338 2065, E-mail: james.batley@dfat.gov.au

Cook Islands: Mr Mike Mitchell, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration, PO Box 105, Rarotonga. Telephone: (682) 29347, Fax: (682) 21247, E-mail: secfa@foraffairs.gov.ck

Federated States of Micronesia: Mr Peter M. Christian, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, PO Box 12, Palikir, Pohnpei. Telephone: (691) 3202620, Fax: (691) 3205854, E-mail: fsmrd@mail.fm; fsmdea@mail.fm

Fiji Islands: Mr Kemueli Masikerei, Acting Director of Mineral Development, Mineral Resources Department, Private Mail Bag, GPO, Suva. Telephone: (679) 338 7065, Fax: (679) 337 0039, E-mail: director@mrd.gov.fj

French Polynesia: Mr Bruno Peaucellier, Head of International Affairs, PO Box 2551, 98713 Papeete, Tahiti. Telephone: (689) 472270, Fax: (689) 472271, E-mail: bruno.peaucellier@presidence.pf

Guam: Ms Lorilee Crisostomo, Acting Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), Ahensian Pruteksion Lina'la Guahan, PO Box 22439 GMF, Barrigada 96921. Telephone: 1 (671) 475-1658/1659, Fax: 1 (671) 477-9402, E-mail: Lorilee.Crisostomo@guamepa.net

Kiribati: Mr Peter Tong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development, PO Box 64, Bairiki, Tarawa. Telephone: (686) 21099, Fax: (686) 21120, E-mail: petert@mfmrd.gov.ki

Marshall Islands: Ms Kino S. Kabua, Acting Secretary & Undersecretary for Asia Pacific Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of the Marshall Islands, PO Box 2, Majuro, MI 96960. Telephone: (692) 625 3012, Fax: (692) 625 4979, E-mail: mofasec@ntamar.net

Nauru: Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Government Offices, Yaren District. Telephone: (674) 444-3133, Fax: (674) 444-3105

New Caledonia: Dr Yves Lafoy, Senior Advisor for Scientific & Technical Cooperation, New Caledonia's Office of Regional Cooperation and External Relations, 8, toute des artificas, Noumea Cedex 98849. Telephone: (687) 27 02 37, Fax: (687) 24 65 24, E-mail: yves.lafoy@gouv.nc

New Zealand: Ms Caroline MacDonald, Acting High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission, GPO Box 1378, Suva, Fiji Islands. Telephone: (679) 331-1422, Fax: (679) 330-0842

Niue: Secretary to Government, Premier's Department, Office of the Secretary to Government, PO Box 40, Alofi. Telephone: (683) 4200, Fax: (683) 4232/4151

Palau: Hon. Temmy L. Schmall, Minister of State, Ministry of State, Republic of Palau, P.O. Box 100, Koror, ROP 96940. Telephone: (680) 488-2509/1189, Fax: (680) 488-2443, E-mail: state@palaugov.net

Papua New Guinea: Ms Nellie James, Acting Secretary, Department of Mining, Office of the Secretary, Private Mail Bag, Port Moresby Post Office. Telephone: (675) 321 2945, Fax: (675) 321 7958, E-mail: nellie_james@mineral.gov.pg

Samoa: Mr Aiono Mose Pouvi Sua, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, GPO Box L1859, Apia. Telephone: (685) 25313/21171, Fax: (685) 21504, E-mail: mfa@mfa.gov.ws

Solomon Islands: Mr Tione Bugotu, Permanent Secretary, Department of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Mines and Energy, PO Box G37, Honiara. Telephone: (677) 28609/25974, Fax: (677) 258111

Tokelau: Mr Jovilisi Suveinakama, General Manager, Fono a te Malo Fakaaauau o Tokelau, Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, P O Box 3298, Apia, Samoa. Telephone: (685) 32325; 32326; E-mail: jsuveinakama@yahoo.com

Tonga: Dr Sione Nailasikau Halatuituia, Secretary for Lands, Survey & Natural Resources & Surveyor General. Ministry of Lands, Surveys and Natural Resources, PO Box 5, Nuku'alofa. Telephone: (676) 23611, Fax: (676) 23216, E-mail: naila@lands.gov.to

Tuvalu: Mr Uale Taleni, Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Private Mail Bag, Funafuti. Telephone: (688) 20827, Fax: (688) 20167, E-mail: uale_t@yahoo.com

Vanuatu: Mr Russell Nari, Director-General, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Private Mail Bag 007, Port Vila. Telephone: (678) 23105, Fax: (678) 25165, E-mail: rnari@vanuatu.gov.vu

APPENDIX 4

STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

PART I: STATEMENTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

AMERICAN SAMOA

“Talofa! From American Samoa .

Mr. Chairman, the honorable Tuita – Minister for Lands, Survey & Natural Resources and Environment, Distinguish Delegates, Madam Director for the Secretariat.

As the representative of the people of American Samoa may I offer our congratulations to the honorable minister Tuita as the Chair for the 36th SOPAC Governing Council here in Tonga. May I also take the opportunity to thank the out going chairman for a job well done.

I also take the opportunity to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga especially the CEO of the Ministry of Lands, Survey & Natural resources and Environment, your staff and everyone who has worked so hard to make our stay and enjoyable one.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work by the SOPAC secretariat and staff to ensure our arrangements in order to participate at the 36th Annual Session.

I have enjoyed the STAR sessions and meeting with the technical and scientific experts. I look forward to a meaningful and successful session this week.

In regard to the Leaders recent communiqué decision of 19 (b) and its implications for the future of SOPAC, I would like to support the sentiments of the honorable minister in his opening address stating that “Council must decide on a correct way forward based on the value it places on scientific and technical advice and information.”

I have been instructed by our Governor of American Samoa, honorable Togiola Tulafono, to advise this council that American Samoa is deeply concerned about the implications for SOPAC of the forum leaders’ decision. We believe it is particularly relevant to share this concern in this council as American Samoa was not party to the leaders decision.

In the interest of time, the full statement by the government of American Samoa will be tabled for the record of proceedings.

Thank you Mr. Chairman”.

In addition to the verbal statement:

American Samoa is against the proposal 19 (b) to amalgamate SOPAC, SPREP and SPC, and is deeply concerned about the implications for SOPAC based on the forum leaders’ decision. Fragmenting SOPAC into two functional groups would unnecessarily complicate the management of the programs, and hurt the end product/service to users in the islands. There is no need to tinker with a system that is working very well as evidenced by the stepped-up support of donors and the output of the professional staff.

AUSTRALIA

Australia would like to thank Solomon Islands for its role as SOPAC Chair over the past year and welcome Tonga as the incoming chair.

Australia is appreciative of the work undertaken by the Secretariat in 2007, noting the progress that has been made over the three work program areas. Particular achievements include:

- Facilitation of the “Pacific Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Partnership Network”, which seeks to provide more strategic and coordinated assistance in DRM at a national level.
- Significant progress in development of the demand driven National Action Plans (NAPs) and awareness raising amongst partner Governments that development and implementation of NAPs is a significant WOG exercise.
- Convening the Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in April 2007, the first to be held in the region for 16 years.
- The AusAID funded tsunami hazard and risk assessment project, a collaboration between SOPAC and Geoscience Australia, that produced a preliminary tsunami hazard assessment, along with an inventory of bathymetry and topography data for the Pacific.

Following on from the launch of Australia’s White Paper on overseas aid last year, Australia

launched its environment strategy for Australian Aid: Aid and the Environment – building resilience, sustaining growth in August 2007. The strategy signals a significant increase in Australia's environment related support in the Asia-Pacific region. Its goal is to sustain economic growth and reduce poverty in the Asia-Pacific region by improving the management of natural resources, increasing community resilience and better conserving natural heritage. We look forward to working closely with our Pacific partners to implement this exciting new strategy in 2008 and beyond.

The Thirty-Eight Pacific Islands Forum, held in Tonga from 16-17 October 2007, considered at length recommendations of the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) review. The Leaders' decision carries significant implications on regional institutional arrangements involving the rationalisation of the work programs of SOPAC with the view to absorbing them into the work programs of SPC and SPREP. This is an important step that by no means detracts from the functions performed by SOPAC. Australia looks forward to working with fellow member countries and the Secretariat to ensure a smooth and timely transition that results in a more efficient and coordinated use of regional and donor resources, and allows regional agencies to be better positioned to meet future challenges.

COOK ISLANDS

Chairman of SOPAC; Hon Ministers and Members of the Diplomatic Corp; National Government Representatives and Delegates of Governing Council; Chairman of STAR and the Scientific and Technical Community; Donor Community, CROP Organisations; Director and Staff of the Secretariat; Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Once again, It is indeed a pleasure to be represented here, at the 36th Annual Session of the Governing Council of SOPAC, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga, and we applaud the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to us on our arrival and that of the Secretariat, in getting here.

The Cook Islands would also like to express its sincere appreciation to the Outgoing Chair, that of the Solomon Islands for its leadership and stewardship of SOPAC in the last year, and likewise, welcomes with elation the appointment of the Representative of Tonga as Incoming Chair and is assured of your capable leadership in direction and guidance in your tenure as Chairman.

The Cook Islands also acknowledges the tremen-

dous support that the Donor Communities has actively extended to its sustainable development plans and projects.

SOPAC has successfully continued to work together in collaboration and co-operation with, not only with other member countries, and partners, but with the Cook Islands in supporting and assisting the delivery of its approved programs in the country.

We are aware that the country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, which is expected to not only increase in frequency but also intensity due to climate change effects. In 2005, five cyclones in a span of two months caused over \$10 million worth of damage. Such incidences, no doubt, undermine the country's resilience to natural and man made hazards and risks that require sound and effective preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery phases and strategies.

Cook Island recognizes the additional responsibility of the community risk programme in implementing the Pacific Regional Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 for building resilience of nations and communities to disaster. With the assistance of SOPAC, it embarked on developing an Instrument in Writing to be enacted as an Act of Parliament, the Emergency Management Cook Islands Act 2007 evolving around Disaster Risk Management and Reduction and is acknowledging the assistance from OFDA_TAF in capacity building in collaboration with SOPAC.

The Government also recognizes that if the needs and the aspirations of the people are to be met, key stakeholders in the private sector and community need to be involved and that support from development partners and Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies need to be, amongst other things, better targeted and more effectively coordinated. The Cook Islands Government recognizes that, with respect to the latter, the Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration provides a regional mode of goods and services delivery and increased potential for greater regional collaboration and cooperation, which would be harnessed to achieve its national priorities.

The Cook Islands Government has acknowledged the importance of incorporating in its national development efforts the key guiding principles articulated in its various international and regional commitments. The challenge remains as to how these can be achieved and appropriately reflected in its resource allocation and aid management strategies. Compounding such challenges is the number of agencies that have overlapping interests and responsibilities, with little coordination of effort amongst them and at times little, or in

some cases no, sharing of information. This is particularly evident in cross cutting areas of natural resource and environment management.

The country also constrained by limited capacity, both at individual level as well as organizational /institutional level, to deal with the complex issues that require cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approaches. Limited availability of quality information further compounds the difficulties faced in identifying appropriate responses needed to address its development goals.

Given the above, it is clear that opportunities exist to achieve national development priorities through more systematic national efforts complemented by harmonized and coordinated development partner and CROP support.

The Cook Islands have entertained excellent, qualified and quantified expert technical advice from the Secretariat in the following areas stemming from the Overarching Goals of Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation viz;

- Water and Sanitation
- Information Technology
- o Mapping, Land Information, GIS Applications
- Hazards Management
- Waste Management
- Disaster Risk Management
- Resource Management
- o Capacity Building

In view of its interventions, the Cook Islands has endorsed its National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP 2006) and its Preventative Infrastructure Master Plan (PIMP 2006) and is progressing on National Economic Strategy.

It is also at this point in dialogue over the RETA Infrastructure Dialogue for Improving the delivery of Infrastructure Services in the Cook Islands pertaining to Telecommunications, Water and Sanitation, Roads, Ports, Airports, Electricity Supply and Energy.

This year, the Cook Islands seeks to embark on the challenges of the Theme, targeting the claims of the extension of its Continental Shelf, over its 200m Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and wishes to register its intention through SOPAC and the Donor Community for assistance.

SOPAC_EDF 9 Projects

The Cook Islands would also like to commend the efforts of SOPAC and the European Union through its EDF9 programs and its Intervention

Areas as follows:

- Water and Sanitation
- Hazards Management
- Aggregates for Mining

In view of the above Intervention Areas, pertaining to Marine and Terrestrial Aggregates, work has commenced with a preliminary assessment of the active quarry sites and other potential terrestrial aggregate sources on Aitutaki. The final assessments will include sample collection and maybe drilling to coincide with a proposed bathymetry survey on the Aitutaki Lagoon.

Regional Institutional Framework (RIF)

The Cook Islands would also like to register its comments on the above issue as having dialogue with our Government, on the Leaders Communique 2007 in Tonga, it was clear as to what the Leader's intentions were and that was tabled as Item 19 (b) to "rationalize" SOPAC's work programs and amalgamating it with other Institutions. It also understands that there are some legal and sovereign implications, therefore the SOPAC Agenda Item 11.1 Supplementary Paper does warrant a careful re-examination of the decision or Item 19 (b) of the Communique and it is also clear that the Scientific and Technical nature of the Commission is important and the supporting STAR Community as mandated by SOPAC and with its latest encompassment of PMEG, does pose connectedness in the Sciences linking to Policies for PICs in their decision making processes.

Lastly but not least, Cook Islands, as a member of the SOPAC Council, would like to take this opportunity to thank the secretariat for their hard work and dedication in assisting the country in the various work activities and programmes undertaken particularly in the three programme areas of Ocean and Islands, Community Lifelines and Community Risk, to include Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Water Quality Management (WQM), Water Safety Plan (WSP) Water Demand Management (WDM) and Pacific HYCOS.

Cook Islands would also like to give its gratitude and continued strong support to the STAR (SOPAC's Science, Technology and Resources network), TAG (Technical Advisory Group) and PMEG (Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups) for their invaluable contribution in assisting and advising on the practical aspects of science and technology relevant to the region and the national member countries.

Cook Islands also wish to acknowledge with appreciation the strong donor support, essential for

effective delivery of SOPAC's work programme.

Meitaki Maata e Kia manuia

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Thank you Mr Chairman ... Your Excellencies, Distinguished Country Representatives, SOPAC Director and staff of SOPAC, STRA chair and eminent scientists, ladies and gentlemen ...

On behalf of my government and our brothers and sisters north of that imaginary line called the "Equator", I bring you greetings and best wishes to all.

Let me take this moment to congratulate you Mr Chairman and extend the assurance of my full support to your chairmanship. I look forward to lively discussions later today and in the next three days.

I would like to extend, thru you Mr Chairman our gratitude and appreciation to your government for hosting this meeting and the kind hospitality since our arrival. I also wish to thank the outgoing chairman from the Solomon Islands for steering us through the past year.

I sincerely wish to thank the SOPAC Secretariat and staff for the excellent logistical arrangement in getting us here expediently, especially for us from up north of that imaginary line where we sometimes have to go north to get to the south, east to get to the west, or west to go east.

Thank you very much to all and to you Mr Chairman and God Bless.

FIJI ISLANDS

Mr Chairman, Hon. Minister Siosaia Tuita; The Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission; Members of the SOPAC Governing Council; Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Malo e Lelei ... Ni sa Bula Vinaka ...

Allow me to reiterate, on behalf of the Fiji Delegation, through you Honorable Chairman, my sincere gratitude to His Majesty, King Tupou V, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Tonga for the warm and kind hospitality accorded to me and my delegation and for hosting the SOPAC Governing Council 36th Annual Session, 2007 as well as the associated meetings.

Mr. Chairman, in the recent months, the Kingdom of Tonga hosted a series of regional meetings including the Pacific Plan Action Committee,

Regional Institutional Framework Committee and Forum Officials Committee meetings, which were then followed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' meeting here in Nukua'alofa and the beautiful island of Vava'u. This indeed, is testimony to your country's commitment to the Forum Leaders' vision for a prosperous, peaceful and secure Pacific region.

I did not personally attend those meetings but the importance of the discussions held and landmark decisions taken at each of these fora, especially those that affect SOPAC, are neither lost on me nor on the Fiji Government. Far from that, I have, as has the Government of Fiji, taken very keen interest in the very important issues involved and implications thereof, in particular, the decision of Forum Leaders regarding the Regional Institutional Framework or the RIF. This subject warrants special attention and I will address it in greater detail later on in my opening statement.

Let me first draw your attention to the ongoing impact of SOPAC's services delivered to Fiji and its people.

We often tend to develop and be proud of building super highways and wide roads, but if we do not at the same time construct feeder roads that connect to villages and individual farmers, then, in my opinion, we have failed to realize the benefits of building such highways. This is also true to developing projects or information systems – the real benefit is when the quality of life in villages and settlements and individual farmers and families are improved through the development and implementation of such projects or information systems. On this note, I would like to commend the SOPAC secretariat for giving us those many 'benefits' through the activities undertaken, in some cases, sooner than expected.

Fiji reiterates that capacity building, both in human resources and institutional strengthening as our major priority. An issue that I believe is common to all of us and are constantly challenged with is 'staff retention' – especially local staff with specialized skills. Whether in the short or long term, I would encourage SOPAC and donor agencies present here to continue to train our people in order to continue and sustain the various projects developed at the local and national level. One way of achieving this is that SOPAC involve local manpower and institutions in the member country, and the EU/EDF8 & 9 Project is an excellent example, which is also in line with the Pacific 2020 Plan. And I am glad to note that SOPAC is doing this.

During the EU/EDF8 & 9 meeting, one of the important issues that was identified for development at national level with possible assistance from

SOPAC was the need to formulate and implement national legislation and policies on entities such as aggregates and water. The Fiji Government is currently reviewing its Mineral Act and Mining Policy and at the same time, developing its Water Policy and Offshore Mineral Policy. The initial groundwork enabling and or bringing these initiatives along was carried out with the assistance of the SOPAC secretariat.

More recently, and as you would have heard from the Fiji Delegation at the STAR session last week, Fiji successfully updated our geodetic datum, which amongst other things will help us with the definition of our maritime boundaries with our good neighbours Tonga and New Zealand. I thank SOPAC and all of the scientific and development partners for their invaluable support in this project.

We also thank the SOPAC secretariat for the hard work in coordinating arrangements for this meeting and for the many interesting papers presented since last Wednesday in the EDF8 and STAR sessions and those that have been circulated for discussion over the next few days.

The Government of Fiji would also like to express its gratitude and continued strong support to the SOPAC's Science, Technology and Resources Network, Technical Advisory Group and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation groups for their invaluable contribution to SOPAC and Member Countries in assisting and advising on the practical aspects of science and technology relevant to the region represented here today.

I would also like to thank all donor countries and agencies for your continuous support and confidence in SOPAC throughout the years past and for years to come, in particular the EU, AusAID, NZAID, JICA, the UN, just to name a few. To you all, I say Vinaka Vakalevu.

I have been, and continue to be, assured that the impact of SOPAC's work in Fiji through the many and varied projects undertaken have indeed been profound, extremely beneficial and consistent. And, there is every indication that this trend is on the up and up. Moreover, SOPAC's work has indeed enabled better decision making ranging from the regional level right through to the basic units of our community, touching the lives of individual villages and families in Fiji, and thus making a world of difference to the quality of our national life. I have absolutely no doubt Fiji is not the only country that shares these views. Let me assure you therefore that through your valued contributions in funding, expertise and human resource development, you have had a very direct role in making Fiji and the Pacific, a place we all love, an even better home to live in.

Chairman, all that I have managed to do in the last few minutes is breeze through some of the many achievements that Fiji celebrates – thanks to the services delivered by and through SOPAC. This doesn't come close to acknowledging, in any adequate measure, the achievements of your respective countries, jointly realised through SOPAC services.

SOPAC has grown remarkably since its establishment in 1972 through the increased activities in its core business and with the blessings and support of this Governing Council. It is now a well established, respected and robust regional agency and as a result, the confidence from donor agencies is sound and uplifting. Its annual budget has increased from \$FJD7.4M in 2000 to \$FJD30m for 2008, 98% of which has already been secured. This is a success story that in itself says much about SOPAC's very positive record of service delivery. It means that SOPAC has strengthened its position and successfully tapped into, and secured new financial resources to support its services to us, Members of this Council.

There is small wonder then that there is a tangible sense of disappointment in the air with regard to the notion that the delivery of SOPAC's services as well as the many many benefits accruing to our various countries therefrom may be at risk of being undone. I make this comment in relation to the RIF issue.

Chairman, in your Opening Address you had registered surprise at the recent outcome of the Forum Leaders' meeting concerning SOPAC. I personally found the decision, particularly the interpretation of Paragraph 19(b) of the Communiqué that is currently held and propagated by certain quarters, disturbing to say the least.

It has been said that the RIF taskforce recommendations as presented to and rejected by the Forum Officials Committee here in this very room two months ago did not progress further than Vava'u. My Delegation contends that the alternative formula currently being pursued by certain proponents of the RIF initiative amounts to the same thing where SOPAC is concerned – and that is its disintegration.

Fiji does not wish to see the disintegration of SOPAC and we strongly disagree with any rationalisation process that will lead to this. As host country, Fiji is all for strengthening SOPAC's presence in Suva and bolstering the provision of its services regionally.

There is also the matter of the blatant disconnect between the strong opposition by the majority of Forum Officials to the general direction of the RIF initiative in September and the outcome of

the Leaders' decision last month. To this day, the confusion emanating from this remains unaddressed.

Chairman, suffice to say that given the significant degree of uncertainty over this matter and the many questions that remain to be answered about the correct intent of the Leaders' decision as well as the process by which it was arrived at, Fiji wishes to register its disappointment with the relevant portion of the leaders' decision. We recognise however that this SOPAC Council is not the place to take up this matter, but we intend to do so in due course at the next forum meeting in Niue.

I wish to leave this matter at that for the time being and reserve further comments for discussion on the relevant agenda item later on in the Proceedings of this meeting.

I thank you for your indulgence.

GUAM

Mr Chairman, Governing Council Members, Representatives of Governments and Institutions supporting SOPAC, Distinguished Scientists and Advisors, Director and Staff of the Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of Guam, I wish to congratulate the Chairman on his assuming the Chairmanship of this 36th Session of the SOPAC Governing Council. I also wish to express our gratitude to the Government of Tonga for hosting this Session and the associated STAR and Technical Advisory Group meetings. I personally am very honored to again represent Guam at these annual meetings.

Since last year, Guam's participation in SOPAC has continued under the same Point of Contact within Government of Guam, the Administrator of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, who has been assigned this responsibility by Guam's Governor, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, since 2004. The current administrator of Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Ms. Lorilee Crisostomo, has taken over POC responsibilities from the acting administrator of last year, Mr John Jocson, who has returned to his research work as Hydrologist and GIS Manager at the University of Guam's Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific. Ms Crisostomo had previously worked with SOPAC on energy matters while she served as the Director of Guam's cabinet level Energy Office from 2003 to 2007. While at Guam Environmental Protection Agency, she continues to support Guam's involvement as a SOPAC founding member, along with the heads

of agencies who share involvement in SOPAC matters. These include Guam Waterworks Authority, Guam Power Authority, Guam Office of Civil Defense, Guam Energy Office, Guam Bureau of Planning and Statistics, the University of Guam, especially its Water and Environmental Research Institute, and the US Weather Service on Guam. Ms Crisostomo currently serves as the Chairperson for SOPAC's sister CROP organization, SPREP, until September, 2008.

Guam was pleased to entertain the visit of the Director, Ms Pratt, in July of this year as well as SOPAC staff who supported sub-regional trainings and workshops held on Guam. These activities included a Sub-Regional Water Quality Laboratory Training Workshop held in July. This was organized by SOPAC and Guam Environmental Protection Agency and sponsored by SOPAC and WHO. Trainees from the Republic of Palau, all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, as well as Guam, participated. We thank SOPAC and others for choosing to use the facilities of Guam for such training and hope to continue to provide a practical venue for such regional SOPAC activities in the future.

Guam continues to prioritize improvement of our drinking water supply and wastewater disposal infrastructures. The Government of Guam is actually forced to rapidly correct major water system problems, under United States court orders, with steep penalties for not meeting strict deadlines on improvements in physical facilities, in maintenance, in operations and in long range planning. We are presently identifying and replacing leaking pipes within the public water supply system and installing new deepwater outfalls (up to 260 feet deep) for Guam's major sewage treatment plants. Additional training, advice and plan review coordinated through SOPAC will greatly help in this sector.

In response to increasing fuel prices and the need to develop local sources of renewable energy, the Guam Power Authority continues pursuing plans to utilize deep ocean water to provide air-conditioning to over 10,000 hotel rooms and neighboring facilities at Tumon Bay. When implemented, this could save over 3.2 million gallons of imported fuel each year. The risks and costs of such an unprecedented project can be lessened with input from SOPAC.

The greatest issue relating to Guam's water, power and transportation infrastructure is the development of capabilities to host the Department of Defense's proposed berthing facility for an aircraft carrier, an Army missile defense base and the transfer from

Japan of 8,000 US Marines, all within the next five to ten years. This could lead to a sudden increase in population of nearly twenty-five per cent.

Meanwhile, unique resources on Guam, such as the experts and facilities of the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, the National Weather Service, the US Geological Service, the University of Guam and others, continue to be available to share with the SOPAC members in our neighboring islands.

Guam also has progressed in trying to pay outstanding annual Guam member contributions to SOPAC. One payment was made in April of this year. Besides the Director of SOPAC's meeting on this with representatives of Guam's Governor's Office, discussions on Guam's payments were also held by the Regional Institutional Framework Task Force Manager with the Governor and with the Speaker of the Guam Legislature, encouraging them to take action on this.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of Guam, Ms Lorilee T. Crisostomo sends her sincere wishes for success to this annual session of SOPAC and invites suggestions on how to strengthen Guam's involvement in this Commission's and other regional organizations' activities.

KIRIBATI

Mr Chairman, Members of the SOPAC Governing Council, Development Partners, Director and Staff of SOPAC, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Kiribati congratulates the Chair for the appointment and also would like to thank the out-going Chair for the excellent work done for the past 12 months or so. Our appreciation and gratitude goes to the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Tonga for the cordial reception and in hoisting this 36th annual session.

Kiribati wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the continued technical advice of SOPAC as well as, the sustained support of our Development Partners in the delivery of assistance under various projects to Kiribati, mainly in those areas related to SOPAC's main core functions such as; Community Lifelines and Oceans and Islands.

In particular, I would like to thank SOPAC for the technical advice on the project proposal for the establishment of the Aggregate Company which aims to eliminate the practice of beach mining and a move to strengthen the coastlines. Our appreciation goes to the European Community for the willingness and support in providing the funding for this project in which the signing of the grant will be done very soon. The arrangement for the

training attachment of our Lands Technical Staff with SOPAC which possible under the AusAid funding on the quality checking of coordinates of Kiribati maritime boundary is really appreciated with gratitude. From this exercise, there is a hope that Kiribati will be ready for its submission on the claiming of its extended continental shelf by the expected due date.

Kiribati understands the tight commitments and financial constraints of SOPAC and the technicality in trying to meet the criteria of Development Partners. However, Kiribati wishes to continue to put forward those needs which were not possible to be implemented in the last work schedule and if SOPAC can possibly find a way to accommodate those needs in its forthcoming work plan. In particular, Kiribati would like to refer back to the appended lists and requests if the Secretariat can update Kiribati on the status on each individual need. These needs are as follow:

- Feasibility study on the Re-mining of phosphate on Banaba
- Marine or Bathymetric survey of outer islands of Kiribati
- Developing legal frame work for Marine Scientific Survey in the Kiribati Waters
- Developing legislation to back up the aggregate project under disaster reduction measure
- Training component on water areas such as Bacteria Testing
- Training on Coastal GIS, Aerial photography and Scanning
- Technical necessities required in the upgrading of the map-server

The full explanations of the above mentioned needs were detailed in the Kiribati Statement delivered at 35th SOPAC annual session at the Solomon Islands and compiled with other countries' statements in the book of proceedings.

Kiribati still considers the mentioned projects as its priorities for the forthcoming work programme of SOPAC and wishes to request SOPAC to continuously update us on their status. It will be also appreciated if SOPAC can provide advice on the part of the nation it should play to facilitate a way forward for the possible implementation of each project.

Having had said these, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to thank the Director and her staff for their continued commitments and untiring efforts for the operation of the organization but most importantly, in trying to achieve the quality output required by member countries through executing each country's needs. I wish also to thank our committed Development Partners which

have been always willing to assist and support us in our needs.

As we all understand that these days are testing times for SOPAC existence, it is therefore vital for all of us to be vigilance and plan ahead in the way we could maintain the quality output of SOPAC when it comes to the extent that it may be form part of other regional organizations.

Kiribati hopes this does not happen but if it does happen, it is our duty as the Council to see that the well established and internationally recognized excellent effort of SOPAC does not disintegrate but continued in another form for the benefit of member countries.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

NAURU

Honorable Chair if may allow me to firstly congratulate you for you chairmanship of the 36th SOPAC Governing Council Annual Session and also a big thanks to the Solomon representative for Chairing the 35th Council.

Honorable Chair on behalf of the Government of Nauru and its people I would like to thank all the presenters at the star session through you chair for their excellent presentations and for a job well done. I would also like to thank SOPAC for its hard work in the region for the past few years. SOPAC conducts several projects in the region a number of which Nauru values dearly. Especially coming to water and Energy, Nauru recognizes that water is life and that it is an international issue. Nauru also recognizes that energy is a key driver for economic development and acknowledges with appreciation SOPAC's energy and water programmes in the region. Nauru would also like to thank SOPAC for the recent study in Nauru for the possibility of the export of aggregate to neighboring countries.

Honorable Chair, on one particular issue I would like to make a small statement in regards to the leader's decision at the Forum meeting earlier this year at this very room regarding the RIF. Nauru believes that the intention of the leader's decision was not to minimize the services delivered in the region but rather to maximize and improve these services. Nauru sees the benefit of amalgamation and hopes that council would respond to the leader's decision in a positive way that would give the opportunity for member countries to see the benefits of reform before taking the next step forward. Nauru invites member country to take the leader's decision as a stepping stone towards a fuller integration.

Thank you Chair

NEW CALEDONIA

Mr Chairman, distinguished Representatives of Member Governments of the Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission, Representatives of regional and international organisations, Madam Director, dear Colleagues,

First of all, allow me to thank you Mr Chairman for this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Government of New Caledonia.

Within the framework of the Noumea Accord, New Caledonia, Associate Member of SOPAC since 1991, wishes to maintain its cooperation with SOPAC.

New Caledonia has recognised potential in terms of mineral resources. The Territory is one of the key players in the global nickel market as it is estimated to hold at least a quarter of known world resources. New Caledonia should, in the near future, become one of the world's largest producers of nickel. As Nickel mining remains the driving force of New Caledonia's industrial development, environmentally sustainable mining techniques have been developed over the last 25 years. Associated risks and impacts of mining have been minimized, allowing the resource to be developed and managed in a sustainable way. We are currently replacing our mining regulations with a modern legal framework that will enable sustainable mining exploitation.

In order to optimize environmentally-friendly mining projects, New Caledonia created, in July 2006, a Geological Survey. This public institution aims at delivering to both public authorities and the community updated knowledge regarding the geological aspects of the country and their applications in terms of land use and monitoring, with a sustainable development approach. The Geological Survey is also working closely with research organisations based in New Caledonia such as IRD (Institute for Research & Development), BRGM (French Geological Survey) and the University of New Caledonia.

Regarding onshore resources (out of nickel ore), New Caledonia is currently developing a National Development Plan for Aggregates as the country will need an estimated amount of 2,5 Mt/y of carbonates (PAL or lixiviation of nickel ore through hydrometallurgical process) and other aggregates to replace the asbestos-prone (cause of lung cancers) serpentinite rocks traditionally used for bush roads reclaiming.

Regarding offshore mineral resources, a petroleum synthesis, based on the results of the pluridisciplinary ZoNéCo programme, is currently being carried out within the framework of a national

development plan for New Caledonia's mineral resources.

High-level scientific cooperation in Marine Geosciences has been set up between the Geological surveys of New Caledonia and New Zealand by exchanging scientists and scientific data. The aim of this cooperation, funded by the French Pacific Fund, is to improve the knowledge of the geological features of the vast marine area located between New Zealand and New Caledonia, and to test hypotheses related to petroleum and natural gas potential.

In the field of Marine Environment, three main events should be emphasized:

- The GeoHAB 2007 international conference, held in Nouméa last May. In hosting this event co-organised by New Caledonia, the Circum Pacific Council and SOPAC, New Caledonia took the opportunity of demonstrating its experience in EEZ governance.
- The GeoHAB conference, that was attended by 120 participants from twenty three countries, has also enabled to update both actions and ideas regarding marine habitats and environments that have arisen over the last 10 years, since the meeting held in Nouméa in 1997.
- Inscription of the Lagoons of New Caledonia on the World Heritage List. The claim was lodged by France to UNESCO on January 31st, 2007. When accepted, the project will aim at selecting sites which will be monitored and managed in concertation with local communities.
- Lodging of France's claim pertaining to the New Caledonian Continental Shelf with the Commission for the Limit of the Continental Shelf on May, 22nd this year. Being part of the French delegation that presented the New Caledonian Claim to the CLCS in New York on August 31st, 2007, New Caledonia has become the third member of SOPAC to have formally presented its extended continental shelf claim, after Australia in 2004 and New Zealand in 2006.

In order to neither overload the Secretariat nor diminish the resources of other member countries, New Caledonia has drafted an Associate Membership Work Programme for 2008 which will be submitted to SOPAC during this session. Both SOPAC and its member countries could benefit from New Caledonia's expertise in the following fields:

- expertise in the field of "Continental Shelf extension", as France's claim pertaining to the New Caledonian Continental Shelf was lodged with the Commission for the Limit of the Continental Shelf on May, 22nd this year. Last August, New Caledonia was part of the

French delegation that formally presented the New Caledonian Claim to the CLCS in New York on August 31st, 2007;

- marine resources (mineral and non-living) assessment, marine habitat, and EEZ governance, through the multidisciplinary ZoNéCo programme identified as a pilot project for the Southwest Pacific region;
- sustainable mining exploitation and derelict mines rehabilitation. New Caledonia's current expertise in that field will benefit from the forthcoming creation of the National Research and Technology Centre for Nickel and its Environment (CNRT). This centre is likely to allow New Caledonia to develop scientific and technical cooperation programmes on sustainable mining within the region ;
- national capacity building and PhD tutoring through both the New Caledonia-based research centres and the University of New Caledonia, to develop cooperation between both PICs and New Caledonia, and New Caledonia and SOPAC;
- expertise in developing regional projects which can benefit from European Union funding.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation congratulates you for your appointment as Chairman of the 36th annual Session and wishes fruitful debates between all the participants.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

NEW ZEALAND

Kia ora, on behalf of the Government of New Zealand I congratulate the new chair and look forward to his guidance over the next four days. I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Tonga for hosting this session and for your warm hospitality. I also want to acknowledge and compliment the Secretariat of SOPAC for your work in organising the Session.

SOPAC is a key development partner for New Zealand. We recognise SOPAC's important contribution to the development of natural resource systems and reducing vulnerability and we very much support and share in SOPAC's mission of contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction in the Pacific region.

As an indicator of our regard of the agency, and our commitment to its work programmes, New Zealand's three year Memorandum of Agreement will be extended for an additional year. We also intend to increase our programme resources. This commitment is made ahead of the discussions on future support.

New Zealand looks forward to reflecting on SOPAC's achievements over the past year and considering its work programme for the coming year.

We also look forward to working closely with other council members to provide the Secretariat with clear guidance as it responds positively and constructively to the decision of Leaders at the recent Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Tonga

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Hon. Tuita, Minister of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Tonga and Chair, Council Members, STAR Scientists and Advisers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chairman, I congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the 36th Annual Session of SOPAC and through you congratulate Solomon Islands for their stewardship in the last twelve months.

Chairman, I take the floor to firstly thank through you the Government and the people of Tonga for the warm and generous hospitality you have given us since our arrival in Tonga.

Chairman, I take the floor to thank through you the SOPAC Director, Cristelle Pratt and her staff for her kind observance of silence in respect of the lives that were lost as a result of the tsunami in Solomon Islands and recent heavy flooding caused by torrential rains leading to loss of lives and vital infrastructure. So far 36 bridges have collapsed in the Oro Province alone with lives lost up to 200 people.

At this juncture, I would like to acknowledge the vital assistance that has been provided by Australia and New Zealand, involving the provision of medicine, tarpaulins and other emergency equipment. Through you chair, may I express PNG's profound gratitude to the Australian and New Zealand delegates and ask that they convey that to their respective governments.

Honourable Chairman, PNG considers the theme of the 36th Session of the SOPAC Governing Council as timely as we are faced with increased calamitous natural disasters and high frequency of tectonic plate movements in our region.

The just concluded STAR Conference provided, amongst others, vital scientific and basic humanitarian interventions that can be done prior to, during and post disaster to help mitigate against human and infrastructure loss.

Honourable Chair, turning to the RIF review, let me state that the decision by the Leaders on Va'vau

was a momentous one. It requires proactive and consultative action on the part of Council, guided by your wise words in your Opening Address, "must be consultative, rational with the value of scientific and technical advice and underpinned by good governance and transparency.

Mr Chairman, I reserve the right to make substantive interventions under each of the agenda items during the course of the Council meeting.

MALO AUPITO!

Submitted written statement

1. Introduction

Mr Chairman, members of the governing council; distinguished representatives of governments and institutions of member countries; distinguished delegates from donor governments and agencies supporting CCOP; advisors of the CCOP secretariat; CCOP director and secretariat staff; ladies and gentlemen.

Papua New Guinea wishes to congratulate the Government of the kingdom of Tonga for hosting the 2007 SOPAC Annual Session.

PNG recognizes the important role SOPAC plays in the region and encourages SOPAC to continue to work towards meeting member country needs and to remain in tune with the donor funding requirements and concerns. PNG reiterates that building, both in human resources and institutional capacities as her major priorities. PNG also shares the belief that SOPAC work should be shared with the manpower and institutions in the member country and the EU/EDF8 & 9 Project is one such excellent example in the region and in line with the Pacific 2020 and Foresight 2020.

In kind assistance has been provided to the government of Fiji with \$FJ 200, 000 for a democratic election process in 2009 and another \$FJ 100, 000 to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga in November 2007. Assistance to Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia will continue for the tripartite meetings for a single submission on the Ontong Java Plateau claim.

Mr Chairman, PNG country report is basically divided into the following sectors, mineral, geothermal, petroleum and Projects including the SOPAC EDF8 Project.

2. Mineral Sector

PNG is experiencing an upturn in exploration and related increases in receipt of the worldwide ex-

ploration dollar. In August 2003, PNG was ranked second most unfavorable destination for Mining. Mineral Resource Authority has taken over the regulation of the Mining Industry in PNG and has launched its corporate plan in October 2007.

The trend in applications for exploration licences has changed, with 113 new applications approved for 2004, 35 licences in 2005, 46 for 2006 and 50 for 2007. The Department of Mining has 46 licences approved out of the total of 59 applications in 2006 and this is about 78 percentage compared to about 44 percent by the Mineral Resource Authority in 2007.

The increasing trend in exploration activity is a good sign that Mining Industry is sustainable. The new incentives approved by the government for investors, including the abolition of additional tax relaxation of the double deduction have increased the number of exploration licence applications in PNG. The recent high commodity prices have also contributed to the high return on our exports.

PNG has four exploration licences and prospects that are at advanced stages and the list below are at completion or at early stage of production.

- Hidden valley Gold - under construction
- Ramu Nickel and Cobalt - under construction
- Wild Dog - under construction

Ramu Nickel will be the first Asian in particular China Metallurgical Construction Company (CMCC) has exclusive right period to take up 85% stake in the Ramu nickel project by end of September 2005. It has been reported that (CMCC) is finalising the required approvals to expedite mining nickel from the Ramu mine and will start production at the end of this year. Recently MCC undertook evaluation of the Project with a view to start construction as soon as possible. MCC will undertake the construction of, and be the operator of, the project with the right to purchase 100% of the production from the project on an arms length basis. PNG head of state has executed the amending agreement on Mining Development Contract and granted extension to Condition 3 of Special Mining Lease to give the security of tenure necessary for project developer to finalise financing and to commence construction of the Ramu Nickel Project. Ramu Nickel is on track for commissioning in 2009 and will produce 32,000 tonnes of nickel and 3,100 tonnes of cobalt per year.

2.1 Mining Projects

Mining products maintained their position as the leading primary export commodity of PNG and has remained a significant contributor about 17

percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The mineral product exports accounted for 52 percent in 2004, 53 percent in 2005, and 59 percent in 2006 and with the high commodity prices this value will increase in 2007. The focus in mining now in PNG is on efficiency and cost cutting to enhance revenues and production in the future. The production figures for the following operating mines are briefly outlined below:

Ok Tedi Copper Mine

BHP Billiton officially pulled out of Ok Tedi Mine in 2000 and relinquished all of its 52% shares to the people of western Province and the National Government. Ok Tedi Copper/Gold Mine produced a total of 203543 tonnes of concentrate with 161,599 tonnes of gold and 56,843 tonnes of copper to end of June 2007. These figures were higher compared to the same time last year. The company is conducting pre feasibility study on an underground mining operation that would access ore deposit below Mt. Fubilan Copper – Gold open pit mine. The company is expected to lodge the mine closure plan in 2009 and at this time alternative for the extension of the mine to be considered and assessed yet major operation decisions, consultation with government and communities were essential elements for any such strategic decision.

Environmental issues at the Ok Tedi were a major challenge that the company was looking into, particularly those involving sulphur and acid rock damages. The company has proposed to build a pyrite removal floatation process to reduce sulphur in the tailings. The Company has proposed to store pyrite concentrate safely in the pits and the low sulphur tailings would be recovered by dredging to be used as sand stockpile cover to limit oxidation of dumps.

Porgera Gold Mine

The Porgera Gold Mine produced 26,662.53 kg of gold and 4822.03 kg of silver in 2005. New underground targets are being pursued to increase targets and in 2007. Barrick Gold has acquired the troubled Kainantu Gold mine for the sum of US \$141.5 million following poor production of 3252oz in March and only 4200 oz in 2006.

Lihir Gold Mine

Lihir Gold produced 184, 000.0 oz in June 2006. There is plan for extra large expenditure next year for a large autoclave that would increase the production rate at a million ounces a year. The

30 KW geothermal plant completed will reduce the dependency on imported fuel and increase production and this also achieved carbon credits for the mine and PNG.

Tolukuma Gold Mine

Tolukuma contributed 2532.14 kg of gold and 5120.10 kg of Silver at the end of April 2004. In 2005 1021.06kg was produced but this figure was for only six months period. The underground developments and intersections of gold bearing veins increased productions and better planning and good mining practices. Tolokuma mine is being sold by the Emperor Mines to new owners due to lower production figures. The mine produced 44,200 ounces of gold in 2006 but the cost of production has risen from US\$273 per ounce to about US\$800 per ounce. Gold production at Tolokuma increased to about 10 percent from 9,483oz/gold to about 10,561 oz/gold with reduction of cost per ounce by about 19 percent and the Emperor mine is undertaking a restructure. This follows the signing of the conditional agreement to sell the company's 20% interest in the Porgera Joint Venture to Barrick Gold Corporation.

Harmony Gold

The hidden valley open pit gold mine is on schedule to be open in 2009 with resources estimated at 15 million ounces of gold. The company is also interested in the Copper, Silver and Molybdenum and these resources may upgrade the available resources to about 30 million. The mine is expected to produce about 300,000 ounces of gold for about 10 years.

Hidden Valley and Wafi may contribute over four billion ounces of gold and 1.7 billion tones of copper.

Simberi Gold Mine

The Simberi Gold Mine Project in the New Ireland Province has resources in the order of 2.4 million ounces of gold and production is expected in November or December 2007. This mine will use the rope conveyer system to transport the ore to the processing plant 3km away. Sorowar deposit contains about 70 percent of the mine's gold production and the rope conveyer system is being set up at this site. The production is expected to rise from 84,000 ounces in the first year to about 100,000 ounces the following year.

3. Petroleum Sector

Mr Chairman, Petroleum exploration and products have also played an important role providing about 22% of the national budget. Although the production rates of the oil fields are decreasing the recent high oil prices have generated sufficient return on the crude Oil. Petroleum Prospecting Licenses peaked in 1990 to about 40 licences and this declined to 20 PPLs in 2000 and currently we have 15 PPL and 11 new applications in their various stages of licence process. Exports although are declining the Government has benefited greatly from the recent high oil prices up 38 percent in July 2004 to about 40 percent in 2007. The proposed gas pipeline to Australia has now been abandoned for downstream option and the government has allocated K500 million for the Project bolstering investor confidence in the energy and resources sector of PNG.

3.1 Petroleum Projects

There are a number of Petroleum Projects in PNG, four of which are producing wells and a gas well and are summarized below:

Kutubu Oil Project

Kutubu Oil Project commenced production in 1991 and up to the end of June 2003, over 279,074.229 MBBLs and 737,131.360 million standard cubic feet (MMSCF) gas has been extracted. Kutubu produces 6552, 222bbls in 2004 and 7,091,513.297 bbls in 2005 with monthly average of 634,079.0 bbls for the month of September 2005. The average production for the first six months of 2006 is at 525.7 bbls and the monthly production for June is at 353 bbl about 17 bbls per day.

Gobe Oil Project

Gobe Oil Project commenced production in 1998 and produced 3962,322 BBLO and 2,288,161.00 MSCF gas for 2004. In 2005 3,810.515.0 bbls was produced with monthly average of 340,613.0 bbls in September 2005. The average production for the first six months was at 332bbls with daily production of about 11.56 per day.

Moran Oil Project

Moran Oil Project commenced production in 1998 and produced 4874,683 MBBL at the end

of 2004. Monthly production for September 2005 was at 556.463 bbls and an annual production of 6,169,627 bbls. The average monthly production for the first six months is at 573.55bbl and June production was lowest at 13.3bbl per day.

Hides Gas Project

Hides Gas Project exploits a large onshore gas field, which commenced production in 1991 and to date produced 46,727.32MMSCF gas with a monthly production of 427.741 for September 2005 and total annual production of 5101.846 mmscf and 116,230.08 bbls of condensate. Porgera Gold Mine was partly powered by the generation of gas from Hides and a small volume of condensate is refined on site for local consumption.

Napa Napa Refinery

The Napa Napa Oil Refinery was the first downstream petroleum project to be granted a Petroleum Processing Facility License by the government in February 2000. Inter Oil was awarded the contract and engineering design, procurement and construction. The refinery produces 35,000 barrels of oil per day and local demand is about 18,000 barrels per day. The surplus is exported to other pacific nations since 2004.

4. Geothermal Energy

Mr Chairman, the geothermal energy has been listed hereunder separately because of its enormous potential and renewed resource interest in PNG. Foreign organizations have shown some interest in this industry recently and have had some discussions with local industries and government officials in PNG. GSPNG has taken steps to liaise with external donors and agencies for assistance in funding equipment to explore and document the geothermal resources following a UNDP funded project for a review of our existing database on geothermal resources.

Lihir Gold Mine has constructed the first 6MW geothermal plant in PNG to supplement electricity power generation for its mining operations and 35 MW plant has been completed another 50MW plant is being constructed for the mining operations. A number of Provincial Governments can invest in this renewable industry and a survey is being planned to tie in the gaps in our records.

5. Other Projects

World Bank – Mining Sector Institutional Strengthening project aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for Department of Mining (DoM) and the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) is now completed but no closure report on the World Bank Project has been submitted to the Department of Mining. The technical assistance was provided in the following areas:

- Policy and Regulatory
- Monitoring and Execute technical audits
- Mineral Tenements Management
- Project Coordination Capacity for Sustainable Development
- Geological Survey and Development of GIS capabilities

Sysmin – EU-EDF8 Grant

A grant of 50 million Euros for institutional capacity upgrade project is very timely as the World Bank scales down in PNG. The Project is the result of the effect of the 1997 drought on the mining sector, and the proposal will address and provide the assistance to the following areas:

- Deep Sea Tailing and Waste Management Policy
- Establishment of 3 Small scale Mining Vocational Centers
- Establishment of Women’s Development Centre in Porter
- Aeromagnetic Surveys in the Highlands of PNG
- Geological Mapping in the Highlands of PNG

Airborne Geophysical Survey in the PNG Highlands started in March 2006 and has so far flown about 150,000-line km at the end of October 2007. It is planned to fly a total of 210,000 line kms. The Geological Mapping and Mineral Potential Assessment of the PNG Highlands has commenced in August 2006. In May 2007 geochemical stream sediments sampling commenced, and to date 1776 samples have been taken from the 5 Geological 1:100,000 map Sheets. Both these Projects are aimed at providing pre-competitive information to attract exploration investment and eventually result in new mine discovery and development.

PNG Delimitation Committee has initiated talks first with Solomon Islands and than with Federated States of Micronesia and had the first workshop

on the issue of extended continental slope beyond 200nm over the common Ontong Java Plateau. This was proposed due to lack of manpower and very near submission deadline. The Government has allocated additional funding recently for the work to be completed and submitted to the United Nation in 2009. Two papers on the development of the cooperation between the three countries have been presented at the 2007 STAR session.

6. Geological Hazards and Monitoring

PNG has received considerable benefit in the past from SOPAC in efforts to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. SOPAC/EU EDF8 Project is very timely as it helped increase Geohazards awareness in the high-risk region of PNG. This ultimately will save cost in all sectors in order to bring real development to the rural population. It is sincerely hoped that this co-operation will continue into the future as SOPAC delegates with funding support activities to the member countries to perform.

Mr Chairman, PNG has experienced several damaging natural disasters in the recent past and the 5 minutes silence for those killed in the recent flooding is acknowledged. GSPNG has been involved in carrying out assessments and investigations into some of these disasters. However, much work and ongoing observations have been severely constrained by financial difficulties and lack of appropriate equipment. Port of Lae for example, remained on the agenda; because it is situated in a submarine landslide environment and SOPAC is applaud for donating instruments and manpower to carry out the Bathymetry in 2006.

7. Regional Geoscience Mapping

Mr Chairman, GSPNG has conducted Component 5 of the World Bank Project in Wau-Bulolo area in 2000. This area was originally selected because of the past gold rush and present high concentration of grass root alluvial mining and this has resulted in a new MOU signed for the development of a new Hidden Valley Gold mine. Three Training Centres are to be constructed to increase the level of gold production and one planned for Wau will be completed in 2008 and we hope such infrastructure will increase our gold output and increase revenue to PNG

Detailed geological mapping under World Bank Project has enabled one of our officers to re-interpret the geology of Wau for a Master Degree at the Auckland University in 2005. This is part of our Strategic Planning (big picture) to increase exploration and revenue for the country. We hope geological mapping and ground truthing of the

remotely sensed data will increase our exploration potential complimented by aeromagnetic Survey as part of the EU/SYSMIN Project.

The change of the Department of Mining to an Authority Status has been a bonus but a number of very important corporate issues have been omitted and is a concern to our staff and the population.

Finally allow me to express PNG's view on the issue of rationalisation of Organisations in the Pacific. SPC as we understand is a political instrument designed by the Countries to look after their Territories in the Pacific. SOPAC on the other hand was designed by the small Pacific people to help store their technical data and help seek funding for technical activities within their jurisdiction. SOPAC is created by the agreement establishing the SOUTH PACIFIC APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION governed by international law and the agreement is subject to ratification by the governments of the member countries. The idea of merging may be possible but the decision was made by the Forum leaders a different entity and the political decisions.

SOPAC and SPC have Constitutions and under Geneva Convention of international law of Treaties these are two different entities endorsed by state parties and SOPAC can not be cut and pasted and a new constitution is required to be developed. One would imagine that both SOPAC and SPC will have to be rectified by each member country and this will take a long time to complete. One way is to regionalize SOPAC into a number of sub centers with functions to conduct problematic activities of the sub centre having funds and manpower from main SOPAC Organisation.

However, Leaders have taken a decision to rationalize and therefore it is for member countries to work together in a proactive manner to ensure that all the programmed activities and SOPAC itself is not decimated. A process has been established jointly with affected agencies to move this decision forward, keeping in mind the sensitivities as they relate to the mandates and conventions SOPAC, SPREP and SPC come under.

SAMOA

Hon. Chairperson, Hon Ministers, Excellencies, SOPAC Director, Representatives from CROP Agencies, Scientific & Technical Community & my fellow delegates.

Talofa lava, on behalf of the Samoan Delegation I echo our congratulations to you Hon. Tuita on the assumption of your duties as Chair and lend our full support to the agenda that will guide our work through your tenure. Hon Chair, with your

able leadership, experience and guidance we are confident that you will lead us through successful deliberations over the course of this 36th SOPAC Governing Session.

May I also, thank the Government of Tonga for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival into Tonga and I wish also commend the Government of Tonga for these excellent meeting facilities.

Chair, the Govt of Samoa recognizes and values the wealth of contributions made by SOPAC to Samoa since its inception in 1972, some 35 years ago when Samoa first became a member.

Mr Chair, in your opening statement you alluded to SOPAC having grown over the years in terms of mandate and that the scientific and technical nature of the work undertaken by SOPAC makes it unique compared to other CROP agencies. The Samoan delegation fully agrees with this statement and for this reason we must embark to provide clear guidance on the way forward. Furthermore implementation of the decision made by Leaders on RIF must be carried out cautiously and in a correct manner to ensure we do not lose focus on the important scientific and technical issues which is the essence of the very being of the SOPAC organization.

There are several resource and environmental constraints common to island nations which affect Samoa. Fortunately SOPAC has been supportive and proactive over the years in assisting us in our attempts to overcome the many challenges in the path of sustainable development.

SOPAC has been responsive to specific individual requests at the national level including through regional initiatives. Some of the assistance I can outline at this juncture include developments in the field of water, energy and ICT where technical assistance and advisory services have been provided. We have with us today representatives from the various branches of the Water Sector who no doubt spoke highly during the STAR sessions about the assistance and quality of services delivered by SOPAC towards the management and development of this important resource.

SOPAC has assisted not only on the technical side but has provided service in the area of establishing vital national databases, data collation and management and in policy development in the case of the formulation of Samoa's National Energy Policy which was successfully launched a month ago. GIS training has been underway and I am happy to note that several Ministries now use GIS technology. However this is an area which still needs developing given the lack of national technical capacity.

Samoa has also benefited under the Oceans & Islands Programme through significant training opportunities in Earth Sciences & Marine Geology. This too has allowed for capacity building and upskilling amongst our nationals in the area of applied geosciences.

The SOPAC Community Risk Programme is another operational programme which Samoa has taken advantage of in the area of building more resilient communities, mitigation efforts and mainstreaming disaster risk management into the national development process. Like many other challenges, climate change crosses borders uninvited, no one is immune and whether we wish to accept or not Samoa's vulnerability to natural disasters namely cyclones, flooding & tsunamis is on the rise. Therefore we strongly support and encourage further engagement with SOPAC in these areas.

Mr Chair, all CROP Agencies understand the specific hurdles and realities that island nations face – it is common ground which we all wish overcome. It highlights therefore the need for closer collaboration and engagement amongst CROP agencies and PICs in order to improve the impact of assistance and produce tangible outcomes that can make a difference to our Pacific Communities.

SOPAC has contributed significantly to the region but it does not end here. Internationally SOPAC has had its presence felt through the provision of resource persons, provision of briefings on projects which have been provided to the PIF Missions to UN, specifically in the context of GEF. Furthermore SOPAC has been proactive and supportive in providing drafts and interventions for the region as a whole at international fora e.g. Commission on Sustainable Development. In this case may I thank the SOPAC Director and her hard working staff for their commitment, perseverance and support in addressing the many demands of PI Nations.

Chair, it will be remiss of me not to acknowledge the assistance and support received from our development partners, the international, and scientific community whose generous support and contributions through partnership with SOPAC, has seen the implementation of a number of valuable activities in Samoa under the three operational programmes of SOPAC.

No doubt Chair without this sustained support from our development partners, donor friends and the scientific community, it would be an arduous task for the SOPAC Secretariat to meet member country demands and fulfil its mandate as directed by Council.

Faafetai.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Chairman, Director of SOPAC, Distinguished delegates from SOPAC, Member Countries, Chairman of STAR, Distinguished Scientists, engineers, and Technologist from the region and beyond, Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a Privilege and honour with great pleasure to make representation of my delegation at this at this 36th Annual Session of SOPAC. I thank you Mr Chairman for the opportunity to do so.

We hosted the 35th SOPAC Annual Session last year, in Honiara thus being accorded the distinguished honour to assume the Chairmanship position for SOPAC since then to this date. May I now take this opportunity to thank all distinguished Council members, the Director of SOPAC and your Secretariat staff and all others for your cooperation, confidence, efforts, assistance, understanding and perseverance during our term of tenure of Chairmanship.

May I now Mr Chairman, you representing the good people of the Kingdom of Tonga, to congratulate you on your appointment to the Chairmanship position of SOPAC from now on. I wish you well and I look forward to your good and capable leadership, guidance and facilitation of deliberations in the next few days and more so in the next 12 months. I am sure you will appreciate the next 12 months will not be easy especially as the outcome of the recent 38th Forum Leader's Summit on the subject "Regional Institutional Framework" which has implication on SOPAC will be pursued.

Mr Chairman, during the past year I am to report that our national efforts in the areas of geology, mineral development, energy, water and hazards and disasters have progressed after the years of decline during years of social unrest, although with notable constraints. These sectors highlighted are within the realms of the mandate of SOPAC.

Worth mentioning is the revival of the mineral exploration interest in the country. As of date, more than 40 prospecting licences have been granted and actual work is aggressive. These prospecting licences are on land and also offshore. The closed Gold Ridge Mine Re-opening Feasibility Study has now been completed and presented confirming project viability and gold production expected to start in late 2008 or early 2009. Reconstruction of the mine had been in progress satisfactorily so far.

In the energy sector, under the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Plan, PIEPSAP Project (2004 – 2008), a National Energy Policy Framework and Strategic Energy Sector Plan was developed and adopted, Review of the Solomon Islands Electricity Act and development of regulatory

framework for rural electrification completed, support to SIEA in enhancing GIS/MIS systems made (March 2007), Tariff review for SIEA conducted and completed (July 2007). Under the energy and gender programme, energy project proposal drafting pursued and documentary filming of energy projects and their socio-economic impact in rural Solomon Islands with emphasis to equal gender participation. The commitment by New Zealand Government to PIC after the PEMM 2007 (Communiqué) was noted.

Mr Chairman our national efforts in the water resources sector had been minimal during the period. The country have had a national network of hydrological stations in the past but have declined to zero level as of date due to various reasons. Efforts under the various SOPAC projects such as the EDF8 Reducing Vulnerability of ACP states, Sustainable Integrated Water Resources and Waste water Management (IWRM – GEF funding thru UNDP), Water Governance projects did not revert the trend. It is hopeful that new EU project Hydrological Cycle Observing System, HYCOS will have some positive impact.

In the hazard and disaster sector, Solomon Islands was confronted with the unprecedented devastation of the April 2, 2007 magnitude 8 earthquake and triggered tsunami in the western and Choiseul provinces of Solomon Islands. More than 50 death and millions of dollar worth of homes, properties and infrastructure destroyed. This event brought issues to the fore that I felt Solomon islands would offer a lot to any regional or international fora for disasters. The event even tapped and drew the attention and resources to one during the emergency, response and recovery process. While a lot of offers for assistance were extended from all over, it is sad to note that assistance from CROP agencies took time to materialize, compared with immediate mobilization of bilateral and multi-lateral assistance. We are in the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase now and assistance is urgently needed in geohazard mapping of the areas affected before reconstruction especially of major social infrastructures.

The major sector activities outlined above have in away received assistance one way or another from SOPAC. To this effect, may I through you convey Solomon Islands appreciation to SOPAC for the services rendered and I hope this will continue and improve in the next term. It would be remiss of me not to thank all donor countries, organizations and institutions for the support to SOPAC, for without which, the efforts of SOPAC would not be possible.

Mr Chairman our efforts in the Extended Continental Shelf Claim is in progress. Collaboration with PNG and FSM for a joint submission over the

OJP is pursued on a technical level at this stage. Assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat had been sought and confirmed for legal and other technical aspects.

May at this juncture also would like to mention the assistance received by Solomon Islands, from RAMSI, without such intervention we would not have been this far. Much have been achieved since RAMSI's arrival four years ago but the sustainability of the achievements should be the absolute objective now. This could only be achieved through review, redirection of emphasis and approach, and cooperation. Thank you very much for the 15 countries that participated in RAMSI, most of whom are represented here today.

Mr Chairman, we have noted that Solomon Islands still have two years of outstanding annual contribution arrears. This has improved since as at one stage we were in arrears of six years. I am to inform Council that Solomon Islands is still committed to pay up as we consider SOPAC as a important regional inter-governmental geoscience resource organization which its mandate is complementary to our national goals and programs in geology, minerals, energy, water resources, geohazards and disasters and other related environmental geosciences.

May I take this opportunity to thank all donor countries and organizations for the support to SOPAC. We look for your continual support again next year.

Thank you all for attention.

TOKELAU

Mr Chairman, Council Members, SOPAC Director and Staff, Director of SPREP, Members of the scientific community, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed an honour for me to address the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council on behalf of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau.

Secondly, please note the apology from the Tokelau National SOPAC Rep. Mr Jovilisi Suveinakama who is unable to attend the 36th Annual Session of SOPAC due to his involvement with other government commitments.

Mr Chairman, I wish to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, the organizing committee and everyone who have been involved with hosting the 36th Annual Session of SOPAC this year.

Tokelau acknowledged the support and invaluable contribution given by SOPAC on the Joint CROP/UN Strategy for Tokelau. Following the

successful completion of this very important Joint Strategy, Tokelau urged your continued support on the implementation of the Joint Strategy for Tokelau.

Tokelau also recognized the support of SOPAC through the provision of technical and professional advices on the development and implementation of energy policies and projects in Tokelau.

Mr Chairman, it is important to note that Tokelau has made various progress with the development of its infrastructure and currently undertaking an active role to protect its environment. In terms of energy development, the Government of Tokelau has considered the need to implement its NEPSAP (National Energy Policy and Strategic Action Plan) that will replace the existing operation of diesel power with 100% renewable energy technologies. Tokelau aims to become the first island country in the Pacific that will produce electricity from 100% renewable energy technologies. In order to implement this strategy, Tokelau wishes to seek the support and invaluable contribution from our regional agencies especially in the area of training and capacity building.

Mr Chairman, as an Associate member of SOPAC, Tokelau sees the importance of training programs and workshops provided and implemented by SOPAC through out the years. It is unfortunate to mention that Tokelau is not eligible to participate in training programs funded by SOPAC therefore, Tokelau urged SOPAC to kindly look into the possibility of considering the participation of Tokelau in its future training programs.

Last but not least, Tokelau would like to take this opportunity to thank the secretariat for the hard work, continued support and dedication in assisting countries with the development and implementation of various programs that have inevitably enhance and contribute towards the development of countries in the region.

TUVALU

Honorable Ministers, excellencies, members of the governing council of SOPAC, donor partners, technical advisers and scientist community, director and staff of SOPAC, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Tuvalu delegation and the government of Tuvalu, I wish to welcome the incoming chair from Tonga, and at the same time wish to congratulate the outgoing chair from Solomon Islands for his guidance over the last 12 months. On the same note Tuvalu would also like to acknowledge the hospitality of the government of Tonga for hosting this year's meeting in this friendly city of Nuku'alofa. I wish to assure you

Mr. Chairman that you will have the support of Tuvalu, in particular through our role as vice chair for this meeting, and also as chair for the drafting committee of the council.

Chairman, Tuvalu would like to commend and acknowledge the continuous and invaluable contributions of SOPAC and its donor partners, as well as the scientific community for their roles in various programmes and activities in the country. Increasing SOPAC annual budgets and programs coverage reflects a strong partnership between SOPAC and donor community. On the other hand such also indicates the increasing support of SOPAC activities through its three core divisions of Ocean & Islands, Community Lifelines and Community Risks.

The continuous support provided by SOPAC through its core divisions are reflected by various activities geared to support the disaster, energy, water, lands and information divisions at the national level. Tuvalu recognized the need for SOPAC to fill-in data gaps in the area of shallow water bathymetry, and full data coverage of lagoons in Tuvalu, as well as shallow water areas not covered under the marine survey in Tuvalu. The completion of such data will assist us to improve management of our marine resources, as well as vital data to improve our marine charts at national level. With a recently completed Water Information System which coincided well with the ongoing local production of water tanks by Roto Mould Co. Ltd at PWD, Tuvalu encourage continuous support from SOPAC to identify donors to maintain, and sustain this project. Tuvalu would also like to ask SOPAC support in the effective delivery of its products and services through the Mapserver, including disaster warning information for public access during tsunamis, cyclones as early warning systems. The proposed dredging project of the Funafuti Lagoon as alternative aggregate source is of paramount importance, SOPAC is also requested to look into this area using a similar approach for the Tarawa Lagoon dredging project supported by EU. Incorporation and overlaying of maritime data over high resolution satellite imagery (60 cm Quickbird images) into the Tuvalu Maritime Boundary Report was requested and Tuvalu would like to seek the good support of SOPAC to carry out this task.

Chairman, Tuvalu also acknowledge the good work carried out by PMEG, which ensures the effective roles of SOPAC within the secretariat itself, as well as its services and roles in its member countries.

Chairman, Tuvalu shares the concern raised by the Secretariat on the outcome of the Leaders decision on the Regional Institution Framework

(RIF), in particular the issue of rationalization and timeframe.

I would also like to thank the council for its confidence in appointing Tuvalu as vice chair to this council meeting, and also as chair of the council drafting committee.

Last but not least, Tuvalu looks forward to its challenge of hosting the SOPAC Annual Session in 2008. We will give confirmation to the Secretariat on this issue in due course.

Fakafetai lasi

VANUATU

Mr Chair, Fellow National Representatives, Distinguished Donor Representatives, Technical Advisors, Staff of SOPAC, Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Chair, let me first begin by presenting my compliments and very warm greetings to you all. I also wish to associate myself, and that of my delegation to the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers on your appointment as Chair and through you, to voice our special thanks to the Government of Tonga for having graciously accepted to host this meeting in your lovely country.

It goes without saying, Mr Chair, that the past year has witnessed, as we did in the previous years, the continued support and endless efforts on the part of Secretariat to implement the assigned work programmes in spite of the shortcoming in certain areas. We know that it has not always been easy to take certain programmes in spite of the shortcomings. It has not always been easy to take all work programmes through to implementation but we are pleased to commend the outgoing Chair, Director and his staff for the outstanding work they have done over the year in steering SOPAC to achieving some of the goals set out by member countries.

Vanuatu has officially associated with SOPAC since 1978, prior to our independence, and has been actively associated with SOPAC's work since then. Our association with SOPAC in 2003 remains cordial and beneficial and Vanuatu would wish to see the strengthening of such relationship into the future.

Mr Chair, since we have a long agenda to deliberate on over the next few days and the fact that we will also have the opportunity to discuss in greater detail specific work programmes over the next day or so, perhaps it would be wise for me to touch very briefly on these activities, executed by SOPAC, we feel warrant special mention at this meeting.

- EU Project EDF 8 – Coastal aggregates work
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Action Plan and policy
- GEF Integrated Water Resource Management project
- The Water Safety Plan
- The Water Quality project
- The HYCOS project
- The National Water Resources Strategy plan
- The Maritime Delimitation Boundary
- The Energy policy and Master plan

The government of Vanuatu wishes to call on SOPAC to continue in its level of support in supporting various activity implementations of these programs.

Given the opportunity I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of my Government to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Secretariat and other organizations such as IRD, for coming in to assist us in a time of difficulty when the gov-

ernment lost all assets and information within the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources. The 7th June fire incident has basically destroyed everything, leaving only ashes and we plead with our partner organizations present here who may be able to assist and have information such as maps/data related to geological works in Vanuatu by recollecting and sending these over to enable us to rebuild our information and data bank.

Before I conclude, I also wish to express Vanuatu's deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to our donors and star experts for their continued and generous support to SOPAC activities which benefited the region. It is our sincere hope that we will continue to work together, to steer the SOPAC Secretariat through this turbulence situation so that it can continue to deliver and improve on its current level of service delivery that we, as members of this council, have continuously and will continue to enjoy in the years to come.

PART II: STATEMENTS BY CROP ORGANISATIONS

PACIFIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Honorable Chairman, Honorable Delegates, Director, Deputy Director and staff of the SOPAC Secretariat, Heads of Regional and International Organisations, SOPAC National Government Representatives, Donor Partners, Observers, NGO's, STAR Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Tonga for the wonderful hospitality shown during my stay here, and to the SOPAC Secretariat staff for a well organised conference

As Executive Director of the Pacific Power Association, and being recently formally accepted as the newest member of the Council of Regional Organisations, I bring to you our best wishes, especially from our Board Chairman and PPA Board Members.

I appreciate the opportunity to report to you on the close collaboration between PPA and SOPAC.

Annual PPA Conferences

PPA in our previous Annual Conferences, including our bi-annual PPA Engineers' Conference, have always invited the Director of SOPAC to attend and provide presentations to our delegates from the Pacific, including Regional and International Donor organisations. During our Annual PPA

conferences the SOPAC delegates have access to our utility CEOs, Engineers and utility Board Members. In addition, the SOPAC Energy staff delegate also attends our trade exhibition which is held in conjunction with the Annual PPA Conference & Engineers Workshop where they are able to see and learn about new technology available in the energy field on display by our members.

SOPAC, also in collaboration with PPA, took advantage of our utility engineers attending the Engineers Workshop held bi-annually in 2006 to hold a back - to - back Demand Side Workshop.

2007 Regional Energy Ministers Meeting

PPA attended and contributed to this important SOPAC organized Regional Energy Ministers Meeting where PPA, as a member of the CROP Energy Working Group, presented the status of our key ongoing projects formally documented in the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning Project (PIESAP). With these presentations the Energy Ministers were able to finalise their Communiqué.

CROP Energy Working Group (EWG)

PPA participates in this working group meeting, with SOPAC the Chair of the working group. PPA, in the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Plan, is the lead organisation in the Power

Sector, and shares this lead in the Renewable Energy and Human Capacity Building Sections with SOPAC, SPREP and USP.

PPA also supports SOPAC by including their Calls for Tenders on the PPA website thus providing the opportunity for increased competitive Bids from suppliers with experience in the region.

PPA has strongly supported and facilitated SOPAC's implementation of GIS in the power utilities as an important asset management tool.

PPA looks forward to taking a more active role on the EWG, since becoming a formal member of CROP in September, 2007.

PPA and SOPAC featured prominently in the Regional Energy Minister Communiqué of 2007 to implement important Power Sector Energy Projects to the Pacific Region.

PPA looks forward to any discussion that may require our input during this SOPAC Annual Session.

Mr Chairman, thank you again for this opportunity to address this prestigious Council and I wish you and the Council all the best in your discussions to address critical issues that will benefit the Pacific Islands.

Thank you.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

Opening Statement from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, at the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 26th-30th November 2007

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Director and staff of SOPAC, Heads of International and Regional Organisations, Development Partners, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all, to congratulate you on chairing this 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council. Thank you for the opportunity to make this brief statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. My Director-General who unfortunately cannot be here sends his warmest regards and best wishes for a very successful Council meeting.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to register at the outset that SPC accords great value to the work SOPAC has undertaken in our common member countries and territories. SOPAC and the SPC have enjoyed a long lasting good working relationship and it has been a rewarding experience for the SPC to

work closely with an organization that shares a common vision of 'excellence of service' to its membership.

Mr Chairman, SPC has expressed at various annual sessions of the SOPAC Governing Council, SPC's strong belief in a "strategic, collaborative approach' and partnership between regional organizations in responding to, and addressing priority issues confronting our respective member countries and territories. Many opportunities have been taken by our two organizations to realize this vision. Within the framework of CROP, we have worked together with other organizations in CROP remuneration reviews and in collaborative work within the auspices of the Pacific Plan. At the organizational level we have collaborated through the SPC Land Resources Division and other SPC programmes with SOPAC's work on disaster mitigation, disaster risk reduction and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), through work of the SPC's Marine Resources Division covering its coastal and oceanic fisheries programmes and maritime programme with SOPAC's work on coastal zone, continental shelf and boundaries. SOPAC and SPC are jointly planning a regional workshop on bio-fuel to be held early in 2008. At the executive management level, SPC has continued to enjoy the exchange of ideas, information and strategic organizational issues with SOPAC.

Mr Chairman, as you referred to in your keynote address this morning, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in the communiqué of their Thirtieth Pacific Islands Forum Conference last month held here in Nuku'alofa, agreed to the need to rationalise the functions of SOPAC with the work programmes of the SPC and the SPREP with the view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP. Mr. Chairman, my statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community will be given to the SOPAC Secretariat for the records. I note Mr. Chairman that deliberations regarding the recent decision of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders regarding the RIF2 will be undertaken under another agenda item. Therefore Mr. Chairman I will at that time, if you allow me, inform this SOPAC Governing Council meeting of the decisions of the Conference of the Pacific Community held in Apia, Samoa, two weeks ago, relating to this important decision of the leaders.

Mr Chairman, I now wish to conclude by most sincerely thanking the government of the Kingdom of Tonga for hosting this 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council, and you for giving me the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of SPC.

May God guide and richly bless you all.

Tu'a 'ofa atu

Statement relating to RIF2

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Director and staff of SOPAC, Heads of International and Regional Organisations, Development Partners, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me opportunity to again address the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council, on a most important topic, one that has recently been addressed by the Governing Councils of the South Pacific Bureau for Education Assessment (SPBEA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and one that is to be addressed by the SPREP Governing Council sometime next year.

Mr Chairman, earlier this month, the 37th CRGA meeting followed by the Fifth Conference of the Pacific Community took place in Apia, Samoa and I wish to convey to the SOPAC Governing Council, the decisions of Conference and I quote, "Conference:

- i. notes the decision taken by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders on their preferred institutional arrangement for the Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA), SPC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- ii. endorses the position taken by PIF leaders as the basis for a detailed draft roadmap for the consideration of CRGA 38, while recognising that although the United States and American Samoa support the goal of improving coordination, efficiency and service delivery, they were not able to endorse the position taken by PIF leaders without additional information concerning the proposal's implementation and associated implications;
- iii. notes that the matter will also be considered by the governing bodies of SOPAC and SPBEA and SPREP;
- iv. accepts the offer by the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to facilitate consultations between the CEOs of the four organisations concerned, including appropriate involvement of member representatives, development partners and other CROP agencies, and recommends that the discussions between the CEOs be usefully guided by a set of principles. Such principles could include:
 - a. transparency and timeliness with respect to the process, and effective involvement of stakeholders; cost-effectiveness;

- b. a focus on the RIF objective of creating an institutional framework that further improves service delivery to PICTs and assists with the effective implementation of the Pacific Plan;
- c. the need to address the full range of legal, organisational, administrative, governance, membership, and financial implications;
- v. instructs the Director-General to work closely with the CEOs of the three organisations to map out a draft plan to implement the institutional arrangements outlined by leaders for Pillar 2 organisations and to present the plan to CRGA 38;
- vi. notes the intention of the Secretariat to involve the membership at various stages of the development of the roadmap through provision of regular updates."

Mr Chairman, following on the heels of the Fifth Conference of the Pacific Community, the Governing Board of the SPBEA at their Annual General Meeting, made the following resolutions

- i. The Board has accepted the decisions that have been made by the Pacific Forum Leaders, and is now focusing on the steps that need to be taken to effect the merger.
- ii. A sub-committee, which is the Executive Committee, is being tasked to look into this and bring its findings to the full Board.
- iii. The Director has been mandated to hold discussions with SPC and other relevant organizations to establish a way forward, with consultations with the Executive Committee.
- iv. The Executive Committee to also conduct consultations with the member countries.
- v. At the end of the consultations, a special Issues meeting will be held to bring to the full Board the range of outcomes from these consultations.

Mr Chairman, from SPC's perspective we can only say at this important juncture that we are ready to, using the Tongan community concept of "fofola e fala kae kamata e talanga" or rolling out the mat so that dialogue begins, i.e. between the CEOs of the four RIF Pillar II agencies, as leaders of families within our extended family of regional organizations to map out the draft plan, that will take us towards making the vision of the PIF leaders, a reality. The Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat stated to the Conference of the Pacific Community that he stands ready to facilitate this process.

Mr Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to again make a statement to the SOPAC Governing Council, on behalf of SPC.

Thank you Mr Chairman

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mr Chairman; Honorable Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Honorable ministers; Director of SOPAC; Deputy Director of SOPAC and Staff; Distinguished delegates; My fellow CROP representatives; Observers; Non government organizations; Ladies and gentlemen ...

Good morning to us all.

I happen to be from north of the equator but I am always at home south of the equator in Tonga with its hospitable atmosphere coupled with its beauty. I am very grateful to the Government and People of Tonga for the courtesy and hospitality they have kindly extended to me since my arrival in this beautiful country.

I should also like to express my sincere appreciation for the honor and privilege to speak at this august meeting.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr Chairman upon your unanimous election to this important post. As well, I wish to extend my congratulation to the Kingdom of Tonga for hosting this important meeting of SOPAC for the fourth time. At this juncture, I would like to share an open secret with you all – the South Pacific Beauty Pageant contest was recently held in Samoa and was won by Miss Tonga, therefore she is the reigning Miss South Pacific. Again, congratulations to Tonga.

On a more serious note, let me reiterate to this Council my secretariat's commitment to strengthening the working relations with SOPAC on a bilateral basis and through cooperative and collaborative efforts as well as through CROP to improve our services to our Pacific region.

On this score, let me make mention of the forum leaders' recent decision respecting the issue of Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), "to rationalize the services of SOPAC ..." I would like to state clearly that the SPREP Council has sole authority on this matter, as many of you members around this table would know, as all countries and territories present here are members of SPREP Council as well. In this connection, I would like to advise that the normal timeframe for SPREP Council meeting is September.

The SPREP Secretariat looks forward to this SOPAC Council's decision on the Forum Leaders' decision and together with the decisions of the two other affected CROP agencies they would be duly communicated to our SPREP Members for their consideration and eventual decision next

September. To this end, I look forward to consulting closely with SOPAC and SPC secretariats on this sensitive and complex issue with a view to remaining faithful to the spirit of the Leaders' decision and the intent of the respective CROP agency councils without pre-empting the decision-making legal right of the SPREP Council.

You will agree with me that there is critical need for care and human consideration in dealing with the "rationalization" of SOPAC to maintain staff morale that may have understandably become bridle in the interim. Additionally we must work toward a smooth transition, if indeed change is the way forward, and done in such a way that is transparent and professional to maintain donors confidence and uninterrupted services to members. SPREP recognizes the valuable services that only SOPAC can deliver thus special care must be taken to assure their systematic delivery.

In my capacity as Director and CEO of SPREP let me assure of my best effort to consult with SOPAC and the other CROP agencies to carry out decisions of the relevant councils in an orderly and constructive manner.

I would like to conclude, Mr Chairman by wishing you and your colleagues a most successful meeting. Again, I thank you for the honor to speak at this 36th annual session.

God Bless You.

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The Chairperson, the Director of SOPAC, SOPAC National Government Representatives, Representative from other Governments, Representative from fellow CROP Agencies, International Organization, Representative of PMEG, NGO's and STAR participants, ladies and gentlemen.....

It is an honor for me to bring you warm greetings and best wishes from the University of the South Pacific community, and especially from our Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr Esther Williams to all the participants of the 36th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council.

The University wishes to thank sincerely the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for generously agreeing to host the Annual session.

It is pleasing to report to you all the close collaboration between USP and SOPAC is strengthening every year. The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Senior Management and Heads of section at USP who work directly with SOPAC wishes to acknowledge and record their appreciation for this long-standing co-operation.

Cooperation

The University strongly believes that this co-operation will address the many challenges that face our Region, for example in the human resource areas, short and long term training programmes and off course in research. SOPAC continues collaboration with USP in many areas, such as in renewable energy, water, marine, hazards in terms of research and teaching. For example, a number of our students are being supervised jointly by the staff members from both organizations for post-graduate studies. This year we have discussions with SOPAC on how to revive the Certificate Programme in Earth and Marine Geology. A proposal was drafted and submitted to the Commonwealth Secretariat. There is also an ongoing discussion between the two organisations on the possibility of starting a postgraduate diploma programme in disaster and risk management.

Academic Area

As most of you are aware, USP has gone through a vigorous academic restructuring. This year each Faculty started reviewing its different teaching programmes. For example, in the Faculty of Science and Technology we have started reviewing all the programmes. We have formed Industrial Liaison Groups that comprises people from government ministries and departments, private sector, NGOs, regional organizations, etc. to help us identify and input subjects that reflect to the need of the region. We have involved SOPAC and other regional organisation's experts in our review exercise as we strongly believe that SOPAC will make great contributions from their wide experiences in the region. This review will allow us to improve our teaching programme so that we are able to graduate the best prepared individuals for the human resource needs of the Pacific.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project

The newly established UN Water Virtual Learning Centre at USP in collaboration with the United Nations University and International Network for Water, Environment and Health has started the diploma course this year. We have 16 students from the Region who are taking the Integrated Water Resources Management diploma course through

distance and flexible mode. We will start course No. 3 before the end of this year and it is anticipated that the 10 course diploma programme will be completed in 2008. SOPAC experts continue to provide teaching materials to the courses that are related to the region.

Research

USP is committed to internationally recognized research that meets the needs and aspirations of Pacific Island Communities. USP will focus very strongly on applied areas such as sustainable energy, water and good governance to assist in the stable development of the Region. USP continues to collaborate with SOPAC in research, for example in the area of coastal and flooding vulnerability assessment.

The Faculties have started reviewing their post-graduate programmes. For example, the Faculty of Science and Technology will be starting its new postgraduate diploma programmes in 2008. These new programmes are designed to give an opportunity to students to focus in particular field of study such as postgraduate diploma in biodiversity and conservation or biotechnology or environmental chemistry, etc. The Faculty had only 2 PhD students 2006 compared to 14 PhD students in 2007. This will address the human resource issues in specialized areas in the region and I am sure this will also benefit the regional organizations like SOPAC.

We are hoping that SOPA and other regional organization will support some of the main research activities of the University through funding and student supervision.

Finally the Acting Vice-Chancellor of USP wishes to thank the SOPAC Governing Council for the invitation to be part of its 36th Annual Session. The University acknowledges and also commends the excellent contribution that the Commission is making in the geoscience areas in achieving sustainable development in the Region. We wish the Director, Ms Cristelle Pratt and all the staff of SOPAC all the very best of success in your future work programmes, especially at this challenging time of rationalization issues of the regional organisations.

Thank you and I hope you will have a constructive meeting in the next 4 days.

PART III: STATEMENTS FROM SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

JAPAN AGENCY FOR MARINE-EARTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (JAMSTEC)

The Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) wishes to express its appreciation to continuous cooperation and support of SOPAC member countries and Secretariat to our scientific programs and projects in particular to our implementation of research cruises in the region. At the same time, it congratulates SOPAC to successes to demonstrate capabilities in carrying out various projects for their countries development. JAMSTEC hopes that SOPAC will keep progress in such capabilities, and will be happy to cooperate with science based projects of SOPAC.

Our science based cooperation with SOPAC has initiated a couple decades ago when JAMSTEC organized a research cruise of RV NATSUSHIMA in the Rabaul Bay, PNG for seismic survey and found some indication of eruption of the Rabaul Volcano that was reported to PNG Authorities through SOPAC Secretariat and the Government of Japan. Receiving the report the PNG Authorities started to draft an evacuation plan for the Rabaul region with assistance of the United Nations, and effectiveness of the plan was demonstrated at the time of its eruption. Regarding to another scientific cooperation with the South Pacific region is a series of scientific dives by a manned submersible: Shinkai 6500 in the Lau Basin, the Manus Basin and Kermadec Trench which delivered new knowledge on nature of the South Pacific sea floor. After the event of the Sissano tsunami, JAMSTEC responded to a request from SOPAC Secretariat in carrying out a series of aftermath survey with RV NATSUSHIMA, and RV YOKOSUKA and Shinkai 6500 but it was unfortunate that we could not reach definite understanding on occurrence of the event due to lack of shallow water information around the destroyed area especially bathymetric data. However, we are happy to note that we learned at the recent STAR session such data is now available as a survey result completed by the SOPAC project, and feel that we could complete our studies to understand what was the origin and nature of such a catastrophic tsunami through detail modeling with new data.

Other major scientific research in the South Pacific region is physical oceanographic study which provide us fundamental understanding of the nature of the sea. When we could properly obtain such basic scientific information, we would be in a position to enjoy every benefit from the ocean. Ocean observation is the key but labouri-

ous exercises. Deploying mooring buoys and Argo floats are our means to collect day bay day data of ocean conditions to establish ocean data sets. We express our thanks to SOPAC countries for their kind understanding and active participation in our research projects. We try our utmost to cooperate with SOPAC countries to contribute their development plan through our scientific research and to provide opportunities of building capacities in marine scientific research for their young professionals.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation continues to work closely with SOPAC's Community Risk Programme on the design, development and delivery of training courses, national exercises and other capacity building activities for the Pacific Island countries under the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme (PDRMP). Since this USAID/OFDA-funded training programme was set up in 1995 as the regional training component to the South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme (SPDRP) significant achievements have been made. The overall programme goal to reduce vulnerability of Pacific Island Communities to disasters by building sustainable regional, national, and community level disaster management capacity in key countries through enhanced training, improved advocacy, and strengthened local institutions has had much success. Six training courses have been developed for the region with four adapted to meet country specific training requirements. The courses have also been acknowledged through a mapping exercise for recognition of prior learning (RPL) to a graduate certificate in disaster management at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australian.

The PDRMP continues through to May 2008 and at this stage it is unclear what level of funding support will be available to continue the training given the completion of OFDA's financial support under the current arrangements.

Through the SOPAC Director, the Manager of the Community Risk Programme and the Foundation's Programme Director options are being considered to identify future support for this important program element which falls under Theme 2 of the Pacific Framework for Action 2005-2015 (Regional DRM Framework): Knowledge, Information, Education and Awareness.

The Asia Foundation/Office of US Foreign Disaster

Assistance (TAF/OFDA) is a founding member of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network which was established in February 2006 in a response to a call by Pacific leaders for support for the implementation of the Regional DRM Framework. TAF/OFDA was also instrumental in forming the Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) in 2003 with other Suva-resident training partners SOPAC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the UN-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Notable programme accomplishments over the past twelve months have been noted in the Manager/CRP's report to the Council. Through the PDRMP, as implemented by the Foundation, capacity development continues to be supported through trainings conducted at both regional and national levels:

- Introduction to Disaster Management (IDM)
- Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)
- Exercise Management (ExMan)
- Emergency Operations Centres (EOC)
- Risk Programme Management (RPM)
- Training for Instructors (TFI)

In addition to the training courses, the PDRMP has worked in a number of countries to assist the development of exercises for the testing of national plans, procedures, and arrangements dealing with a range of management issues for disasters and emergencies.

On-going challenges and opportunities include:

- Continuing assistance, in association with SOPAC, for countries to deliver training and develop a cadre of trainers for each country. These initiatives will enable countries to carry out national, provincial and community level training utilizing a number of the courses (IDM, IDA, TFI, EOC).
- Coordinating with other development partners in areas of mutual interest to ensure a coordinated approach to emergency and disaster management in any one country.
- Investigating ways to ensure the PDRMP course products are institutionalized at the regional and/or national levels.
- Continuing to encourage, through the ongoing support of SOPAC, qualified Pacific candidates to take up Graduate Certificate studies offered through Swinburne University of Technology. This follows the successful mapping of the TAF/OFDA courses by the institution in 2003.

- In association with SOPAC, continued dialogue with the University of the South Pacific on the establishment of a Graduate Certificate course in Disaster Risk Management.

UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System

Intervention read by ITIC Director, Dr. Laura Kong, at Governing Council, 27 Nov 2007

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chair, Madame Director, Council Members.

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the UNESCO IOC, Dr. Patricio Bernal, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate and contribute to your meeting. The IOC, through its Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS), has since 1965, coordinated the international tsunami warning system, which provides early warnings to national authorities of PTWS Member States and other Pacific countries within 10-15 minutes of the earthquake's occurrence.

The system is built upon strong multi-lateral co-operation and open sharing of observational and evaluated data to enable continuous monitoring of large earthquakes and sea levels in order to confirm destructive tsunami waves. The system equally emphasizes the critical importance of effective National Tsunami Response Plans that can be immediately activated when warnings are issued in order to save lives by evacuating people from coastal areas.

Throughout this, SOPAC has been a regional partner for the IOC PTWS linking, under the Hyogo Framework for Action and now the PIC Regional Framework and Early Warning Strategy, the building of risk knowledge, monitoring and warning guidance, alert dissemination, and emergency response and awareness building to guard against tsunamis. The International Tsunami Information Centre (which I represent as its Director), as the IOC's capacity building focal point for the Pacific, very much appreciates SOPAC's valuable and essential supporting role to assist PIC countries to build a sustainable national early warning system for tsunamis and all natural hazards.

Yesterday, I participated to the Ad Hoc Regional Tsunami Working Group meeting chaired by Samoa and facilitated by the Community Risk Programme.

We are most encouraged on the comprehensive approach being taken, and I urge you to favourably endorse the recommendations from this meeting, and the one presently ongoing next door. We look forward to continuing to work directly with Member Countries of the Working Group for the future.

I would like to close by calling attention to the IOC as the acknowledged United Nations lead for the coordination of the global tsunami warning and mitigation system. Presently, the ICG/PTWS is comprised of 30 Member States throughout the Pacific Basin and western marginal seas. However, within the PIC, only Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and the USA are official members, and so a number of small island nations are, to date, not yet official members.

We thus, encourage all Pacific Island Countries to join the ICG/PTWS. This, [in] order to:

- take advantage of the benefits of international

coordination and support for receiving timely tsunami warnings;

- contribute and input as an official stakeholder to the continuous improvement of PTWS services and products to make them most useful to you, as national authorities; and
- participate to the trainings and other capacity building workshops organized by the ITIC for regional cross-learning and best practice sharing

During the last two weeks, you should have received an informational packet from the SOPAC CRP Secretariat on the IOC and ICG/PTWS, and during tea break, I'll be distributing further tsunami awareness materials of the ITIC. The packet includes information on how to join the PTWS system, which is simply through letter of request from your country to the IOC Executive Secretary and designation of a Tsunami National Contact and a Tsunami Warning Focal Point. I am also happy to answer questions directly.

Thank you very much for your time.

APPENDIX 5

STAR CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 2007

Honourable Chair of SOPAC, Excellencies, Distinguished National representatives and Delegation members, representatives of Institutions and Organisations, Director of SOPAC, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

I. Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity to formally report on STAR's activities.

Before I begin, though, Honourable Chairman, as Chair of STAR and speaking on behalf of all the scientists, may I thank our hosts, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga, for your warmth, welcome and hospitality. Kelepi Mafi is the person I have mostly dealt with and I am grateful for his hard work, but I know that there will be many others who have had a busy few weeks, and we thank you all sincerely.

Malo ipito

I would also like to respond to the warm words the Honourable Minister made about STAR this morning. His dedication of this meeting to Sione Tongilava took me back many years. Long ago, the first research that I did on a Pacific island other than New Zealand was here on Tonga'tapu. When I met Sione, it was only a few minutes before he made his comment "Please understand, English is only my second language and I am not a geologist but ..." and then proceeded to give an exposition on the geology of the Tonga Arc that was way above my level of understanding! So it is with respect that I remember him and with pleasure that I am again in Tonga on scientific matters.

As usual, STAR is indebted to staff of the SOPAC Secretariat for their cheerful and untiring efforts that make the meeting possible in the usual very short time frame. Vinaka. Thanks too to my colleagues for their presentations, chairing of sessions, support to the Chair, work on PMEGs and, in advance, contributions to the TAG sessions.

And so to STAR – As you all know, STAR is the Science, Technology and Resources Network associated with SOPAC. It is an informal grouping of scientists that acts as an interface between the SOPAC Secretariat and its member

nations and the international scientific community, and it does this in several ways. At intervals, an international scientific workshop or meeting may be convened by STAR, or held under its auspices, on a theme relevant to the SOPAC region. The Marine Benthic Habitats Meeting that took place in Noumea in May of this year, although not organised by STAR, was attended by many STAR members. STAR members also correspond and tender advice in the periods between the annual meetings. And I would like to stress here that STAR scientists have always been a resource freely available to you at any time, either directly from the relevant scientist or through myself as Chair.

Most obviously, each year a meeting at which scientific papers are presented and discussed, and thematic Working Groups meet, is held prior to this Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council. This year, the 24th meeting of STAR was held on November 22nd to 24th at this centre and was attended by some 120 scientists from around the world. In terms of presentations this meeting was, in fact, the largest STAR meeting to date.

II. STAR Presentations

As the Minister and the Director of SOPAC explained in their opening addresses this morning, the main theme of this year's STAR meeting was: "Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards, with particular respect to 1. Geoscience and the ECS Challenge and 2. Coastal Hazards and Protection".

Perhaps I could expand here on the rationale behind the themes of STAR. The theme is selected each year jointly by the host nation, the Director of SOPAC and myself. As the theme has the effect of attracting extra scientists working in that particular area, it is an opportunity to ensure that host nations get specialist knowledge in areas that interest them and that we can also bring new developments in science to the attention of the region.

Presentations on any theme related to Pacific geoscience are welcomed, though, and these give breadth to the meeting.

During the meeting, some 68 scientific papers were presented orally and many others by the

posters displaying research results, some of which you see displayed around this centre. Abstracts of these are published in SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 650. As is always the case for STAR meetings, the information presented covered a broad range and I recommend the volume of abstracts as a guide to the material covered and as a source of much useful information.

The Honourable Minister and the Director of SOPAC both discussed the STAR programme in their addresses this morning and I do not need to repeat their comments. But let me very briefly outline the scope of the presentations for you, simply to indicate the variety and relevance. The opening sessions dealt with the Extended Continental Shelves issue, covering not only the background geoscience and the positions reached by some of the member nations but also the processes involved in having submitting applications and having them approved. The latter information was extremely valuable for members of those delegations yet to advance this issue in New York and nicely integrated geoscientific, political and procedural aspects of this important issue. And closely linked to these sessions were papers discussing offshore mining along plate boundary zones in the region.

Other sessions dealt with shallow marine and coastal processes, oceans and environments, tectonics and mining geology, and energy and resource economics. The Minister referred to the importance of aggregates and erosion, and these have been an important subject at STAR meetings for very many years. In contrast, the papers on resource economics developed a theme first introduced at STAR meetings 2 years ago (and we have received suggestions for more new topics for future meetings).

Finally, but certainly not least, major sessions covered water resources disaster risk reduction, and earthquakes and tsunamis. The importance of all these to the region has again been highlighted by the tragic events in member nations this year.

As usual, although many of the talks presented the results of experimental science, the potential applied aspects were either conveyed directly to the audiences during the talks or explored in ensuing discussions.

In addition to the session talks, a large number of posters containing research results and other data were presented and many of these are still around you on the walls of this conference centre.

III. Working Groups and Associated Meetings

In addition to the scientific presentations, a number of working groups also met – not so many this year as usual because of the other activities going on at about this time. These working groups offer an important opportunity for STAR delegates to bring to the attention of Council items of particular scientific and technical importance to the region.

This year, working groups met to discuss energy and water issues and marine benthic habitats.

I will not report in detail on their deliberations here but the full documents with supporting arguments for the conclusions will be appended to this report (see attachment to this report).

The members of the Energy and Water Working Groups met as a joint group and made several comments and recommendations:

1. They noted and supported the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA to re-establish the PWA in Samoa including preparatory activities such as the re-establishment of the membership and review of the PWA Constitution prior to the 7th Annual General Meeting of the PWA in September 2008.
2. They supported the concept of a community based approach that utilised the widest range of skill sets, and recommended that the technical tools (i.e. NIWA stream health monitoring kit – Pac SHMAK) incorporating water and renewable energy should be developed, Pacificised and where necessary tailored to individual countries. Relevant components of regional programmes and initiatives such as the SOPAC – IWRM project could be used as the vehicle or platform to deliver these tools to communities through appropriate partnerships. Further, they supported the need for pilot projects, capacity building and information exchange so as to ensure sustainability of such community based initiatives.
3. They noted the successful convening of the REM2007 & PEMM2007 by SOPAC in the Cook Islands, the resulting Ministerial Declaration and Communiqué and the initiative taken by SOPAC in the coordination and implementation of components of the Communiqué as relevant. They endorsed the need to strive for cheaper petroleum products, the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through the development of new and renewable energy sources, the

need to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the need for a champion, increased commitment and political will from PIC governments. They further supported the proposal to convene an Energy Ministerial in 2009 and the objective of getting energy on the FEMM agenda.

4. They recommended that SOPAC convene a subcommittee to develop a methodology that considers the inter-relationships between energy, water and climate variability for PICs and to scope out a practical approach and response supported through technology and science that will enable management plans to be developed that will directly contribute to long term sustainability.

The Habitat Working Group recommended:

1. That SOPAC continue to move ahead in its effort to characterize marine benthic habitats. As part of this effort cooperation with biologists and ecologists needs to be encouraged;
2. A pilot project for potential habitat mapping should be undertaken soon. An area within the SOPAC area where good high-resolution maps are available should be selected and a proto-typical map constructed so that mapping protocols can be established and recommendations made on how SOPAC should proceed in marine benthic habitat mapping; and
3. In addition, it was pointed out that shallow water mapping needs to be considered and the use of satellite imagery, which is readily available, be utilized to map these areas.

Associated with the STAR Meeting were meetings of:

- ICG/PTWS Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South-West Pacific Ocean (report attached).
- Science and Technical Experts Working Group Meeting on Paleo-earthquake and tsunami history of active plate margins within the Pacific Islands Region.
- Open Forum discussion of the Key Findings of IPCC Assessment Report 4.

2005 saw the introduction of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups. These groups of TAG scientists again met with SOPAC Programme Managers in Suva immediately prior to this STAR meeting. The PMEG Chair, Professor Gary Greene, will report in full on this process to Council later in the meeting.

VI. STAR Discussion of the Pacific Islands Regional Institutional Review

I would like now to turn to the issues arising from Paragraph 19 (b) in the Leaders' Communique from the Pacific Islands Forum (Council Agenda Item 11.1).

STAR scientists have spent much time discussing the implications of this both electronically before the meeting and in person here. There is considerable concern for the future of STAR, as it is closely linked to SOPAC.

A briefing paper including the history of the STAR/SOPAC relationship was circulated to delegates and discussed at the STAR Business Meeting, and the group voted unanimously for me to present the recommendations from it to you. These are included in your documents as AS36/11.1 Suppl. 2 and I would like to discuss one or two points from that paper now.

First of all, it is not appropriate for STAR to comment on the organisation or governance of SOPAC. That is the province of Council and of the leaders of the region. Our concern is solely with the continuation of the link between our voluntary organisation of international scientists and the efficient delivery of geoscience to the region.

We have had considerable discussion about the nature of that link between STAR and SOPAC (which, by the way, is a unique one) and what it is that each group gives to the other. You have heard comments on this already at the opening of this Council Meeting from the Honourable Ministers and the Director of SOPAC. There has also been much discussion amongst STAR, some of which is summarised in our discussion paper, and I am sure that more comment will arise.

Can I add my own perspective? I am always wary about using the tags "basic or experimental" and "applied" science, as the distinction is often not at all clear. Nonetheless, SOPAC is obviously an organisation charged with applying scientific and technical knowledge in practical solutions to perceived problems.

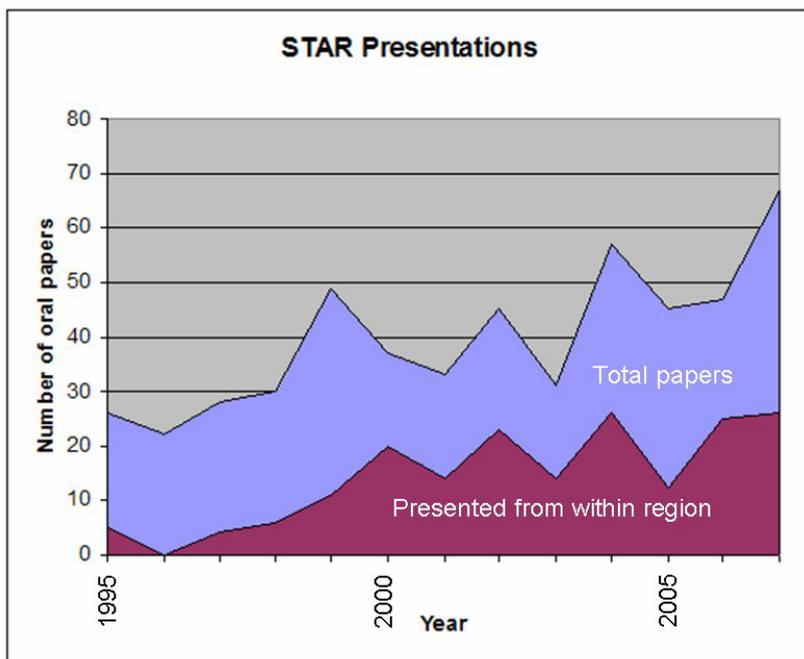
Why do I raise this? The world is facing two unprecedented and interconnected global crises – those of energy supply and environmental change. These will likely require new answers to problems that we don't yet know exist, and many of these solutions will come out of basic, not applied, research. The well known science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once said "The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is

not 'Eureka! (I've found it)' but 'That's funny...'. This recognition of something out of the ordinary is what eventually leads to new insights and solutions. And my own view, perhaps a simplistic one, of the value of STAR to SOPAC is that, as well as giving the access to equipment and experience and databases and ships and libraries that others have spoken about, it keeps SOPAC in touch with the people who say "That's funny.....".

I do not think that I need to go over all of the bullet points covering notes and comments the STAR document. Many Council members have attended STAR, raised questions with speakers and taken part in the discussions of research results. The working relationship between STAR and SOPAC has been endorsed by this Council a number of times. However, in this climate of change, let me expand on the important final three bullet points.

As the antepenultimate point notes, STAR acknowledges that change is inevitable. As you all know better than I, SOPAC has changed its focus over the years. But so also has STAR, partly to match SOPAC's needs but also to reflect both changing science and its own perception of how it might help the region. In this, STAR has been proactive – the most obvious example is the introduction of the PMEGs, which were a STAR initiative designed to improve the contribution of the Technical Advisory Groups. But there have been other, perhaps less obvious pushes too. As just one example, let me show you this graph:

One needs to be careful reading too much into this. Nonetheless, the overall trend in the growth of STAR meetings is clear. The graph



also shows the increase in presentations given by scientists based within the region that is something I have argued for to this Council on a number of occasions. It shows the increasing confidence within the wider scientific community of those scientists as a result of STAR's encouragement and gives them a springboard to the wider international stage. We seem to have around 40% of the papers presented from scientists based within the region, which I believe is about the right mix.

The second to last bullet point expresses the strong desire that a mechanism be found that will enable STAR and the benefits that it brings to the region to continue. I have mentioned the growth of STAR and I believe that with a little modification, if the region wished, the meetings could become one of the premier scientific conferences of the Pacific basin. That is an issue for my successor and could be seen as either a good or a bad thing, but it would bring more expertise into the region. Yet the attributes that give STAR its strength, its lack of a formal structure, its eclectic membership and independence, could also be a fatal weakness. Without the interaction with in-island scientists and the ability of its members to contribute their expertise to the region in their own way, STAR could very easily and very abruptly disappear.

That brings me to the final conclusion. If Council wishes, the senior scientists here are willing to provide whatever advice and support we can to Council in its deliberations over this issue.

That concludes my address. Thank you.

John Collen
Chair, Science Technology and Resources Network (STAR); Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, 26 November 2007

The STAR Chair's full report with appendices is on the CD that accompanies this Proceedings volume; paper AS36/6.2 Revised.

The STAR Statement on its discussion on the Regional Institutional Framework agenda item on the SOPAC Governing Council meeting is on CD as paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary 2.

ATTACHMENT

Minutes of STAR Working Groups & Associated Meeting(s)

1. Habitats Working Group

The Habitats Working Group met in Tonga November 24th and discussed the need and interest to characterize marine benthic habitats in the SOPAC region. Considerable interest was given to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and how this could be accomplished in the region.

It was noted that within the Ocean and Islands Programme (OIP) of SOPAC capacity and data (e.g., multibeam sonar bathymetry and backscatter data) exists that can be used to construct habitat maps. The group felt that construction of such maps would be a first step in identifying potential habitats and subsequently used as a base for biological and ecological data.

It was pointed out that an initiative called "The Micronesian Challenge" has been developed to conserve valuable habitats and under initiatives mandate 30% of nearshore areas are to be established as MPAs in many countries of Micronesia. The working group felt that if such effort were to be successful habitat maps should be constructed. The working group felt that SOPAC and STAR scientists could contribute to this effort and that SOPAC Secretariat could facilitate such effort.

The working group noted that biologists and ecologists are now starting to participate in STAR and encourages synergy between geoscientists and biologists. It was noted that an interest exists by the STAR scientists to cooperate with other disciplines to initiate marine benthic habitat characterization and mapping in the SOPAC region.

The regional interest in marine benthic habitat characterization was noted to be increasing and in hosting the GeoHab 2007 International Conference in Noumea last May New Caledonia took the opportunity of demonstrating its experience in EEZ governance. The GeoHab conference, co-sponsored by SOPAC, the CPC, OIC, NIWA, GNS Science, Australia and other organizations that was attended by 120 participants from 23 countries enabled a regional update both actions and ideas regarding marine habitats and environments that have arisen over the last 10 years, since the previous regional meeting held in Noumea in 1997.

Recommendations:

The working group recommends that SOPAC continue to move ahead in its effort to characterize marine benthic habitats. As part of this effort cooperation with biologists and ecologists needs to be encouraged.

A pilot project for potential habitat mapping should be undertaken soon. An area within the SOPAC area where good high-resolution maps are available should be selected and a proto-typical map constructed so that mapping protocols can be established and recommendations made on how SOPAC should proceed in marine benthic habitat mapping.

In addition, it was pointed out that shallow water mapping needs to be considered and the use of satellite imagery, which is readily available, be utilized to map these areas.

Participants:

James Bell, Victoria University, Wellington, <james.bell@vuw.ac.nz>

Jonathan Gardner, Victoria University, Wellington, <jonathan.gardner@vuw.ac.nz>

Mike Gawel, Guam EPA, <Mike.Gawel@guamepa.net>

Gary Greene, MLML/Tombolo, <greene@mlml.calstate.edu>

Jens Kruger, SOPAC, <jkruger@sopac.org>

Yves Lafoy, NC Government, <yves.lafoy@gouv.nc>

Susanne Pohler, USP, <pohler_s@uspac.fj>

Adele Whyte, Victoria University, Wellington, <Adele.whyte@vuw.ac.nz>

Energy and Water STAR Working Group

Working Group Members: Latu S Kupa (PWA / Samoa), Tevita Tukunga (Tonga), Barry Biggs (NIWA), Alistar Suren (NIWA), Taholo Kami (IUCN), Andre Siohane (Niue), Philip Kerlake (Samoa), Kisa Kupa (Kew Consult – Samoa), Lameko Talia (Samoa), Stewart Burn (CSIRO), Tevita Fatai (ANU-Australia), Tony Neil (PPA), Kifle Kashai (USP), Mathais Kleppen (SOPAC), Paul Fairbairn (SOPAC), Anare Matakiviti (SOPAC).

Facilitator: Latu S Kupa, Interim Executive Director, Pacific Water Association

Rapporteur: Paul Fairbairn, Manager Community Lifelines Programme, SOPAC

Introduction

SOPAC in convening the Energy & Water Working Group of STAR opened the meeting, welcomed representatives and called nominations for a Chair. Mr Latu S Kupa, Interim Executive Director, Pacific Water Association took up the challenge, established an agenda based on four (4) key areas and identified a drafting committee of five (5).

Working Group Report & Recommendations

The members of the STAR Energy and Water Working Groups met as a joint group and agreed that the following report and recommendations should be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for the benefit of the Community Lifelines Programme (CLP) and individual Member Countries.

In making the report the following summary has been provided by SOPAC on the status of issues previously raised in the Energy Working Group report for 2006.

1. In implementing the Pacific Islands Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) Communiqué the following had been addressed.
 - a) Assessment of the level of integration of energy policies into National Strategic Development Strategies (NSDS) had been completed and notes that where energy policies existed and where energy had been integrated into NSDSs that the energy sector was further progressed than where there was not the same level of integration. Hence increased effort was now being made to work with PICs to ensure energy was integrated into NSDSs.
 - b) The proposal for bulk purchasing of petroleum supplies was to be reviewed and further evaluated with a report prepared and available to Leaders by October 2008.
 - c) Noting the current continued increase in the price of fossil fuels reinforced the need for the identification of affordable, reliable renewable energy resources and technologies that could be utilised

to meet the growing demand for energy as well as to contribute to reducing PICs dependence on fossil fuels.

2. Responding on key issues and opportunities highlighted in 2006.
 - a) Funding from the EU Energy Facility for the extension of the PIEPSAP Project had been unsuccessful, however a 12 month extension had been approved and the project was now scheduled to end in August 2008.
 - b) A Regional Energy Officials (REM2007) and Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) were convened in April 2007.
 - c) Technical support had been provided to the New York based Pacific Island Missions during the preparatory phases and the CSD15 proper by SOPAC, SPREP and the PIFS. It was noted that there was not a negotiated text from the CSD15 due to the conflict in language between the climate and energy sectors.

The following items were discussed in detail.

3. Pacific Water Association (PWA)

An outline of the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA by the Interim Executive Director to re-establish the PWA was provided, where the re-establishment will be on the basis of the PWA Office being relocated from Suva, Fiji Islands to Apia, Samoa and review of the constitution including a new (reduced) fee structure.

Further it was explained that the PWA should focus on increasing the efficiency of Pacific water utilities, that there was the need to re-establish the membership (financially) before the proposed 7th Annual General Meeting (7-11 September 2008 – Apia, Samoa).

That the opportunity existed for recommencing benchmarking although noted as being a somewhat contentious activity, institutional strengthening for water utilities, supporting water demand management and leak detection, water quality, re-establishing the buddy system for technical support and the transfer of skills.

In support of the proposal, members of the Working Group were interested in commenting on the constitution, review of the objectives, identification of projects and their promotion

for water utilities and assigned responsibilities of the PWA and potential partners.

SOPAC was identified as a key partner immediately in consideration of the ongoing water sector activities being implemented within the CLP, as was the Pacific Power Association (PPA) in the future where the issue of merging the PWA and the PPA was discussed as an option but not considered feasible at present on the need for the PWA to be formally re-established and operating on financially sound basis.

CSIRO indicated that matters in relation to water services in PICs being considered in the Delphi Study could be further supported through hosting a workshop in September 2008 at the time of the 7th AGM for the PWA.

Recommendation

We note and support the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA to re-establish the PWA in Apia, Samoa including preparatory activities such as the re-establishment of the membership and review of the PWA Constitution prior to the 7th Annual General Meeting of the PWA in September 2008.

4. Community Based Interventions

An identified need for community based activities was noted where there was a particular focus on the perceived opportunity to improve the living standards of those in remote areas through building on existing initiatives where appropriate, so as to enhance activities in energy and water and the interrelationship of their development.

The stream health monitoring kit (Pac-SHMAK) developed by NIWA was used as an example of an appropriate tool for use in PIC communities where students from the Fiji Institute of Technology had been engaged as part of their studies to develop the indicators for evaluating streams within the Fiji context and conditions. Based on this methodology it was considered that a similar approach could be utilised in other PICs where appropriate sets of indicators could be developed for their country conditions. The development of country specific indicators also establishes as base group of technology focused people that then can be utilised for training the local communities. It was acknowledged that this was an example of an appropriate tool for use within the community context and that there were likely to be other similar tools that could be incorporated into a "Community Toolbox".

The community based approach was considered to be appropriate and would contribute to future sustainability as well as not only being useful in regard to monitoring water resources (streams etc) but also link closely to environmental issues and contribute to reinforcing/supporting existing structures although there was the need to identify relevant educators/partners/end users able to promote and train communities in the use of such tools.

Recommendation

We support the concept of community based approach where this should utilise the widest range of skill sets. That the technical tools (i.e. NIWA stream health monitoring kit – Pac SHMAK) incorporating water and renewable energy should be developed, Pacificised and where necessary tailored to individual country conditions. Relevant components of regional programmes and initiatives such as the SOPAC – IWRM project could be used as the vehicle or platform to deliver these tools to communities through appropriate partnerships. Further we support the need for pilot projects, capacity building and information exchange and building on existing community work so as to ensure sustainability of such community based initiatives.

5. Pacific Energy Ministerial Meeting (PEMM2007)

SOPAC provided an overview that a Regional Energy Officials (REM2007) and a Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) had been successfully convened in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in April 2007. A Ministerial declaration and communiqué from the PEMM2007 had been used as the basis for the preparation of a matrix of time bound activities for key CROP Agencies managing energy sector activities to implement and report against. SOPAC has taken a lead role in the development of the matrix and monitoring and reporting progress. Activities that fell within SOPACs areas of responsibility have been incorporated into the 2008 SOPAC Work Programme and note the recommendation that a further Energy Ministers meeting be convened by SOPAC in 2009. The over all objective of striving to get energy matters acknowledged as an imperative for economic development and on the agenda of the Pacific Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) was highlighted.

The working group highlighted that the continuing increase in the cost of petroleum

products was a concern and that there was the need to consider what other renewable energy resources are available for PICs through the sharing of information on technologies and successful experiences. The current work on evaluating the potential for bulk fuel purchasing by the PIFS was welcomed, in particular the time line of reporting back to Leaders by October 2008, as was the initiative of the PPA and the PIFS in investigating and understanding fuel price hedging and whether this offered and opportunity for PICs.

The working group further noted the increasing interest in energy efficiency, the need for governments to take the initiative in this area and make the necessary commitments, bearing in mind that fossil fuels for the region will still remain important and there is a need to reduce reliance. The PESTRAN project focusing on the transport sector is currently awaiting approval of GEF4 funding is a sub-regional initiative on energy efficiency however there remain a significant number of other opportunities in the area of appliance efficiency, building design and lighting etc. It was considered important that there was the need for a champion, increased commitment, political will and engagement to support these initiatives.

Recommendation

We note the successful convening of the REM2007 & PEMM2007 by SOPAC in the Cook Islands, the resulting Ministerial Declaration and Communiqué and the initiative taken by SOPAC in the coordination and implementation of components of the Communiqué as relevant. We endorse the need to strive for cheaper petroleum products, the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through the development of new and renewable energy sources, the need to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the need for a ministerial level champion to encourage increased commitment and political will from PIC governments and global partners. We further support the proposal to convene an Energy Ministerial in 2009 and the objective of getting energy on the FEMM agenda.

6. Energy, Water and Climate Variability

In general it was identified there was a need to have sufficient data and information be able to better understand the inter-relationship of the various sectors, in particular energy, water and climate. Where a coordinated approach would be required to ensure that there is a

detailed planning processes available allowing issues such as the future security in regard to adequate supplies of water, the potential areas of risk to be identified and as a result the ability for these within PICs to be able to be managed sustainably.

In regard to climate variability it was noted that there still remain a number of questions that need to be answered but it was felt necessary to take the initiative now to develop a concerted approach that establishes a process for planning for the future. It was acknowledged that there are a significant number of inter-linkages and relationships between energy, water and climate that require understanding. More specifically the true value of water now and in the future and implication of the increasing cost of petroleum products.

In regard to data and information it was acknowledged that there were benefits of having the ability to be flexible in adopting as appropriate a national or a regional approach, where it was noted that national approaches could possibly lead to duplication of efforts between PICs especially where data and information needs to be available to identify areas of risk.

Recommendation

SOPAC convene a sub-committee to develop a methodology that considers the inter-relationships between energy, water and climate variability for PICs and to scope out a practical approach and response supported through technology and science that will enable management plans to be developed that will directly contribute to long term sustainability.

REPORT(S) OF ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

A group of interested STAR participants met, briefed other participants on new initiatives and current issues in terms of Tsunami.

Ad Hoc Regional TWS STAR Working Group

Date: 26th November 2007

Progress needs to be made towards effective tsunami warning in the SW Pacific. Data and information availability when and where needed, and the added value of the membership of the IOC PTWC were the major topics discussed in this meeting.

The working group recommends:

- SOPAC to further support Pacific countries effort to become members of Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOC PTWS).
- SOPAC to be the secretariat for the ICG/PTWS South West Pacific Working Group for coordination of the activities of the working group and provide logistics support.
- SOPAC to consider additional capacity building in areas related to the analysis of warning communications, and “weak links” in the complete end-to-end system while focusing on in-country Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWS) warning interpretation.
- SOPAC member countries to improve sharing of information and data sources required for tsunami modelling, warning and awareness and consider upgrading of broadband internet options for this purpose. SOPAC secretariat to survey current internet access for PIC warning systems, and investigate of cost effective options for improving this sharing.
- SOPAC to help facilitate the signing of the bilateral MOUs between Australia and SOPAC member countries for installation/upgrading of seismic and sea level stations as part of the Australian Tsunami Warning System and the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project. (SPSLCMP IV).
- SOPAC member countries to activate the Intersessional Coordination Group of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation (ICG\PTWS) Working Group on Pacific Emergency Communications through PTWS Member States (Samoa). The WG focuses on issues such as the identification of technologies, development of arrangements for the transmission and receipts of tsunami warnings alerts create a communication equipment inventory and future outlook.

APPENDIX 6

PROGRAMME MONITORING EVALUATION GROUPS REPORTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

PMEG CHAIRS REPORT ON CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMME ISSUES

Background

The Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups (PMEG) were approved by Council at its 33rd Session in Fiji and began work in 2005 when it reported to the 34th Session in Apia. The PMEG members were elected for a three-year term following their nomination from the scientific and technical community and were to be experts with an interest, experience and knowledge of the region and of SOPAC and who were prepared to volunteer their services. The PMEGs are mandated to review three work programmes of SOPAC and to report to Council on the technical aspects of the work programmes and to bring to Council's attention issues that they believe would help strengthen these programmes and hence benefit the member States. It was noted during the 2006 review that this transparent process is not without risk and the SOPAC Directorate was congratulated for being prepared to engage such an open process. Now in the third year of review the PMEGs are completing their mandate and feel that this exercise has been beneficial, as the Secretariat and Council has constructively responded to concerns brought forward with actions being made on the recommendations.

From PMEG's reviews it has become apparent that SOPAC is an effective, hard-working, and dedicated organization that has an excellent "can-do" attitude. Not unlike many organizations of its size and mandates, SOPAC experiences problems that need addressing in order to maintain its effectiveness. Bringing attention to these problems has improved the effectiveness of SOPAC and improved upon its ability to deliver products. Thus, the PMEG review process has been healthy for the organization.

Cross-cutting Programme Issues:

1. Programme Development and Reporting

The 2006 PMEG report identified issues for presentation of the Work Plan to simplify and consolidate items, identify expected outputs and resources and integrate the EU projects across the three programme areas. While progress is

noted, particularly with integration of the EU projects, this remains an area requiring continuing development. The Work Plans continue to lack clarity on actions to be undertaken in the planning year (particularly for the large number of "on-going" tasks) and to be vague on outputs or deliverables for the year and the resources to be allocated. This makes for loose programme management and reporting and means the SOPAC intentions and outputs are not presented in a crisp and efficient manner. This creates a risk for the credibility of the organisation which in fact achieves a wide range of outputs. It is recommended the existing Work Plan format be developed to provide for this, including a reporting component.

2. SOPAC Outreach and Community Education Activity

It is clear that each Programme area develops considerable material for public education and publicity purposes which are often promulgated with a single Programme focus and opportunities to present to a wider audience with a strong integrated SOPAC brand are missed. It is recommended that this be addressed at a strategic level with a full management team focus.

3. SOPAC Management Systems Development

With the significant increase in attracting competitive funding, it is apparent that SOPAC would now benefit from the development of organisation-wide operational and strategic disciplines. These would provide a stronger base for developing and retaining skills and systems to support and provide credibility for responding to and delivering on these initiatives. Areas include ICT, strategic planning, staff development and retention, SOPAC website, information database development and "customer" contact interfaces.

4. SOPAC Brand and Web Site Development (Streamlining)

SOPAC is a respectable and well known international organization that needs greater visibility through the Ethernet. SOPAC is now doing a

better job of marketing itself to member countries, but it could do more. It is informing members of accomplishments, database and knowledge available as well as services SOPAC can provide. PMEG notes that within the last few months the new communications assistant has taken the initiative to prepare video-graphs, documentaries, and to conduct press conferences, in conjunction with SOPAC events, in the various member countries. However, the SOPAC Website needs urgent attention to be re-designed to make it more user friendly, helpful and should be regularly updated. As a repository of diverse geological, geophysical and bathymetric datasets, it needs to establish a clear and concise route in which data can be accessed through its web portal.

5. Future Reviews

PMEG feels that the annual reviews of SOPAC's Work Programme is good governance and recommends that Council continues the effort. In addition to reviewing the Work Programme, PMEG agrees with the suggestion that it be involved in the mid-term or the 2005-2009 Strategic Plan. PMEG notes and supports the intention of SOPAC to include an in-country representative on each of the PMEGs.

6. Paragraph 19b (of Forum Leaders' Communiqué 2007 – "19b or not to be, that's the question?")

The meaning of paragraph 19b is not clear to the PMEG. As written no specifics are given to how "rationalization" is to take place or what is envisioned for "improving quality of service", "improving effectiveness of delivery", "more effective management of limited resources", and "good governance". This in no way means that PMEG is in disagreement with the paragraph, just that we do not know what the process would be for such "rationalization". In fact, we believe that if done properly, such reorganizations and organizational combinations can be a healthy exercise that could provide improved services. But, done without a clean and succinct process in mind, destructive fragmentation can occur.

As perceived to date fragmentation appears to be the goal, and this has the potential of member countries losing, not gaining, services and products. To avoid taking away from countries, we respectfully suggest that a process for the rationalization be clearly designed and communicated. We understand that this may take time, but we do not understand any need to rush into such action when dire consequences for the organization and the countries are at hand. As a

matter of experience, PMEG feels that to proceed with the RIF, time needs to be allocated for the development of the rationalization process.

One specific thing not clear is, as it reads SOPAC is the only organization that is evidently being rationalized or combined with other organizations. PMEG wonders why this is the case and why not are the other organizations (e.g. SPC, SPREP) not considered in a like fashion? Of importance to the proposed rationalization is that SOPAC has been undergoing a comprehensive internal review of its activities by PMEG in the past three years, which is publicly and freely available. Serious and candid reviews and recommendations for internal alterations and external cooperation with other regional organizations were made. We wonder if similar activities have been made by the other organizations mentioned above and if so, if these reviews should not be compared with SOPAC reviews to better construct the fragmentation of SOPAC.

We understand that our reviews, if taken in the wrong way, can be used to the detriment of SOPAC. PMEG did not write these reviews for this purpose, conversely the reviews were written to constructively improve the organization. Our latest review, even in light of paragraph 19b, was undertaken to constructively suggest improvements for the organization. We think it healthy to do such reviews and respectfully suggest that these reviews be used in the rationalization process.

In light of paragraph 19b, PMEG is concerned about external perceptions of the present review process. Even though PMEG is comprised of external expertise that have been associated with SOPAC in some manner in the past, it has undertaken the reviews objectively, and at times has been particularly severe in its comments. However, these reviews can be perceived as friendly reviews undertaken to protect the organization. Based on this possible perception, and for the maintenance of credibility of PMEG, we have suggested to the Secretariat, and here request Council, to consider engaging a review of PMEG and SOPAC activities by an independent external reviewer. We are confident that such a review would be positive.

Further, in regard to fragmentation and its potential to disband and scatter valuable SOPAC resources, PMEG would like to point out what it sees as unique beneficial programmes for its member countries. SOPAC has inherited community risk activities that no other organization has stepped up to run. It is proficient in mapping the sea floor and has a capacity to produce bathymetric maps, supply data for navigational purposes, assist countries in defining their national boundaries, providing community lifeline

support, and assisting countries in their assessment of resources, both through exploration and economically. However, this and much more in SOPAC's Work Programme stand to be lost if the right process for rationalization is not prepared and implemented correctly.

Even now, the uncertainty in the future is starting to impact SOPAC. This has serious consequences on the organization's ability and will to move ahead. Although, through time SOPAC has generated a tremendous advocacy network of donors and other organizations, has amassed a critical mass of in-house technical expertise, has a strong credibility, enjoys diverse and expensive international support, and has an invaluable scientific knowledge base in STAR and TAG that is irreplaceable, these elements could be lost to member countries if improper rationalization occurs. SOPAC is financially healthy with a \$FJ30 million budget that is increasing and has a multidisciplinary staff that addresses problems in a systems approach, which can be lost through poor rationalization. The question should be "what is to be gained by the RIF?" SOPAC is a known entity and its disappearance may not benefit the Pacific island nations it serves.

Finally, PMEG does not want Council to think we are butting into a political arena that is of no business to us. We respectfully bring attention to this matter solely to provide Council with facts and considered thought that may be of use to you while considering the ramifications of paragraph 19b. We would hope that time could be provided to outline a clear process of fragmentation that would assure your respective countries of not losing services and products that are of value to you, and that implementation of the process start soon so adverse impacts to SOPAC can be kept to a minimum. (The PMEG Statement with respect to para. 19b of the Forum Leaders' Communique 2007 is also released as paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary 3 on the CD enclosed in this volume).

Programme Evaluation Groups 2007

Ocean & Islands Programme

Gary Greene (Chair)
Peter Harris
Jo Buleka

Community Risk Programme

John Norton

Community Lifelines Programme

Kifle Kahsai (Chair)
Sam Taufao
Utu Abe Malae

PMEG REPORT ON THE OCEAN & ISLANDS PROGRAMME

Introduction

The OIP PMEG met from 14-19 November 2007 for its third review of the Oceans and Islands Programme. The first and second reviews were conducted in September 2005 and 2006. Terms of References used for this (third) review were finalized prior to the second review (see Appendix for Terms of References). The review process included analyses of presentations made by OIP technical staff (selected by the Programme Manager), interviews of these scientists and technicians, examination of reports, maps and official publications including new and emerging issues and discussions with the Programme Manager and SOPAC's Director and Deputy Director. We found that all requests for information to be in full cooperation.

The primary objective of the OIP PMEG was to review the SOPAC OIP Work Programme for continuity, deliverability, and weaknesses. Similar to the other reviews, we also assessed crosscutting issues such as overall management, financial services, logistical support and synergy between programmes. These crosscutting issues were developed through open and candid discussions between the three different PMEG teams. All aspects of the programme were reviewed in the context of the SOPAC Strategic Plan, OIP PMEG 2006 recommendations, and the SOPAC OIP 2007 Work Programme. Overall, it appears that OIP is making significant progress in addressing the concerns, and implementing the recommendations, of the last (second) PEMG review and that significant advancement is being made in the production of reports, maps and data accessibility. Morale is good. Staff appear enthusiastic and positive about working at SOPAC and satisfied with the working environment SOPAC provides. However, some concerns have been expressed about the future of SOPAC based on paragraph 19b of the latest Forum report (to be addressed separately, and more specifically, at the end of this report). In light of paragraph 19b PMEG decided that its role should also be investigated and reported upon by an independent and external examiner (addressed in more detail below).

As per the preceding reviews, this report has been divided into four segments: 1) Successes, 2) Concerns, 3) New and Emerging Initiatives, and 4) Recommendation. Although we attempted to undertake a critical review, our report is submitted as a constructive instrument designed to assist improving the SOPAC organization.

Successes

- The OIP PMEG was pleased to find that high morale and enthusiasm existed within the programme. Everyone interviewed said they were happy working at SOPAC and liked the intellectual and collegial intercourse that the organization provided.
- Impressive progress has been made in the last year on the recommendations made during the last review and the OIP PMEG is pleased with the actions taken in regard to concerns and recommendations.
- In spite of the fact that the previous OIP Programme Manager, a well-liked and efficient manager, left abruptly and that present management is under an Acting Programme Manager who has significant scientific responsibilities, attention to the Work Programme is being addressed in a sincere and professional manner with significant progress being made.
- It is very apparent that SOPAC's initiatives in economics, policy and law have added value to the technical and scientific products of the programme and are contributing to significant usefulness of these products by addressing the needs of other than science sectors of governments.
- The OIP PMEG is pleased to notice the progress made in updating and replacement of hardware and software within the programme as recommended in previous reviews.
- The production of bathymetric maps is particularly impressive, as are the maps that address Maritime Boundaries. These efforts are contributing valuable and significant products to the region and the effort appears to be progressing in a very professional manner.
- Resource studies in the form of aggregate assessments for various Member Countries of SOPAC is commendable and contributes handsomely to SOPAC's list of successes. A positive aspect is that environmental aspects have been included in the economic analysis of aggregate extraction activities, reflecting better the true cost of the industry to PICs.
- The South Pacific Sea Level (SL) and Climate Monitoring project exemplifies the value of linking technical capabilities with communication skills and knowledge of local issues. The project involves providing assistance with installation of tide-gauges and DGPS stations on PICS along with providing explanations of the possible effects of SL change to local communities and assistance with PICs engaged in negotiations over claims of damage caused by climate change. The project was moved from SPREP to Forum to SOPAC, because SOPAC was better equipped with technical capabilities.
- Good team approaches that address not just specific topical or geographic problems, but regional and multidisciplinary problems, as well, have been implemented. Through this team work of sharing and assisting in tasks, the donors and Member Countries of SOPAC are benefiting two-fold, or more, and getting more for less in meeting contractual obligations.
- Data management and distribution, while presently under development, are being addressed and significant progress in these areas is noted.
- Of particular significance is the fact that SOPAC is financially healthy with potential to substantially grow and is now at 109 staff strong with 27 of those staff in OIP.

Concerns

- Although improvements have occurred, accounting processes still appear to be slow and cumbersome. Specifically, it appears that multiple signatures and approvals need to be obtained before funds are released and time is wasted in requiring bids or itemized costs for the procurement of low-priced items.
- Cumbersome internal sign-off processes are impeding the release of reports. This inability to release reports and other products in a timely fashion is impacting SOPAC's image as an entity that delivers.
- Many reports are still in need of thorough editing.
- Datasets, reports, and maps remain difficult to find and access on SOPAC's web page. In short, SOPAC's web site is archaic, out-of-date, and not easy to navigate through.
- IT services appear to be fragmented in its obligation to internally serve SOPAC staff and meet external demands, although we understand that an internal review of IT has been completed and is in the process of implementation.

- Charging OIP staff for map printing may result in sub-standard maps being released, as staff may view the charge of \$85FJ per map as prohibitive for printing drafts. Map production is a major part of OIP and it should not be used to subsidize the general budget.
- Metrics need to be established for evaluation of outputs.
- A protocol should be established for evaluating outcomes and adhered to.
- Communications need improvement as little or no staff meetings are being held. This could be a function of the replacement process now underway for the Programme Manager.
- Synergy between the three programmes (OIP, CLP, and CRP) of SOPAC still needs improvement, although some progress has been made.
- Some staff without appropriate formal training in advanced SCUBA diving are currently carrying out scientific diving. This could be an Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risk for SOPAC.
- Staff still find it difficult to obtain time to publish scientific papers. As an agency that depends on the reputation and quality of its science publications and staff to attract funding, SOPAC could improve its profile by encouraging staff to publish key outputs in the mainstream scientific literature.
- Specialist technical people (physical oceanographic and tsunamis modellers) are isolated in Fiji and need to be given opportunities to interact with their peers in order to be able to provide the most up-to-date thinking in their scientific discipline. Loss of the expertise will render the expensive computer software in house as useless to SOPAC. There is a need to have this type of work (modelling) reviewed by peers and a need to establish links with persons having similar expertise in the region.
- Lack of publicity is impacting SOPAC's exposure as a productive regional organization.
- Job security is an issue among most of the staff. SOPAC risks loss of critical skills as many people are on short-term (~1 yr) contracts and under present conditions (i.e., Forum paragraph 19b) may not wait until their contract expires before seeking employment elsewhere.
- Succession planning for staff is an issue for SOPAC, as key skills are not replicated among two or more persons in many instances.
- A view was expressed that EU funds should have been used to equip PICs with basic equipment needed to carry out aggregate assessments (sieves, GPS units, etc.). It seems reasonable that perhaps one or two labs could be established to service these needs, as recommended in the SOPAC Aggregate Workshop held in Suva in 2006.
- The Maritime Boundaries project is an excellent example of a project based on technical capability delivering an essential service to PICs. This project was transferred from FFA to SOPAC in 2001 because SOPAC was better equipped with technical capabilities. Significant outcomes include the gain of an extra 700 km² of EEZ by Fiji when overlooked islands were included. Although there is clearly a need for several years of work ahead to assist PICs with claims for extended continental shelves, there is no resourced programme plan in place.
- It appears that the full cost of potential environmental degradation is not always considered in economic assessments of resource extraction studies and PMEG thinks more effort should be given to this aspect.

New and Emerging Issues

- Marine benthic habitat characterization and mapping is an emerging field that SOPAC OIP is well positioned to contribute to in the Pacific island region. SOPAC co-sponsored a major international conference on habitat mapping with the GeoHab organization, the government of New Caledonia and the Circum-Pacific Council that took place in Noumea, NC in May 2007. Results of this conference showed that SOPAC has the technical ability to start producing habitat and other thematic maps that would benefit other regional organizations (e.g., FFA, SPC, SPREP) and the PICs in their assessment and management of marine (living and non-living) resources. Through contacts made by SOPAC staff in Noumea, the STAR network, and donor country representatives and external scientific agencies (e.g., CSIRO, GA, GNS Science, NIWA, GeoHab), SOPAC has the ability to organize and support a major regional habitat mapping effort.
- We noted that under the Sea Level and Climate Change project that SOPAC is

pushing ahead with the maintenance of tide gauges and the communication and advocacy of project results that will help PICs evaluate the rate of SL change. This is a worldwide problem and an emerging field that SOPAC should stay engaged with.

- We noted that PI-GOOS is now interfacing with data archiving and distribution and that proposed monitoring of physical oceanographic and chemical parameters is necessary for understanding changes in the oceanographic environment.
- We noted that the Maritime Boundaries project is coming to a close and although the draft maps of the various boundaries will be completed there is much to do after this in respect of advocacy to negotiate shared boundaries and to declare 200 mile EEZ limits. In addition, support of efforts by coastal States to prepare their extended continental shelf submissions is needed. SOPAC is well positioned to follow-up on the initial effort and could provide final maps that will not only be useful for legal descriptions of boundaries but could be used to support claims for extended continental shelves under the Law of the Sea and to identify habitats and resources of PICs.
- We noted that much of the bathymetric data being collected by SOPAC is of a standard that may be used for charting purposes and that the project is in contact with regional agencies charged with providing safe navigational charts. However, a formal arrangement should be made between SOPAC and PIC maritime authorities to collect data at IHO standard if SOPAC is to provide data for navigational charting purposes.
- We are pleased to note that SOPAC has initiated physical and tsunamis modeling projects that can substantially contribute to the understanding of habitats, geohazards, and groundwater intrusion problems.
- As a major geoscience and oceanographic data provider for the Pacific Islands region, SOPAC needs to forge ahead in providing a service to the regional community, as this effort will fill a need that is basically unavailable within the region.

Recommendations

- To improve communications within OIP and the Secretariat we recommend that regular programme staff meetings be scheduled. In

addition, we suggest that occasionally, but at some regular interval, meetings be held between all staff, programme managers, and the administration.

- Although no habitat maps have been constructed yet, we encourage moving ahead with this effort and recommend that along with multibeam bathymetry, satellite imagery be included in the mapping efforts of shallow water areas.
- We recommend that processing of the multibeam sonar backscatter data be undertaken with the intent of producing backscatter mosaics by the time of the next review. We understand that efforts have been made to secure software for this undertaking, but no products have been produced as yet and that an offer exists with NIWA of New Zealand to assist in this effort.
- To alleviate the publications roadblock we recommend that an editor or editorial staff be assigned within OIP to assist the Programme Manager in assuring professional and clearly written reports will be produced at SOPAC in a timely manner.
- We recommend that OIP engage TAG and STAR scientists in an external review process for the publication of technical reports. A list of scientist with their expertise can be formulated and used to route publications for review. This can be done as early as the 36th Session of SOPAC.
- We are concerned that the good work of SOPAC is not getting the exposure that it deserves. We, therefore, recommend that the website be updated as soon as possible even if it requires a contractor to do the work.
- We note with pleasure that a media officer has been added to the SOPAC staff and recommend that she assures that SOPAC's products are well publicized so that SOPAC, rather than other agencies, gets credit.
- To make SOPAC more responsive to its clients, we recommend that SOPAC establish metrics to judge the quality and uptake of its outputs. These metrics could consist of funds raised, publications produced, surveys made, hits on websites, economic and policy added value reports, client requests for reports or data, etc.
- We are concerned with the lack of adequate training for SCUBA diving work undertaken by some staff. We recommend that SOPAC arrange for the training of these personnel

as soon as possible, as a matter of safety and responsibility.

- Although a “SOPAC Staff Manual” that describes the day-to-day procedures to book travel, request leave, and other such normal activities exists digitally, this manual instructions on how to access this manual needs to be provided to all new employees.

PMEG REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY LIFELINES PROGRAMME

Review Team: Dr Kifle Kahsai, USP, Fiji (Chair); Sam Taufao, SPC, New Caledonia; and Utu Abe Malae, Development Bank of American Samoa.

The Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) met for two days, November 15–16, 2007 with staff of the Community Lifeline Programmes (CLP) of SOPAC. However, the limited time allotted precluded a detailed analysis of the work programmes and in-country outcomes. Many of the key technical staff members were on travel at the time of the review.

As noted the previous year, the CLP maintains an ambitious work programme that is more productive thanks, in part, to increases in resources: staffing in CLP has increased from 29 in 2006 to 33 in 2007. The challenge of managing the resources effectively will carry on to 2008.

Some examples from the work programme that contribute to the strategic outcomes for SOPAC are highlighted. Examples from each of the components follow:

Information & Communications Technology

PMEG commends CLP on the internal review and proposed ICT restructuring to better service its outreach responsibility and secondly, the operational functions to support the secretariat itself. SOPAC is encouraged to work even harder on its corporate-wide Information Management (IM) strategic plan raised as one of the cross-cutting issues in PMEG 2006. There are cost implications which need to be sorted out and additional fine tuning to determine whether separating ICT as a corporate function under Executive, or if keeping it under CLP, would be more practical and effective. PMEG notes the 2008 mid-term review of the overall SOPAC strategic plan and recommends that ICT be addressed among the priority areas.

‘GIS/Remote Sensing’ is part of the ICT outreach programme. This includes ‘capacity supplementation’ to small countries where costs of hardware and software, as well as their maintenance, can be cost prohibitive for individual countries. SOPAC can provide the expertise and support for such services in a more cost effective way. For example: (a) Kiribati has aerial photographs that have deteriorated because of contamination by coral dust. SOPAC has a scanner it operates and maintains to scan such important documents for Kiribati; (b) Purchase and use of satellite data for mapping is made available to all member countries now through SOPAC; (c) SOPAC is the focal point for high resolution data from companies that own the satellites; and (d) Main GIS users in countries are utilities and public works. SOPAC keeps backups of their data which can be used for future editing and related requests for assistance.

Since the last PMEG review, CLP has consolidated all its in-country activities under the Digital Strategy. Thirteen countries now have an operational MAPServer – installation in the last African Caribbean Country (ACP). Marshall Islands should be completed by December. MAPServer can be a major opportunity for storage, use and dissemination of e-readiness survey reports SOPAC carried out for seven countries in 2007, and GIS/Remote Sensing data, as required by different sectors, such as for water harvesting which has been done in Nauru and Tuvalu.

Water & Sanitation

The water and sanitation area continues to make major headway compared to the previous year with the addition of four technical staff members, the development of work plans for member countries; coordination of training in wastewater; water quality training for laboratory technicians; hydrological survey and monitoring support services as well as the completion of water resource assessment in four countries and rainwater harvesting GIS surveys. In-house training on gender awareness and analysis of IWRM issues.

The Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS) work plans have been developed for all 14 member countries. The newly constituted HYCOS team has involved relevant stakeholders and now has a draft combined implementation with annexes for each country. The flood forecasting monitoring project for Rewa River has underscored the relevance of SOPAC to the host country of Fiji. In the atolls of the Pacific, major gaps and discontinuities in data collection ex-

ist and HYCOS has stepped in to correct such deficiencies.

Water demand management, water quality monitoring and drinking water safety have made gains in Niue, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and the FSM where the workshops were completed and well-attended. Moreover, the demand management training was linked with both water safety plans and water quality training. In the field, the use of data loggers in leak detection was demonstrated effectively in conserving water and energy (needed for pumping). It was noted in water quality (laboratory training) that SOPAC made a concerted effort to work with other organizations (such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency) to avoid duplication of efforts. Drinking water safety was implemented with a team of local stakeholders, rather than only the water utility.

The Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan for fourteen member countries is on target for submission to the Global Environmental Facility (GIF) in mid-2008. A challenge faced by the duo assigned to IWRM is managing the dynamics of SOPAC – donor relationship; one that requires SOPAC to in turn impose new conditions on the members.

The group is pleased to note that major progress has been done by CLP in water and sanitation developments in the member countries.

Energy

In April 2007, SOPAC hosted the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting, the first in sixteen years. It is a major achievement to note that nine national energy policies have been completed to date, some of them available in their own language such as "Samoa National Energy Policy 2007".

This year CLP has placed additional emphasis on energy economics, in addition to the scientific, social, environmental and engineering aspects of renewable energy. Issues such as to why earlier renewable energy projects failed or succeeded are now available for planning purposes. The available reports include: (a) The economic study on the solar photo-voltaic installation in Ha'apai, Tonga. This installation continues to operate successfully; and (b) The renewable projects in Mangaia, Solomons and Fiji, which were not assessed to be viable for different reasons.

A feasibility study of biofuel, from coconut resources in Rotuma, was completed in 2007. The conclusions are that Rotuma has sufficient, sustainable supply of coconuts to meet diesel

demand and that the production of such fuel is indeed economically viable, environmentally compelling and technically feasible. A related report completed in 2007 on Liquid Biofuels address the technical problems of burning biofuels and their solutions based on experience over the last 25 years.

PMEG notes the substantial contribution by CLP to energy developments in island members and makes special commendations on the achievements with respect to national energy policies, an area highlighted in PMEG 2006.

From the suggestions made by the PMEG in 2006, we are pleased to see that additional professional employees are already on board in CLP. This was probably the single most important recommendation of 2006.

Recommendations

- PMEG recommends that SOPAC improve its relationship with other key partner agencies. SOPAC needs to continue to offer new information in exchange for practical, empirical data from the field. The corpus of scientific knowledge is being developed at SOPAC; other agencies such as the Pacific Power Association can benefit from this knowledge. The Group strongly recommends that SOPAC needs to form open and inclusive partnerships and network/coalitions with other regional and international organizations/agencies similar to the Water Programmes strategy.
- PMEG recommends that CLP staff report progress as a percentage of achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Plan, in order to make the results more quantifiable in the table of key indicators. Moreover, specific examples of accomplishments, as relayed by the scientists themselves to PMEG, need to be reflected in the report.
- SOPAC is now doing a better job of marketing itself to member countries, but it could do more. It is informing members of accomplishments, database and knowledge available as well as services SOPAC can provide. SOPAC Website needs urgent attention to be re-designed to make it more user friendly, helpful and should regularly updated.
- PMEG commends SOPAC for concentrating on the execution of its programmes rather than being distracted with the proposal ("Paragraph 19 b") to rationalize into one entity SOPAC, SPC and SPREP.

PMEG REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME

Review Team: John Norton, Norton Consulting Ltd, New Zealand (Chair). Unfortunately other members of the CRP PMEG Review Team were unable to attend. Apologies are noted from Wally Johnson and Stan Goosby.

Introduction

The CRP PMEG met with the SOPAC Director, Deputy Director and the CRP Programme Manager and all available staff over the period 15-17 and 19 November 2007. It was the first PMEG Review for the Programme Manager and also for the Chair. The review involved discussions with the Programme Manager and individual staff on the definition of the programme components, the process of the work development and the outputs achieved. The 2007 programme structure was reviewed for progress and for fit with the Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management. The Proposed Work Plan and Budget for 2008 was reviewed for the rationale of programme development and resourcing.

Twelve months into the role, the Programme Manager has established the relationship with the member countries at the NDMO level and is working to have countries develop initiatives and identify areas of support required from SOPAC. This approach is to be encouraged but requires a subtle leadership and advocacy to ensure in-country activity does not stall due to a lack of local initiative. There is some evidence of this noted below with a significant proportion of programme activities reported as “no action – awaiting request for support”. Member countries should note their responsibility, and accountability to their communities, to initiate progress on their CRP activities. It is noted that the Programme Manager is addressing this issue and some country initiatives are included in the 2008 Work Plan.

Universally the CRP staff were enthusiastic and passionate about their work and felt good about what they were achieving. There was a good sense of connection within the CRP Group and increasingly with the other programme groups. There was a sense of valuing the input of the Programme Manager to individual programme components and of wanting more of it. Staff were concerned to get on with their programme work and did not appear to be significantly diverted by the uncertainty of SOPAC’s future. That will certainly change if clear rational processes are not communicated to staff about how their future will be decided.

Highlights

The PMEG noted and was impressed by the breadth of work delivered within the programme. Particular highlights included the development of the Republic of the Marshall Islands National Action Plan and the completion of the Draft Guide to the Process of Developing DRR and DM National Action Plans (NAP). It is noted the significant role of the High Level Advocacy process in achieving In-Country commitment to the NAP at the top political and public service levels. Council should note that NAP development (which embodies the concept of mainstreaming across sectors and levels of government) will not occur without this level of commitment. If a country is not ready to make that commitment the lower level activity of developing disaster management arrangements and local risk reduction initiatives through the NDMO should continue.

Other highlights include:

- the continuing development of the Pacific Disaster Net (PD Net) database as a major repository and accessibility tool for disaster information and planning material
- the EU suite of “on the ground” practical programmes addressing risk reduction and disaster management development issues
- the continuing suite of training programmes under The Asia Foundation/USAID-Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (TAF/OFDA) arrangement, including the recently developed Risk Programme Management course as a prelude to a yet to be developed mainstreaming course on disaster risk reduction
- the development of an Early Warning Strategy
- the continuing development of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network initiated in February 2006 to support NAP development and implementation although it is noted the mechanism for connecting the Partnership Network to the country NAP programme implementation has not been developed and Network support for NAP implementation has yet to be delivered. It is acknowledged that time and in-country commitment is needed to establish these connections and continued advocacy is necessary to facilitate progress
- the biennial Regional Disaster Managers Meeting held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in June. This is a primary engagement mechanism with the member countries who look to SOPAC for support and leadership in this area. Significantly,

the members reaffirmed the importance of Disaster Risk Management development and the NAP process and agreed to have the meeting become an annual event. The increased demands on the CRP to provide for this is noted.

Issues:

1. Programme progress and definition

As noted in the 2006 PMEG report the Work Plan for the CRP programme continues to be ambitious. The substantial improvement in the Plan format for progress reporting is noted as is the identification of the Regional Framework Themes against the activities. This should be continued.

However for the 2007 report, in around a third of the Activities there has been no action or action is awaiting a request or response from a member country within a loosely defined “ongoing” programme. This makes management of the programme and understanding its progress and resource needs difficult. It has been raised as a cross-cutting issue that better definition of the activities, outputs and resource needs in the programme year is necessary for effective delivery of the programme.

The CRP Programme Manager has committed to undertaking internal detailed programming to provide for programme and resource control but it remains an overall issue for SOPAC which is facing an overall budget increase to \$30 million for 2008 with corporate, planning and control systems more geared to the 2006 expenditure level activity of \$11.6 million.

2. NAP programme

The NAP activity is identified as a key driver for the CRP programme and adoption and implementation of the Regional Framework for Action was endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum two years ago. Progress has been disappointing with just two NAP's developed to date. Implementation on these is yet to commence. It is noted above that substantial time and in-country commitment is required to mobilise these activities and the amount of effort required to support them should not be underestimated. A substantial commitment of new budget to this activity for 2008 is noted (around \$2million). PMEG suggests that the capacity to manage this increased budget and deliver on the programme is of concern and should be addressed.

3. DRM Guide

The 2007 Work Plan identified the development of three Guides to support the development of the NAP activity. The decision to address these in a single guide is noted. PMEG suggests the Guide to the Process of the NAP commented on in the Highlights above should stand alone. The current draft of the combined guide “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management” is a confused document. The practice of Disaster Risk Management is the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction within the broad context of sustainable development planning and the development of Disaster Management arrangements across agencies. PMEG suggests the draft Guide document requires substantial development to fill its important role of guiding these key areas of activity and that it should be subject to a peer review to recast its function, form and content.

4. Country focus and leadership role

The CRP has spent many years developing the profile of disaster risk management (community risk reduction and disaster management) within the member countries. It has been successful in creating awareness and to some extent in improving capacity for disaster management in the region. There remains much to be done to consolidate disaster management arrangements in member countries and the work on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction is just commencing. The in-country capacity for this will not develop without clear leadership and guidance from the CRP and without commitment from member countries.

It is the view of PMEG that this is the core business of the CRP and its country focus and leadership role should continue to be at the forefront of its strategic vision. Any arrangements to re-cast the functions of SOPAC must keep this firmly in focus to avoid the risk of these initiatives stalling.

5. Support to disasters

It is an item of the CRP Work Plan to provide hazard impact analysis/mapping support to countries following a disaster on a “request from country” basis. There are difficulties in providing effective support because countries are often not equipped to identify their needs particularly in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Also it creates an unscheduled demand on CRP resources which can impact other programme activities. Disaster events do, however create opportunities to pro-

vide practical support and to raise the profile of hazard risks. They also provide opportunities for staff to get direct on the ground experience of disasters.

At the biennial NDMO meeting in June, members asked for more support in this area. PMEG suggests SOPAC establish a procedure for identifying and responding to needs for impact analysis and mapping following a disaster - including rapidly accessing pre and post event images. [This is not to be confused with the UNDAC function of immediate support for impact assessment.]

6. 2008 Work Plan budget and resourcing

It is of concern that the improved CRP Work Plan format for 2007 has not been carried over into the 2008 Proposed Work Plan and budget which is presented in the old 2006 format due to the SOPAC planning process. This is raised as a cross-cutting issue.

Also of concern is the 250% increase in the CRP budget from \$3.6million for 2007 to \$8.6million for 2008. This includes substantial new components for local in-country risk reduction activity and for supporting NAP activity. Both these components will require in-house resources to define requirements, manage contracts and assess deliverables. PMEG suggests detailed programming for this work and its resourcing commence immediately. Included in this is the need to strengthen the CRP unit with senior level skills in disaster risk management to relieve the Work Plan demands on the Programme Manager.

Focus for 2008:

PMEG suggests the focus for 2008 should be on consolidating the efforts to make real progress on the core components of the Work Plan, namely the NAP activity and the in-country risk reduction activity

Recommendations:

The CRP PMEG recommends that Council:

- i. notes the highlights for 2007, the breadth of activity of the CRP outputs and the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff to the work they are doing
- ii. reinforces its commitment to the NAP programme as the core activity of the CRP and seeks real progress on this in the coming 12 months
- iii. instructs the Secretariat to address programming and resourcing issues in the CRP to provide for improved programme control, reporting and progress on the Work Plan
- iv. notes that making progress on the CRP is hard work which requires programme leadership and advocacy and in-country commitment and that any arrangements to re-cast the functions of SOPAC keep this firmly in focus to avoid the risk of these programmes stalling.

John Norton, November 2007

APPENDIX 7

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK VERBATIM RECORD (Agenda Item 11.1)

[Rapporteur's annotations in parenthesis]

<superfluous words uttered by speaker>

Personal speech peculiarities like uhms and ers were mostly eliminated. Where they are left in, the speaker was having obvious difficulty articulating a particular train of thought; or was proceeding carefully while articulating ...

Transcription of bridging segments at beginning and ending of reel-to-reel tapes that were unaccompanied by speaking notes were provided from Voice Recorder audio files

[Council paused during hearing and discussing annual financial reports (Agenda Item 10) to hear an address by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Secretary General had a flight to catch out of Nuku'alofa before the SOPAC Governing Council began their substantive discussions on the RIF agenda item (11.1). Below is the record of what transpired at this juncture]

Chair – At this point in time I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Secretary General <for> of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr Greg Urwin. He's got a midday flight to catch up and he would like to make a presentation and I seek Council members' indulgence to allow at this point in time Mr Urwin to present to Council ...

[The Secretary General then addressed Council thus:]

Thank you very much Mr Chair and thank you colleagues. I hope this is not being too disruptive of the flow of your meeting ... but I regret to say that I've got to, as the Chair's mentioned, jump on to a plane again shortly ... and I'd come here <to> in an attempt to assist you as required in your discussion of this important item on the regional institutional framework and the outcome of the Leaders' meeting that was held here in Tonga just recently, so I'm grateful for the opportunity to do that. I hope this will be helpful in your subsequent discussions.

As you know the Leaders did take a number of quite significant decisions in respect of this regional institutional framework exercise at their meeting recently; and I'd like to just offer you a little comment on the background to that.

The Leaders' decision was, and you have the details in front of you in the documentation so I don't need to repeat that – but just by way of background to say that it was ... the decisions

taken were really a direct outcome of the decision they took in 2005 to uhhh adopt the Pacific Plan, and as you know that's been one of the most important undertakings in the region over the last two or three years. In adopting the Plan the Leaders also adopted an aim of developing the appropriate regional institutional framework for the delivery of the elements of the Plan; and so the work that's been done on it is really founded on that <that> decision. Actually a little bit of preliminary work had been done prior to the taking of the decision by Tony Hughes in 2005, who conducted an exercise in which he came out with a recommendation actually that all of the regional organisations be in some way amalgamated – that proved too rich for everybody's blood for a number of reasons and so the work was further looked at in the subsequent years.

Following the Leaders' decision in 2005, a group of eminent people led by the former Foreign Minister of Fiji, Kaliopate Tavola, looked at the issue more closely. They presented to the Leaders in their 2006 meeting a proposal for a three-pillar structure – pillar one basically being the political functions that are required in the region; and pillar two really relating to the service delivery organisations and how they might best be associated with one another. Pillar three concerned the educational institutions.

Leaders in 2006 – the Forum Leaders – looked at those proposals and said, 'we'd like some more work done on them'; mainly as related to a range of administrative, legal questions which underpinned the proposals; and this was done through the course of 2007, this time done by a group led by the former Director-General of SPC, Lou Pangelinan, reporting to a task force of members. They – basically that group, the consultants group led by Lou that is – recommended that uhhh uh uh... affirmed their belief that the pillar two amalgamation model – that is an amalgamation of what were defined as the service delivery organisations was the way to go – and they put that back to the task force members during the course of this year. In the event the officials making up that task force were unable to reach consensus on this – some members agreed with it, some didn't and some simply felt that they were not ready to make/come to a decision on it. In reporting this outcome to Leaders, the Chair of the task force (the RIF Task Force) also indicated that Leaders in considering this situation may also wish to consider some of the other options discussed in the RIF Two consult-

ants report – this is what Leaders did and that’s expressed in the decisions they took and which you have before you now.

It’s really not for me/appropriate for me to attempt to provide an interpretative gloss of their decisions – they were taken by Leaders and they did so in their own way and partly as a result of discussions undertaken among themselves. But I would just say that while the Leaders did not, I think, have a particular overall model in mind when they took these decisions, they most definitely wish us to move forward with them in producing a more integrated, more efficient services to our members, which is after all the sole and only reason for the existence of any of our organisations. They want us to move forward deliberately, carefully, transparently; but they want us to move forward. And that ... and I think they also feel that after the better part of three years of discussion, it’s time ... past time perhaps that we did so.

It’s now my obligation to progress the Leaders’ decisions and of course that is now what I’m seeking to do. I’d say in part that the Forum Secretariat, even though it’s not mentioned in these decisions, is a party to these ... to this <to this> consideration. We’ve been conducting our own exercise for some months now in conjunction with the SPC, which will in the end see the transfer of some of our functions to the SPC. Ummm this ... mainly because it’ll pertain to something I just want to comment little bit on later ... pertains mainly to the fact that the Forum Secretariat, except in certain key areas which make up its core business is not a service delivery organisation and shouldn’t attempt to be. It is a ... it’s a policy, advice and coordination bureau and that’s what it needs to focus on. So, over the next year or so we will see some of that transfer of functions where ... we’re <where> also in a sense relevant to the exercise that’s contemplated by the Leaders in their decisions – in that we have a sustainable development policy function at the moment, which obviously it is logical needs to be part of the <the> mix of discussion uh which will need to take place between SPC, SOPAC and SPREP.

To the end of getting that ... progressing the Leaders’ decision I’ve made an offer to begin a process by facilitating discussions among the three CEOs concerned early in the new year. In that connection, I would note that the decisions of the Leaders and the subsequent suggestions about possible process are being considered, endorsed and indeed added to by the South Pacific Conference and the Governing Board of SPBEA; Aleki is here and he can certainly speak for the South Pacific Commission in that regard.

Beyond the guidance contained in the Leaders’ decisions, I personally have no view as to where precisely and in detail this process will take us. All of that will need to be worked out in discussions that will need to take place. Suffice to say at this stage that I’ll be required to report on

progress back to the Forum Leaders at their 2008 meeting and I think that by that point they will be looking for a definite plan of action from us. In that regard, may I express my gratitude for the spirit in which the Director of SOPAC has considered all of this as expressed in the paper which has been prepared for the Council before you. If I may say, it seems to me that she has perceived the central issue in this whole regional institutional framework exercise – that is the proper working out of the interrelationship of the functions of those three organisations – SPC, SPREP and SOPAC, which are closely sit alongside one another and clearly have close connections with one another bearing in mind all the time that more integrated services or efficient services to our members is our aim.

Could I just conclude these remarks by saying something about the CROP mechanism, because that sometimes comes up in terms of the <the> discussion and the kinds of alternatives we might pursue in taking this whole set of objectives forward. CROP certainly has had its successes as a body and no doubt would do so in the future. There is, I think you can perceive a growing amount of de facto cooperation among the organisations – that’s pleasing but it’s also what you as members oughta be expecting. But in terms of delivering that consistently and properly integrated set of services to our memberships – and we heard some discussion yesterday about the gap between regional frameworks and the ability of member countries to take up these services – that’s an issue organisation by organisation but it’s also a question of how the range of services is presented to members – how coherently, how <how> best they can make sense of the suite of services that are on offer. In those terms, CROP is, I think one has to conclude, a far from perfect instrument; and given the way it is set up, given the inherent limitations with which it must operate, I think it is bound to remain so. It’s not the answer to the issues we confront, but properly fashioned and deployed it might help us along the way. Given that we have, in the Pacific Plan context, now made a good deal of progress in establishing our regional priorities and the regional frameworks to address them; how best do we maintain the momentum by building up our ability to deliver.

During the course of discussion last year I put forward a proposal that CROP should, in effect, be dissolved and reconstituted as, for want of a better title, a service delivery council. This would include those bodies envisaged as making up pillar two in the three-pillar structure which it seems to me the Forum Leaders accepted in making their decisions recently in Tonga. The Forum Secretariat would (as a proposal) move aside from such a body in order to concentrate it (the new body) on its technical delivery priorities. My view, and I really don’t know frankly how widely this is shared (I’m sure there’s a range of views) is that the Director-General of SPC is best placed as the head of the most comprehensive

technical service organisation with the broadest membership across the region, is in the best place to chair such a body; but that will need to be worked out. The council, if constituted in that way, would follow something akin to an annual work programme based on the specific priorities identified each year by the Forum Leaders and other governing councils; and you'll see that certainly the Forum Leaders have, as a result of the adoption of the Pacific Plan, now adopted the process of highlighting a number of ... five or six priorities every year, which they want special attention paid to. That sort of thing would make up the work programme [...] every year; and armed with this programme the new body would report annually on progress as we in effect do now through the Pacific Plan reporting process and through the governing councils back to Leaders. All of this will require further discussion it's no more than a proposal at the moment; but I think that in coming months we should talk it through. Against the background of the decisions taken recently by the Forum Leaders and the work that will need to go on and go on for some time; it maybe the logical next step in improving our service performance to members.

Mr Chairman, I think that's as much as I'd care to say at the outset. I hope that will be helpful in the discussions that you'll have on this subject, thank you very much.

Chair – I would like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation and I would also like to advise Council members that clearly his presentation should be part of the consideration of item agenda 11.1, which will come up later on in the day. Thank you.

AGENDA ITEM 11.1 – REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK (RIF)

[Verified against Voice Recorder wma audio (wma) records. The central tape system was not switched on at the beginning of this agenda item]

Chair – [...] We're now on item eleven point one (11.1) and I would like to advise delegates <that uh> ... to consider this item to be of critical importance to the Commission; and as such I wish to allow as much time as possible for all delegates to have several interventions, but at the same time let me request delegates to please be concise. I intend to complete the introduction to the item, and the first round of interventions and the discussions during the first afternoon session.

I also wish to advise and request the Secretariat to keep a verbatim report on this item; as

such the summary record will include only the agreed outcome and the full record will appear in an appendix in the proceedings.

Now to start off our discussions I would firstly like to invite the Director to introduce the item and the accompanying papers. After that I would like to invite the Chair of RIF, the High Commissioner Eafeare of Papua New Guinea to report on the RIF process. Director ...

Director – Thank you very much Chair. May I draw Council's attention to paper AS36/11.1 and advise that there are three supplementary papers; in respect of this agenda item on the Regional Institutional Framework and they are AS36/11.1 supplementary 1, AS36/11.1 supplementary 2 and AS36 11.1 supplementary 3.

AS36/11.1 sought to provide an update to Council on the progress relating to the Regional Institutional Framework since the 35th Annual Session of Council and up to the date that Council papers for this Council Session were circulated in early October; and that paper included (there were several parts to that paper or attachments to that paper ... and included [i] Council's letter to FOC on the RIF process as a consequence of Council's consideration of the RIF process at its 35th Session in Honiara; the second attachment was the outcomes of the RIF Task Force meeting of June 2007; the third attachment was the letter of the Chair of the 2007 RIF Task Force to the Chair of the 38th Pacific Islands Forum of September 2007; and a fourth and final attachment – the RIF Review Report of Pangelinan and others entitled 'The Pathway Towards Quality of Service from Pacific Regionalism'.

As outlined in that paper the Secretariat was fully engaged in the RIF process and attended all three RIF Task Force meetings in 2007.

If I could now take you to paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary 1. This paper was produced and circulated by the Secretariat after the Forum Communiqué was shared. The Secretariat takes the view that the Communiqué decision, particularly that part of the decision of Paragraph 19(b) presents an option that was not considered by the RIF Review Report nor was it discussed by officials of the RIF Task Force; and that it articulates a challenge for which the Council response must be positive and constructive.

For the benefit of informing Council for this agenda item paper AS36/11.1 supplementary 1 summarises the RIF process to date, as well

as previous occasions when Council has had to consider similar institutional issues. The paper also provides guidance on how a strategic approach to “rationalisation” may be developed by Council and includes the establishment of some guiding principles and a mechanism for moving forward in 2008 and beyond.

The paper also describes the “SOPAC Brand” and examines briefly the reality that the visibility and effectiveness of SOPAC’s core applied science and technology functions have emerged over recent years as a successful and secure catalyst for donor partners to pivot their support to the region on.

The paper Chair concludes by providing draft language for a Council decision which is prefixed with some supporting conclusions.

AS36/11.1 Supplementary 2 is a report from the STAR Chair (which was presented earlier in this Session) and relates to their perceived possible impacts of the Forum decision which they contend could well result in the loss of delivery of applied science and technology tools and services to the region. That paper also includes their estimate of the potential for loss of financial support.

AS36/11.1 Supplementary 3 (which was also presented earlier in the Session) is a commentary from the overall Chair of the three Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups (PMEGs) in regard to their perceived possible impacts on the SOPAC Work Programme and Budget.

Finally Chair, the Secretariat looks forward to the discussion of Council and the clear direction and decision by Council on this matter. I would urge Council to maintain “business as usual” and a “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” approach until the correct way forward is determined and that a timeframe with clear milestones is agreed to. Such an approach is one which will minimise risk to service delivery and continued donor support whilst at the same time going some way to addressing the deterioration in staff morale as well as in the worst case the loss of staff due to the uncertainty. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Director. May I now invite the Chair of RIF, the High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea. Thank you.

Chair of RIF – Thank you Honourable Minister, I think this ... let me preface my comments I wish to reiterate that a Leaders’ decision has been taken and in that [...] case I also would like to reflect also on your own statement in terms of how we should proceed from here on in. In that there

has to be constructive and proactive dialogue on the process ahead of us and I thank you also for giving this opportunity for all Council members to in turn debate [...] to the point where we can reach a decision that is palatable for all. There is no doubt [...] and the Secretary General was accorded the opportunity to brief the Council this morning. In his briefing he basically went back and provided some historical highlights as to this whole process the Leaders have engaged in; and that is the regional institutional framework. We noted following the adoption of the Pacific Plan that was made at the Forum in Papua New Guinea the decision was then taken in the Nadi Forum to look at a three-pillared structure. Of course there are <there are> administrative, legal, conventional? and mandatory issues that need to be addressed.

I took up Chairmanship of this in June for the first time to guide discussions where we felt that there were issues where people made comments about ‘if its not broke why fix it’ – and tended to remain [...] that there was no need for us to go through this reform process. But commitment as civil servants [...] taken by our Leaders, sixteen of them represented in this Council. The decision by the RIF committee in September is reflected in my letter which is contained in your folder to Honourable Dr Feleti Sevele and in that position we arrived at, in fact [we referred ... to positions taken] ...some approved, undecided, positive and negative ... then we went to Vava’u. I know those options were contained in the task force recommendations [...] and that was amalgamation of pillar two...] that was this year. [...] and those who were divided on SPREP, those who were divided on SOPAC and [...] PIFS and SPC – they are not out of the woods but are affected by the decision taken. But I don’t really wish to go down that path because I believe we have a responsibility to respond to our Leaders [as the Director has alluded to] to take on the precautionary approach, to consider all elements, leave no stone unturned; so the future of the organisation, as some suggest, [would be recast or is it ‘the task’] and it’s done properly. It is a process that has now been suggested through affected organisations as SPC, SPREP and SOPAC to meet with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, as he made mention of this morning, is the beginning of proactive engagement that should lead us to [...] a more palatable outcome. My brief is that we engage in this so that we can all mutually benefit from how SOPAC will re-emerge. I thank you Chair. [Sent for verification to PNG High Commissioner]

Chair – Thank you High Commissioner. Delegates I would like to open the floor for general discussions and in light of protocol I would like to ask the Honourable Minister from Fiji if he would like to take the lead before we continue.

Fiji – Thank you Chair. I wasn’t envisaging taking the floor so early. I thought you would

err the other way but I take your point of view and indeed I would like to contribute to this discussion on this agenda item.

[The following statement was then read by the Interim Minister from Fiji]:

Firstly, let me humbly remind Council of the sentiments expressed in Fiji's report to Council on Monday that we are very disappointed with the Forum Communiqué outcome on this issue and in particular what appears to have been the process by which it was reached. My delegation will never oppose our Leaders' decision and while we respect it, we still feel that it should be re-looked at because of its far-reaching implications. We recognise however that this SOPAC Council is not the place to take up this matter, and we will certainly be doing that in due course at the next Forum meeting in Niue. But the situation is dire and such that a departure from the norm is warranted for the Leaders to hear the feelings of Council sooner rather than later.

Secondly, as I also mentioned on Monday that Fiji is prepared to work with SOPAC Council members in the spirit of the consensual Pacific Way to find the correct way forward for this organisation which does not put the delivery of services at risk, and more importantly looks for opportunities to improve on what currently exists.

Thirdly, let me however make it as diplomatically clear as possible that Fiji will not support any move for rationalisation which will lead to fragmentation of the current work programmes. Nor will we support any attempts outside of the Council control to undermine the integrity of SOPAC and its relationship with donors.

Fiji, as a founding member of SOPAC, and the host of its Secretariat, knows only too well of the enormous commitment over the past 35 years that has gone into building SOPAC as an institution of excellence in applied scientific and technical information and its vast knowledge of earth systems, and demonstrating how this knowledge contributes to sustainable development for its island members. The delivery of services to island members is currently packaged through providing integrated solutions in its three programme areas: Ocean and Islands management, Community Lifelines development and Community Risk management.

The Secretariat campus in Suva, has of course been a tremendous benefit to the Commission. Fiji not only acknowledges the direct benefits it has derived from it, but at the same time is also mindful that it was the lone island member that was able to offer a Secretariat campus as early as 1974 [Centrally taped sessions start here – Tape 1] when the first Secretariat scientist arrived to establish operations and launch the first field survey for the assessment of nearshore gold deposits off the north coast of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands at the beginning of 1975. In the

late 1980s, after SOPAC was established as a legal, independent intergovernmental organisation, the Agreement establishing SOPAC required a permanent secretariat location to be established. We were pleased that Council members decided that the most cost effective solution was to remain in Fiji. We ourselves looked at Nadi on the eastern side of the island of Viti Levu as an option to Suva. But at the end of the day, reason determined the retention of the Suva campus. The injection of funds and employment generated are a key feature for us, which I know is also the case for other countries that host such secretariats.

A particular concern to Fiji however is the provision of required specialist technical workshop facilities. The Secretariat has its own specialised workshop, manned by specialised staff who are Fiji nationals, supported as required by the private sector in Suva. It was established to support the equipment used across the programmes such as water level recorders, precision survey equipment, marine survey, and seabed mapping equipment. Not only is this equipment expensive, but it is maintained by the SOPAC workshop and its staff. These will have to be duplicated if freshwater, marine surveys, and EEZ boundary work for example are fragmented through a rationalisation process that relocates these programmes to other regional organisation campuses.

Whilst on the issue of the Secretariat I wish to remind Council of the significant risk placed on service delivery that results from the stress placed on the staff (expatriate and Fiji nationals alike) that exercises or sudden departures such as this produce. A decade ago SOPAC imposed such a circumstance on the Secretariat. Good sense prevailed and in time, good fortune and with substantial effort combined with an expanding reputation for delivery, the Secretariat has grown in strength to a staff of over 100, and a secure substantial budget, which for 2008 is about FJD\$30million, which includes the non-traditional "new" money to support services delivery to its Council members. Yet once again the Secretariat is plunged into this stressful situation instead of consolidating and building further and providing an even more secure environment from within, where the staff can "get on with the job" of implementation. Tragically this latest situation has been determined by a process outside of Council's control, I venture to suggest that perhaps SOPAC has been too successful, and is now at risk of suffering from the usual opportunists that emerge in such circumstances.

Fiji associates itself with the statement from Council's Programme Monitoring and Evaluation group (PMEG) in that the fragmentation of SOPAC and its work programme into parts dispersed between two or more agencies, almost certainly will result in member countries losing, not gaining, services and products. To avoid this destructive fragmentation, any process for the rationalisation of SOPAC must be clearly designed and communicated by us – the Governing Council of SOPAC. We understand that this may take time, but we do

not understand any need to rush into such action given the potentially dire consequences.

Fiji further acknowledges the PMEG concern in regard to fragmentation and its potential to disband and scatter valuable SOPAC resources, for Fiji views as unique and most beneficial the programmes SOPAC delivers for its Council members.

These and other aspects of SOPAC's work programme are, in Fiji's view, seriously at risk of being lost or compromised through the loss of capacity and capability if the right process for rationalisation is not prepared and implemented correctly. No such process has been presented to us the Governing Council and certainly does not appear evident from the Leaders decision. Nor do we support the notion that this process can be determined by the CEOs of relevant regional organisations under the facilitating umbrella of the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat. Granted one of the most eminent international civil servants in the region, such a process is clearly one which verges on a conflict of interest. And SOPAC's interest appears to be sidelined when it should be central to the process.

Chairman, I want now to turn to the issue of duplication as opposed to complementarity. Let us not allow ourselves to be confused over the meaning of "duplication" on the one hand, and "complementarity" on the other hand. Duplication has been in the past and remains today a key complaint for some, and underpins their argument for the need to rationalise the regional architecture. By way of example the Ocean and Islands Programme of SOPAC does nearshore surveys of current circulation systems and bathymetry, and provide and complement integrated technical solutions for members that address community lifelines and community disaster risk issues. These data also contribute to better pollution strategies and agriculture, forestry and coastal fisheries management plans. As such they complement those activities in SPREP and SPC. They do not duplicate them.

Chairman, Let me now say a few words about STAR, a network that SOPAC has developed over the past 25 years to support the delivery by the international scientific community of new and appropriate science and technology to the region.

Up to now, the scientists and technologists and other experts have not been abandoning ship; rather they have continued boarding and thus bolstering a successful regional ship that has an enviable international reputation which continues to grow. So why the drastic move?

We are particularly supportive of STAR fully appreciating that the international community of scientists and technologists contribute freely to STAR. This constitutes a substantial "no fee for service" to the region which amounts to an annual basis to tens of millions of dollars when the costs of field surveys, including those for the

deployment of large research vessels, institutional laboratory and library costs, and salaries are determined. We fear that this support will be lost as the STAR community has obviously developed an association with us island members of SOPAC through SOPAC's work programme as a catalyst. The STAR community may [Side A of Tape 1 ends at this point] **well look elsewhere to the small island states of the Caribbean, Indian or Atlantic areas if SOPAC's work programme hub was to disappear.**

Fiji most strongly contends that this working arrangement should not be disturbed.

Fiji also supports the STAR advice that in order to remain relevant, change is inevitable [Side B of Tape 1 begins] nonetheless for change to be least disruptive to the delivery of benefits to the region, change must be a deliberate and strategic ongoing process.

Chairman, I have said much. But it had to be said. So let me end by saying that in order to reach a Council decision on this issue, and manage strategically any emerging change that may be necessary, Fiji is prepared to work with the suggested language at the end of the Secretariat's paper AS36/11.1 Suppl 1. We are however interested in looking for ways to strengthen that language, and we will be wary of supporting any attempt to weaken the language. We support the notion of communicating our decision to all relevant stakeholders and will have some suggestions in this regard in due course.

The correct way forward in our view is that Council must own and drive the process ahead, and if time is needed then time must be allowed. We believe this is possible as we know that in the past Council has responded positively to critical reviews, and emerged from them improved and strengthened enabling SOPAC to continue servicing its Council members. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. Now delegates the floor is open for general discussion. Guam ...

Guam – Honourable Minister Tuita, Mr Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to express a brief question that is important to Guam; it may not be so significant to other members here. But as you know Guam is not a member of the Forum and does not participate so far in Forum activities and lacks certain knowledge of the Forum and in particular we'd like to know if decisions by the Forum are binding on this body, this Council.

Chair – May I ask the Director to respond.

SOPAC Director – Thank you Guam. As you know, I mean, this Council and this organisation is a legal entity in its own right and Guam has full membership status of SOPAC. In terms of our Agreement we do not – within our current constitution we do not have any

provisions which outline a relationship, if you like, between the decision-making responsibilities of the Forum and those decision making responsibilities of SOPAC within the Constitution. In saying that, though, clearly the Forum Communiqués that Leaders reach are communiqués ... and to my mind not as legally binding as multilateral agreements that are being signed by the various organisations, SOPAC included, but other regional organisations. But we've always looked to responding to the communiqué decisions of the Leaders there's been a number of them taken in the past years that this organisation has paid attention and responded to in the best means and way possible. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. New Zealand ... [New Zealand read the following words ...]

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. Through its programmes on Oceans and Islands, Community Risk and Community Lifelines, SOPAC makes a valuable contribution to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty and vulnerability in the Pacific. New Zealand's investment in SOPAC over the years has been considerable and we want to see SOPAC's work continue and develop. In October this year as we know, the Leaders of the Pacific Island Forum Countries agreed on a preferred regional institutional arrangement in response to the RIF process. The continuation of SOPAC's work is very much envisaged in the Leaders' decision. While recognising the challenges that the decision poses for SOPAC and without detracting from the high regard in which we all hold the organisation; New Zealand shares the view of the Director that Council respond positively and constructively to our Leaders' decision. A positive and constructive response involves accepting the decision and focussing our discussions on how best to move forward in implementing it. We would support the development of a detailed plan for implementing the Leaders' decision in a consultative manner through discussions between the CEOs of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC. Such discussions would be usefully guided by a small set of high-level principles, for example, a focus on the core RIF aims of creating an institutional framework that enhances service delivery to members; assists with the effective implementation of the Pacific Plan; and is cost-effective. Another principle could be addressing the full range of legal, organisational, administrative, governance, membership and financial implications. We would also be very interested in supporting other principles, for example, that SOPAC work programmes continue, and around the consideration of SOPAC welfare. We believe the process should reflect

key good governance principles; namely that it should be transparent through information updates to key stakeholders and it should respect the accountability obligation that each of the three CEOs have to their governing bodies by ensuring that any proposed pathway agreed by CEOs goes back to respective councils for consideration.

Despite best intentions and planning, the process of rationalisation would be a significant change process for SOPAC in particular but also for SPC and SPREP. This will likely impact on service delivery. While we agree with the sentiments expressed by colleagues that the process should not be rushed, some momentum is needed if we are able to fulfil our duty as a Council of managing those risks to the delivery of services to Pacific Island Countries and if we are to achieve clarity and certainty for members, partners and staff in a reasonable time frame. We submit that it is high risk and creates uncertainty to members, partners and staff to wait until two thousand and ten [2010] for submission of a detailed implementation plan. With a focussed and constructive effort by the CEOs of all three affected agencies a well thought through plan should be able to be agreed between CEOs and in time for consideration by respective councils in two thousand and eight [2008].

We see three factors as key to achieving momentum and reducing risk:

Firstly, we consider it important that Council gives the Director of SOPAC, who knows the most about this business, a clear mandate to work closely with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP to deliver an agreed implementation plan in 2008 <that's a plan agreed by the CEOs of course, for Council consideration>.

Secondly, while it is useful for Council to seek to guide the process by proposing high-level principles and considering the implementation put forward by CEOs, it would not, in our view, be helpful for Council or a sub-group of Council to become more involved in that ... in the process of implementing or developing the plan <I should say>.

We also consider that momentum would be enhanced if another party separate from the three agencies facilitates the discussions. This morning we heard from the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat on his proposal to facilitate discussions between the three CEOs, and we would support this.

SOPAC, SPC and SPREP are all unique entities with separate governing bodies that are obliged to consider issues and implications pertaining

to their own organisation. It is also the reality that any consultative process to implement the Leaders' decision will involve coordination across the three bodies; and that processes put forward by respective councils need to be broadly compatible if CEOs are to be able to engage effectively.

Finally, we would just like to support the recommendation that was put forward by the Chair of STAR the other day, that going forward, the CEO consultation process should identify a mechanism for ensuring that the benefits of the STAR network continue. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Any other delegates wish to ... Samoa ...

Samoa – Honourable Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor once more. The Forum Leaders' decision in nineteen b [19b] of the Leaders' Communiqué called for the need to rationalise the functions of SOPAC with the work programmes of SPC and SPREP with a view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP. Samoa respects the decision of the Leaders but Samoa needs to be assured that the process towards achieving this and the outcomes of that process of rationalisation will not affect the quality and effectiveness of the services currently delivered by SOPAC. We need to be assured that the quality, effectiveness and integrity of the work implemented by SOPAC are maintained if not improved substantially. It is of critical importance also that we maintain the confidence of the donor community. Honourable Chair, Samoa does not want to lose out on this. But if the decision to rationalise means that SOPAC's programme must go under the umbrella of another regional organisation for the sake of cost effectiveness and improved service delivery then we need to be assured that this will indeed happen for those reasons and not for any other reason. What we will not support is the carving up of the Commission which will result in fragmentation of its work programmes and affect service delivery to member countries simply because, as we have seen this week, the strong inter-linkages and co-dependency, which is why they work well together. Samoa needs assurance that SOPAC's technical and scientific functions are not submerged in any way by work programmes of other organisations. The bottom line should be: confidence that our needs will continue to be met with the same commitment from SOPAC and that we will receive the same if not better delivery. In order to maintain the integrity of the work carried out by this organisation and in light of the call for rationalisation, the only way forward without affecting delivery is to

maintain the functions as one and not fragment the work and delivery by pulling apart thirty-five years of growth and success. Samoa supports the suggestion of Council working towards deciding on a way forward by using the text that has been provided by the Secretariat in the Supplementary one paper AS36/11.1, Mr Chairman thank you very much.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Tuvalu ...

Tuvalu – Thank you Honourable Chairman. Firstly Mr Chairman, Tuvalu recognises that one of the strengths of SOPAC, which gives it its efficiency and effectiveness in its service delivery to member countries is the strong relationship that it has developed with the international scientific community over many years. SOPAC and therefore member countries, have received tremendous benefits from the independent and quality advice of its scientific technology and research group of scientists. The proposed rationalisation process Mr Chairman, needs to be seriously considered in terms of its implications on the current level of commitment of the scientific community to SOPAC programmes. Mr Chairman, listening to discussions and comments made during the last two days, it became apparent that there can be a real risk that this proposed rationalisation process would have negative implications on the commitment from an independent scientific advice and assistance. Tuvalu, who had always valued the work of SOPAC, and whom also lacks resources and capacity seeks that the implications on commitments of the scientific commitment is properly considered and that practical solutions are identified and agreed upon before any rationalisation process should commence, thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Tuvalu. Any other speakers would like to take the floor? Tonga ...

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. At this point in time Tonga would like to register our concern with the decision. As such we also do respect the Leaders' decision. However, as a member of this Council, we believe that we have a responsibility to ensure our decision do enhance the pillars proposed by the Forum Leaders; as well as more importantly that our decision also ensure a correct way forward <to echo Honourable Minister's Opening Speech>. In the 35th annual session last year, Tonga did express its concern with the service delivery. How such ... how the way forward, if we do pursue it immediately, will affect the delivery of service at national level. This is the 36th session of the Council, and again we would like to raise our concern as such. It is still not sure to us, as has Samoa raised, if this ... if we do make

a decision to proceed immediately, how it will be improved or decrease the services received at national level. We also do acknowledge the support of STAR ... and STAR/SOPAC partnership. After listening to presentations of the past last week's STAR Meeting, it is too obvious that such experience, expertise which is readily accessible to us more or less freely, I mean as a country we can't afford to access such scientific expertise if we ever proceed with our SOPAC and STAR partnership. So with that Honourable Chairman, we'll come back later on.

Chair – Thank you Tonga. Australia ...

Australia – Thank you Chair. I would like to commence by associating Australia with the comments, the very well considered comments of the New Zealand representative. I think we would also like to acknowledge the excellent work that is <has been> performed by SOPAC and continues to be performed by SOPAC. I think that in taking steps forward, our position needs to be based upon looking at some of the points that were made this morning, I think again reiterated by the Secretary General of Forum Secretariat when he talked about implementing the Pacific Plan in a way that is suitable and appropriate and the best way to implement the Pacific Plan for the future. As I think through how we need to do this, I think of how interconnected all the various strands of the work that is done by the organisations are and I think the Honourable Minister from Fiji talked about complementarity as opposed to duplication; and I would certainly support the issue that we need to focus on complementarity and avoid duplication.

Having made those introductory comments, I would like to just provide some further, more detailed comments. I think that Australia believes that the PIF decision or the Forum decision <decision by Leaders> is an agreed decision by Leaders and they are the Leaders of the very countries that we are talking about providing services to; they're not a group of Leaders from elsewhere, they are the Leaders of the Pacific countries – and it built on what was in fact an extensive regional consultation process aimed at improved regional service delivery. The Leaders' decision is clear and is modest in scope and it is doable. We believe that it is not up to officials <in our case> to revisit that decision – that decision has been made and we look towards implementing it in the most effective way.

We do note that the Leaders did not specify how precisely the CROP agencies should proceed with the amalgamation and we do note that it is very important for the CEOs, those who do

know the organisations best, to work together to proceed with implementing the decision.

We would reiterate New Zealand's recommendation that it would be valuable to have with the CEOs an outside facilitator to move this process forward and we would agree with the suggestion that the Secretary General is the appropriate person to facilitate the process of consultation that needs to take place. It's a complex complicated process and it needs strong momentum to carry it forward.

I think that with regard to timing, we have the view that, in terms of bringing about clarity and certainty for the members, and for donor partners and also particularly for staff in SOPAC, a long drawn-out process is not going to make that process easier or more effective, it's going to increase uncertainty and exacerbate some of the problems that have been mentioned that come with uncertainty; so again I would support New Zealand's comments that we need to maintain the momentum of this decision so that the sooner we can get some clarity and understanding of how this would work, the better off all interested parties will be ... as I said members, donors and other partners and staff. I conclude my comments there Chair.

Chair – Thank you Australia for your comments. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you for giving me the floor Honourable Chair. I now will be intervening as Papua New Guinea's representative to the Council. Papua New Guinea recognises that there is no legally binding article within the agreement of SOPAC that should compel us to take a decision in support of the Leaders' decision that was taken in Vava'u. But by the fact that sixteen countries represented around in this Council whose Leaders took that decision is the basis upon which we should proceed.

The Director has pointed out in her offer to us a way forward; this morning we listened to the Secretary-General and we believe that that way forward, no matter how clear it is, is for a consultative, proactive engagement. In my intervention on Monday I mentioned that that was a momentous decision. Reform and change within any given organisation is something that we should always undertake to take with a positive outlook. I also wish to associate myself with statements by <the wise words of> the Honourable Minister in that we need to move forward in the correct way, with transparency and coming to an organisation or services that would be delivered in a consistent and coherent way, as the Secretary General mentioned this morning. I also wish to associ-

ate Papua New Guinea's <Papua New Guinea> with the very positive process that the New Zealand delegate has described which I feel if we move now, and as Australia has reiterated, we will see our way towards something, as I said in my earlier intervention as Chair of RIF, that will be palatable <that will be beneficial> to all; and I believe we should start now, the offer has been made by the Secretary General; that that consultative engagement takes place and if need be, an independent facilitator should also be co-opted so that there is transparency, clarity and coherence in the process ahead of us. I think it is crucial for us to look at those reforms in that light and also keep in mind the useful interlinkages that SOPAC has with STAR so that we do not lose that useful scientific technical engagement that we have with STAR. I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea for your comments. If there are any other countries that would like to make interventions now, or if you wish to wait until after lunch; but I would like hear as many interventions from as many countries as possible on this item. So you can decide whether you intervene now or later on after lunchbreak. Palau oh sorry Niue and then Palau.

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor. Niue believes that the region and international community recognise and associate with the excellence of the science and technical services delivered by the SOPAC work programme to its members. We are a relatively new member of Council, having joined because we have watched the organisation grow and as such have come to recognise the benefits and significant contributions that SOPAC has made to Niue. It has taken thirty-five years to bring us to where we are today; and Niue will not support a plan for a way forward which puts at risk the benefits we currently enjoy. That said, dissecting the Commission will result in fragmentation of the three work programmes which no doubt will affect the delivery of services that we currently enjoy. Mr Chairman, regarding the call by Leaders for rationalisation, we need to be convinced that this is not going to diminish service delivery and effectiveness; on the contrary [Side B of Tape 1 ends] **[that it will serve to enhance the service delivery. Rationalisation [...] must not result in fragmentation; we must decide on a plan of action that does not allow this scenario to occur. Chair if I may conclude this brief intervention by associating Niue with the statement made.....]** [Side A of Tape 2 starts] by Fiji, and advise that we stand ready to work towards a Council decisions on this matter by working

with the language provided by the Secretariat at the end of paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary 1. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Niue, Palau?

Palau – Thank you Mr Chairman, I will be very brief. The Republic of Palau fully associates itself with the statement by the Honourable Minister of Fiji; but Palau is really saddened that Forum Leaders had made that decision, and we some of us are here wondering whether it's a correct one. The event of last week and this week only reiterate Palau's position that we're not sure whether the rationalisation of SOPAC would benefit Palau. Also, the way the decision was made, Palau is wondering you know whether that was a wise way to do things, you know in fact ironically the decision which was made, most of the leaders of the Micronesia were absent and the issue was not clearly brought up to the officials who normally advise their governments; so sometimes you know we are wondering whether the Forum is now being used just to advance the view of a few countries in the Forum, thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Palau. Kiribati ...

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman. Kiribati would like to convey concerns about the RIF and at the same time propose a way forward as part of the RIF process. The three decades of existence of SOPAC has shown tremendous development and excellence in the delivery of its service through member countries and the assistance of the scientific community and the development partners. The [abrupt?] decision for the rationalisation is something that strike quite a number of members of the Council for the need for rationalisation that is pointed out by our Leaders in their recent meeting in Tonga and I quote it in 19b of the Communiqué: 'the need to rationalise the functions of the SOPAC with the work programmes of SPC and SPREP' seems to Kiribati on a shaky ground in a sense that it is not clearly pointed out how the rationalisation should take place, in what manner, under what guidance and council and under what time frame. Not only that, but the current existence of the Council is very much undermined in a sense that very limited consultation has been made in the process and therefore the Council should have the time to make the right decisions <to make> so that what comes out from the decision will benefit all members in all. The essence of the RIF process underpinned by the claimed principles of 'improving quality of services, improving effectiveness of delivery, and more effective management of limited resources, and good governance' are blurred in the moment <at the whole at the moment> in

the eyes of the small island states. The principles are noble but the long term to achieve those may not, as has been the case in some other regional organisations. The way forward is what we all need but in a way that is properly planned and in a very constructive manner, I therefore, as the Kiribati delegation would like to support the recommendations which is highlighted in the paper <the recommendation of paper> AS36/11.1 Supplementary.

Chair – Thank you very much Kiribati. [very long pause as Chair waits for other delegates] Well we'll have our lunch at 1 o'clock so we still got a bit more time for any more interventions if there are any other countries ... Cook Islands...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chairman. Cook Islands sort of supports the views of Fiji, Niue and Palau in expressing some of their [...] the decision that has been made by Forum Leaders especially transparency was not done or wasn't [...] since there was no consultations with the working arm of the ring of services, particularly in <the> those areas; however only in the political arena through our minister of foreign affairs. But with respect to that Chairman we have to abide according to the decision that has been made by the Forum Leaders. In terms of going forward I would strongly support the recommendations as stipulated in the AS36/11.1 Supplementary paper but with additional comments on the, specially during the consultative process for the three agencies <regional agencies> that an independent facilitator should be part of that team. And also we strongly support the STAR and SOPAC interlinking working relationship to be strongly maintained. Thank you Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. [another long pause] Well delegates this is only the first round. You'll have an opportunity for further interventions after lunch. So if there are no more requests for interventions I suggest we break for lunch, and resume again at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Meeting's adjourned.

[LUNCH BREAK]

Chair – Delegates as I suggested before we broke for lunch, I would like to open the session by inviting those countries who have not spoken to please do so. According to the list I have here there are still about five members who have not made any comments and we really appreciate it if those members would be able to make any interventions to start this afternoon's session. Guam, thank you.

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman and Council members for this opportunity to express our

views on the issue. As already expressed by many other Council members Guam highly values the scientific and the technical resources that SOPAC provides to all of us; and also SOPAC's unique service of in-house expertise being able to conveniently tap the very specialised scientific knowledge provided through the STAR Network. While directly responding to our individual national needs, we wish to note that SOPAC also provides regional services and even global services that benefit all of our islands and can only be accomplished through such an organisation receiving the support of all of its members. The support has been earned over the many years of SOPAC's work in the Pacific, evolving as it has to address new needs appropriate to special sectors of capabilities. Without going into any detail on the benefits of maintaining and strengthening the provision of services and values we have realised over the years from SOPAC, we wish to note our alignment with the sentiments that had been expressed by the honourable representative of Fiji in his opening statement this morning.

In regards to the response to the Communiqué of the Forum Leaders calling for the rationalisation of SOPAC functions, we are prepared to support the way forward indicated in the paper provided [AS]36/11.1 Supplement provided by the Secretariat. But we want to include any specific modifications that are agreed on in Council this week. We recommend that assistance to the CEOs of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC be provided by a facilitator with proven expertise and experience in SOPAC matters with a good understanding of the value of the STAR system. We request that in this process, the Director and her peers of SPC and SPREP provide progress in this rationalisation effort in an open and transparent manner while at the same time safeguarding the continuity of the ongoing functions of SOPAC and promoting the strengthening of the STAR Network and PMEG process as is possible with consideration even of expanding these features of SOPAC to functional areas of other regional agencies. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Guam. Vanuatu ...

Vanuatu – Thank you Honourable Chair. Vanuatu respects the Leaders' decision on the rationalisation of SOPAC services and we share the sentiments echoed around that the process should be allowed to take its course without jeopardising the current ongoing service delivery to member countries. SOPAC has over the last thirty-five years <has> grown from an initial geoscience-focussed programme to where it is today, seeing more programmes

being added to its mandate. As such there is wealth of information and other work generated which we as a member, have and will continue to benefit from in order to add value to our sustainable development planning. As a member of this Council, we feel due process should be allowed in developing a plan together by SOPAC, SPC [and] SPREP paving the way forward. This process must allow consultation with member countries so that we have ownership and responsibility over this process and action. As such, we recommend to this Council to consider establishing a working group comprising of selected Council members to be part of this process. Last, but not least, we wish to reiterate that this process must in no way dilute or disintegrate the current quality service provided and the close association with STAR members. Thank you Mr Chair.

Chair – Thank you Vanuatu. Solomon Islands ...

Solomon Islands – Thank you Chair. Again Solomon Islands would like to associate ourselves with the comments raised by Vanuatu and Fiji. As we know, Mr Chair, we respectfully respected the decisions that the <our> Leaders have made in this regard; but again considering the important services SOPAC has delivered to the region and especially Solomon Islands, we're a bit concerned about this drastic idea for the rationalisation of these work programmes. We fully associate ourselves with the recommendations as presented in the paper – that it should take time and process so that it allows all the issues that are yet to be clarified to be <to be> cleared. We are concerned, Mr Chairman, about the legal process as well – having some informal discussions with some legal people as well, the rationalisation would mean the amendments to some of the articles in the legal framework that establishes these organisations; and therefore the process will take a long time considering the ratification by countries as well. So in this regard we would really want to see the due process taken in this regard. But again, Mr Chairman, we would associate ourselves with the recommendations as per stated in the paper, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Solomon Islands. I would also like to invite those associate members who may not have made interventions if they would like to do so. New Caledonia ...

New Caledonia – Regarding the Leaders' decision, New Caledonia feels that any change of the regional institutions should improve efficiencies and enable better use of resources. New Caledonia sees four key principles that need to be considered : first one is that the headquarters of regional institutions should be preserved

in their current locations; second one – the participation rights of parties, especially for non-self-governing territories should be maintained. Number three – the proposed change should improve consultations and dialogue between partners and stakeholders. Number four, finally – New Caledonia has always seen SOPAC as a strong and reliable scientific and technical organisation – that is essentially why we decided to apply for associate membership; and since our admission as the first Associate Member of SOPAC in ninety-one [1991], New Caledonia has been assisting the Secretariat in both hosting four international conferences in Noumea and participating in the Ocean and Island[s] Programme in sharing outputs and outcomes from our [...]disciplinary ZoNeCo Programme that aims at assessing both living and non-living resources of New Caledonia lagoons and EEZ. We really wish that this 16-year long scientific cooperation could be maintained under the proposed rationalisation process, thank you Mr Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Caledonia. Nauru...

Nauru – Thank you Honourable Chair. I would like to again state Nauru's position in regard to the Leaders' decision. Nauru in support [...] respects the Leaders' decision and recognises that the intention is not to minimise the services but hopefully in the long term the region would benefit more from the remaining organisation in pillar two and I hope that Council would respond positively to this decision, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Nauru. French Polynesia ...

French Polynesia – Thank you Honourable Chair [accident with mic] Sorry, thank you for allowing the associate members to take part in this debate. First of all I would like to say that French Polynesia highly values the work done by SOPAC and French Polynesia respects the decision made by the Leaders at the last Forum meeting. French Polynesia was fully part of the RIF task force and we have already had the occasion <the opportunity> to make our voice heard. We want to maintain the quality and continuity of the services delivered by SOPAC and on the same time we want to improve the rationalisation of the activities performed by all the regional organisations, especially the technical ones. French Polynesia associates itself to the comments made by some delegates earlier this morning and we associate ourselves especially to the comments made by the delegate of Samoa. So concerning the process we agree with the recommendations presented in the Secretariat paper, thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you French Polynesia. American Samoa ...

American Samoa – Thank you Mr Chairman for the opportunity. This is my first Forum meeting, but uhhh ‘scuse me Council meeting, and I’m thankful for the opportunity. I’ve sat this whole week and I’ve learned a lot; and the value that the Pacific island countries place upon SOPAC. And the bottom line here is the end user – this is the heart and I believe the very nature that SOPAC was established to benefit the common man or islander. Let me quote from the SOPAC constitution – “recognising the importance of the development of non-living resources of the Pacific to the maximisation of benefits to the peoples of the region” – there’s our people: our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, cousins, nephews, friends and relatives – this is the main reason we are all here and the well being of our people with the limited resources available to us should be above all other political and scientific or technical agenda. I restate our Governor’s instructions that American Samoa is against the proposal 19b and we are deeply concerned with the fragmenting of SOPAC into separate functional groups which may unnecessarily complicate the management of the programmes and hurt the end product service to the users in the islands. We feel there is no need to tinker with a system that is working very well as evidenced by the support of donors and the output of the professional staff. We also echo the concerns of the other Pacific island countries and also we’d like to note that not all island countries were represented in the Forum and therefore we also align with Fiji that this issue should be brought up again at the next Forum meeting, thank you.

Chair – Thank you American Samoa. Federated States of Micronesia ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Mr Chairman. I must say that some people have said that the decision of the Leaders is clear. To me it’s not clear but I would note that the decision as is – I’d like to make two points regarding them: one is the use of the term ‘rationalise’ meaning that we are being asked to rationalise or the CROP agencies are being asked to rationalise their activities. To me that means that we have to carefully consider the way forward ensuring that the outcome is rational and it makes sense, and that it does not negatively impact the services that we expect from all regional agencies. Second point is that I noted that there is no timeline given in the decision – again, pointing to the need for carefully looking at a way forward <to again> to ensure that we do not lose the services that

are provided to countries. I guess the bottom line in both the wording of the decision is that we have to make sure that the process in arriving at the rationalised outcome will ensure that island member countries as owners and beneficiaries must be assured that any action taken will indeed lead to improved service delivery, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Federated States of Micronesia. I think delegates we’ve had interventions from all member countries and just about all associate members. I’d like to invite any comments from CROP agencies. I’d like to ask the Director of SPREP if he had any comments to make.

SPREP Director – Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates ... thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to this very sensitive issue and I wish to first advise the Council that according to the SPREP Agreement, only the members, the parties to the agreement can make any changes to its existence whether they are any changes or improvements. In any case, the decisions rest with the Council. Mr Chairman, as I’ve stated in my opening statement I am here to listen and learn the sentiments of this Council; its members including the participants around this table ... and I have.

Mr Chairman it is clear that there is much work to be done, I heard in terms of the rationalisation mandate or the decision of the Forum. Clearly the decision for SOPAC rests with you the Council, as it is with the Council of SPREP. The SPC has reached a decision on that and they are looking to the CEOs, the CROP agencies, the members to map out a way forward. I have listened to the concerns that while time should be provided, that care should be taken so that there is no disruption; there is no [Side B of Tape 2 ends] [... unnecessary fragmentation and there’s no set back in the process. As well we note that [the] care should be given to the people in the organisations themselves, in particular SOPAC if there is going to be any structural changes as decided by the councils. We also need to take on board the parameters of the Pacific Plan in the ...] [Side A of Tape 3 starts] context of national and regional aspirations as well the organisations themselves. Mr Chairman, what I am trying to articulate is that while, on its service, the decisions of the Leader is to rationalise, the components to be rationalised are not simple. And that the services of SOPAC which is under review not only should be preserved but as I hear round this table it is in the interest of the region that they in fact be improved. The important component of the scientific community that come <that comes>

to this meetings is extremely important to the region and we recognise that, and so I have taken into advisement and it will be fed to the decision making process for my council.

Mr Chairman, on the issue of when, I am not free to decide as the Council itself normally meets in September. There have been some suggestions that perhaps this could be moved ahead. That is strictly up to the decisions of the Council and I'm sorry that I am not able to speculate on that issue. I believe Mr Chairman that this is <the> as far as I can help in contributing to the deliberation on this very important issue, thank you very much.

Chair – Thank you Director of SPREP. I would like to ask the representative of SPC if he wishes to make any comments.

SPC Representative – Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me this opportunity to again address the Governing Council of SOPAC. The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat gave a comprehensive background to RIF <and RIF2?> so it is not my intention to touch again on some of the background development that went into this; but I feel it is important that I inform SOPAC Governing Council of what went on after the decision of the Leaders last month.

The Conference of the Pacific Community convened in Apia earlier this month and comprehensive deliberations went on and in the end the decisions and I quote: “Conference:

- i. notes the decision taken by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders on their preferred institutional arrangement for the Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA), SPC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- ii. endorses the position taken by PIF leaders as the basis for a detailed draft roadmap for the consideration of CRGA 38, while recognising that although the United States and American Samoa support the goal of improving coordination, efficiency and service delivery, they were not able to endorse the position taken by PIF leaders without additional information concerning the proposal's implementation and associated implications;
- iii. notes that the matter will also be considered by the governing bodies of SOPAC and SPBEA and SPREP;
- iv. accepts the offer by the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to

facilitate consultations between the CEOs of the four organisations concerned, including appropriate involvement of member representatives, development partners and other CROP agencies, and recommends that the discussions between the CEOs be usefully guided by a set of principles; including for example:

- a. transparency and timeliness with respect to the process, and effective involvement of stakeholders; cost-effectiveness;
 - b. a focus on the RIF objective of creating an institutional framework that further improves service delivery to PICTs and assists with the effective implementation of the Pacific Plan;
 - c. the need to address the full range of legal, organisational, administrative, governance, membership, and financial implications;
- v. instructs the Director-General to work closely with the CEOs of the three organisations to map out a draft plan to implement the institutional arrangements outlined by leaders for Pillar 2 organisations and to present the plan to CRGA 38;
 - vi. notes the intention of the Secretariat to involve the membership at various stages of the development of the roadmap through provision of regular updates.”

Mr Chairman, following on the heels of the Fifth Conference of the Pacific Community, the Governing Board of the SPBEA at their Annual General Meeting, made the following resolutions:

- i. The Board has accepted the decisions that have been made by the Pacific Forum Leaders, and is now focusing on the steps that need to be taken to effect the merger.
- ii. A sub-committee, which is the Executive Committee, is being tasked to look into this and bring its findings to the full Board.
- iii. The Director has been mandated to hold discussions with SPC and other relevant organisations to establish a way forward, with consultations with the Executive Committee.

Mr Chairman, from SPC's perspective we can only say at this important juncture that SPC is ready, using the Tongan community concept of “fofola e fala kae kamata e talanga” or rolling out the mat and start useful consultations between families within the extended family of the Pacific. Discussions that will take us closer to making the vision of the PIF leaders, a reality. The Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat

is expected to take a leading role in facilitating the discussions that we do look forward to in the very near future.

Mr Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to again make a statement on behalf of the Secretariat of Pacific Community, thank you very much.

Chair – Thank you very much representative of SPC. Delegates given what's being said and all members have had their first intervention, are there any other delegates that wish to make a second intervention given what you have heard? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Just a point of clarification for me Chair, will there be an opportunity to comment on the recommendations because if so, I'm happy to wait until then? Thank you ... [after Chair's reply] ... thank you very much Sir.

Chair – Yes, there will an opportunity to comment. [long pause] Delegates as you are aware there were a lot of comments which made reference to STAR and PMEG. I would therefore like to ask if the Chairman of STAR and Chair of PMEG would like to make comments before we proceed on. Chair of STAR

Chair of STAR – Thank you Sir. I'm very appreciative of this opportunity to speak and of the previous opportunities that this Council has given us. STAR is a guest here and uh ... but nonetheless we have heard a number of very kind comments from distinguished delegates today about STAR. We've seen the intermixing of STAR and SOPAC's work both in the STAR conference and in the presentations about the work programmes; and understand that a number of the organisations that now send people to these meetings have a budget item labelled 'for STAR' so I guess at least in a small way we could consider ourselves stakeholders in these issues.

I'm also very conscious that STAR is a voluntary and informal organisation and there are considerable constraints on my mandate to speak on behalf of the rest of the scientists. Nonetheless from the considerable volume of e-mails that I've received and from the discussions I've had I think that the supplementary document that we prepared could be considered a fair representation of the views of at least most of those scientists.

I've emphasised before that the organisation and governance of SOPAC is not the concern of STAR. We're solely concerned with the efficiency of scientific work in the region and its benefits to all the people of the region. I'm also conscious that I don't want to take up much of your time; you've many other things to discuss ...

So I'd just like to make brief comments about the last three bullet points on that supplementary document that's been circulated. The first of these is with regard to change and I'll emphasise again that STAR supports any positive change that will enhance the benefits of science flowing through to the peoples of the region. We've also expressed the very strong desire that some mechanism be found that enables the STAR/SOPAC relationship in some form to continue. Although we're voluntary we're all committed to helping in the region; and I don't think there's any member of STAR who would want to see that relationship lost. I've mentioned the strength of STAR before but I've also mentioned its fragility given that it's a totally voluntary organisation. And the final point there is the one where we've offered our assistance to Council in any way that we can either at this Meeting or at any time from here on. If we can help we would be more than happy to do so. I'd also appreciate, given that scientific programmes and plans, conferences ... and so on for scientists are now organised several years in advance, being advised by Council with any information that it feels it can pass on to me of how its deliberations are going in the future in order that I can convey those to our members. Thank you Sir.

Chair – Thank you Chair of STAR. Can I ask the Chair of PMEG if you'd like to make any comments.

Chair of PMEG – Thank you. I appreciate you asking for our input. As you know PMEG has been appointed by Council for the review of the organisation and earlier in the week we did present the review to the Council and noted SOPAC strengths and weaknesses. Our concern of course at that time was that there was a possibility of some impacts from fragmenting the organisation and we were hopeful that this fragmentation – destructive fragmentation – would not take place. In our view the paragraph 19b was not clear to us nor did it present a formula for the way forward – in fact it allowed for a lot of questions – and one of the questions was 'why SOPAC?' However, given those questions, we've heard here that this is your organisation. You have an opportunity now to improve upon those weaknesses and to move ahead and strengthen the organisation and the work programme as you see it; and I would encourage you to take that opportunity to do so. SOPAC should meet, we think, with the other organisations; but it should be equal in its negotiations and whatever takes place. This is a critical exercise that you will undertake and PMEG feels it would not be to your advantage to rush into the process of reorganising yourself. You just heard about

the latest paragraph 19b last month; so we would encourage you to do this in a timely manner but because of the consequences of your decisions that you take the time necessary to do the work. PMEG is here as your advisers and reviewers and we certainly are happy to help in any fashion possible and we wish you good luck in your deliberations. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Chair of PMEG for those comments.

Fiji – Honourable Chair, thank you for giving me the floor for the second time. Honourable Chair I hear from the interventions that there is consensus on some substantial issues. I also hear that there is agreement on the need to maintain the unique science and technology focus of SOPAC and the delivery of scientific services. I further hear support for the retention of the STAR network which will enable the scientists, technologists and experts to continue their valued contribution for use by the member countries. Now many of the esteemed delegates who have spoken expressed strong agreement that rationalisation must not mean fragmentation; and that there be no tolerance position where risk to planned and ongoing activities are concerned. Honourable Chair, what is not of consensus concerns the way forward. I therefore wish to return to two points I made earlier in my first intervention on this crucial agenda item and these are ownership and timelines.

First in regard to ownership, may I repeat that as owners of the Commission, we cannot divest ourselves of the very important responsibility of determining the process by which to move forward to the three CEOs facilitated by the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat. I know those CEOs personally, they are good personal friends of mine but I would rather on this occasion, when it's a reputation and the way forward for SOPAC that you Ma'am are in the Chair. It's <it's> the most, I believe, normal way in a situation such as this. The others can be there to help with the process.

Next, in regard to timelines, this issue is of such importance that we must get it right now. We contend that a clear statement from this Council that intends to take direct control of the way forward, step by step in order to ensure the correct way forward is indeed found and followed because such a process will in turn serve to reassure our Leaders, donor partners, the scientific community and the Secretariat staff. Chair I ... that is all I wish to cover on this second intervention. I will reserve my other comments [for] when we look at the recommendations. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. [Extra Long pause much waiting for delegates to volunteer to speak] Delegates I think everybody has made their interventions and no further requests for second interventions. I would just like to advise that listening to comments that have been made, I get a sense that most of the speakers have made reference to the recommendations in the paper as perhaps a basis to start with <as a starting point>. And what I have in mind is, perhaps as a way to move forward, by using the United Nations method of convening Council as a drafting committee of the whole and taking the starting point as the conclusions and recommendations in paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary one. That's a suggestion I'd like to make on how we can move forward. If delegates agree to that we can easily set up two screens with the conclusions and recommendations in the paper and perhaps work through with amendments as suggested by members.

So in order to set up the equipment I suggest we can take an early tea break and then come back and proceed as proposed. In that case I adjourn the meeting for fifteen minutes before we resume. Thank you.

[AFTERNOON TEA]

Chair – One of you could start ... oh before I go on to outline what we're gonna do I've been asked by the High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea if he could make some comments before we proceed, thank you.

Papua New Guinea – I thank you Chair and I seek the indulgence of Council members that I'm actually taking the floor now to cover some points that I need to make in a statement so that I can go to hospital to check on what's actually wrong with me. I have an appointment at 4 o'clock is basically what I am saying. Mr Chairman we must consider the Leaders' decision and do so in a constructive and positive way, in a rational and meaningful way to ensure the strategic and collaborative partnership that exists between SPC, SOPAC and SPREP is maintained and enhanced. Considerable concerns have been expressed about fragmentation of SOPAC and the possible disintegration in its relationship with STAR. However, if we abide by the principles that have been identified within the SOPAC paper and that which are – improving quality of service; improving effectiveness of delivery, more effective management of limited resources, good governance, and using your words – underpinned with rationalisation process an essential and appropriate exercise can be undertaken. I note also the Director of SOPAC's earlier comments that in the past Council has respected and adhered to decisions

by PIF Leaders and I believe this is no different; even old members sitting here (PIF Members) have had initial difficulties with the Pacific Plan, but now it seems we have subscribed to it and come on board. The same is true for this process that we are now embarking upon. Specifically I agree with Fiji's comments about ownership and time line to move this forward; in <from> cognisance of that Council should be encouraged to maintain the momentum as articulated in conclusion seven, nonetheless and it is here : [vii] "Nonetheless, is fully cognisant of the need to maintain the momentum established by the Leaders decision, in order to ensure the continuity in both the quality and effective delivery of service in meeting the needs of the people."

In endorsing that, delete five [v] as being an erroneous representation of the Leaders' decision on Vava'u <and giving it a positive reflection> and in doing so gives it a positive reflection of Council's willingness to engage.

PNG considers the way forward is to stress the time line in as far as it relates to the process and that would be through the heads of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC to meet under the facilitation of the Pacific Island Forum Secretary General, as the process we are undertaking relates to a decision taken by Leaders. Notwithstanding, the absence of a legal basis for compliance to it, but more in adherence to the fact that whether Leaders were present or not, a decision was taken.

The process has been identified Mr Chairman, to discuss the involvement of the affected CEOs. They will provide the framework of analysis that will be the basis upon which Leaders can endorse at the 2008 Pacific Islands Forum with a view to consolidating on the details as articulated in recommendation two [ii]; and its there for you in the three bulletin points.

I will reserve the right to discuss, if I come back quickly, other substantive matters in the specific recommendations, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea for your comments.

Now I would like to perhaps outline how we might proceed this afternoon. The suggestion is that we proceed to look at the conclusions and recommendations in the paper from the Secretariat and perhaps go paragraph by paragraph. If we agree on one then we proceed to the next; if there are any amendments or changes then we go on to the next and then come back again to those paragraphs that need amendment and change. [Side A of Tape 3 ends] **So one of you can start ... the conclusions and recommendations are on the screen [and I expect] you all**

have copies of the paper [some stalling going on here as scribe doesn't seem to be ready]. [Side B of Tape 3 starts] it's also pages 12 and 13 of the paper we just have a little technical problem we're trying to sort out here.

Thank you delegates can we start with the Conclusions, paragraph one [i] ... if you have any amendments or changes please raise your plaque. If not, do I take it that we agree on paragraph one [i].

Paragraph two [ii], any amendments? If not, do we agree on paragraph two [ii].

Paragraph three [iii]? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. Just a small suggested drafting amendment for clarification. The recommendation reads "recognised that partners currently identify with SOPAC to the extent that the Commission now enjoys a substantial, secure annual budget which includes the attraction of non-traditional "new" money" – I would propose that we just take out the word 'secure' just for clarification given that the new money is perhaps less secure than the contributions that members around the table make. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand ... that's being inserted. Any other amendments before we go on ... ok.

Paragraph four [iv]? If there are no amendments, agreed.

Paragraph five [v]? [whispers at the head table] This is the paragraph that the High Commissioner for Papua New had suggested be deleted. So we will insert that.

Paragraph six [vi]? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Again just a very small suggested drafting amendment; the recommendation starts with "acknowledged with concern that circumstances such as this increase demands on the Secretariat, and cause stress on the staff, that will impact current levels of service delivery". Our suggestion would be to change "circumstances such as this" to "change processes." Thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. We will insert that change.

Paragraph seven [vii]? If there are no amendments, are we agreed? Agreed.

Next paragraph ... [reading] "Council therefore agreed to accept the challenge offered by the 2007 Leaders' Communique ... et cetera." Any amendments? New Zealand?

New Zealand – Sorry Chair have we finished with recommendation eight [viii]?

Chair – Er ... you're right New Zealand. Paragraph eight [viii] is shown in the paper but not on the screen. [few seconds pause] We will add that paragraph eight [viii]. [longer pause while text being inserted].

Thank you. Paragraph eight [viii] ... and I'm sorry for the omission, but thank you New Zealand for bringing that up. Any amendments to paragraph eight [viii]? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. Just wanted to raise a small dilemma that we have as a Council to perhaps work through. New Zealand supports the four principles here but we're also conscious that SPC has agreed to a set of guiding principles for the process; and I mean I think they're not too dissimilar but I guess it's ... if we're going to be able to move forward effectively, the one thing that we probably need to be certain about is the guiding principles. In terms of how we might address it, one option is to have the SPC principles made available to people and to think about what else we might want to add to them. That's probably the only practical way I can think of of going forward but others may have other suggestions.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand, any other suggestions on that? Otherwise the Secretariat can issue copies of the SPC document. [Slight pause] Thank you, we have taken note of that on that paragraph, thank you. We move on. [some whispers] Any amendments to this paragraph? Agreed. [more whispers] ... the next line? any amendments? Australia ...

Australia – My comment was on point number one is that where we've moved to now?

Chair – Yes point number one [i, under recommendations]... Australia?

Australia – I would like to just propose a couple of changes and I will read it out: [i] “a consultative process be established between the CEOs of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP, to prepare a draft implementation plan mutually agreed upon by the three CEOs, to be submitted for consideration ...” the rest of it, you'll see it's down there ... “consideration by the Council in 2008” and then that would mean a meeting from the end of the blue part to the end, would be my proposal. And can I say that in proposing that I would also like to add another part to that, but perhaps that's to do with the facilitation of the meeting; but perhaps we can make that an extra point. And in <in> proposing that ... it <it> again when I look at what the SPC – the process the SPC looked at as outlined earlier today that is similar to the kind of approach that was used at the SPC meeting.

Chair – Thank you Australia. That amendment is included. Are we agreed? Palau

Palau – Thank you Chair. I think the 2008 is really rushing this process you know and you want to take time to <you know> really look at it <you know> I think. What we've been trying to say is we'd like to take time and look at the process, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Palau ... perhaps when we can move on and come back and discuss that point Palau. Can we move on to point two [ii]. Any amendments to bulletin point one – the first bulletin point, New Zealand?

New Zealand – Sorry, I've jumped the gun, mine's the second bullet point, apologies Chair.

Chair – Are we agreed to bullet point one? Agreed. Bullet point two? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair. Just a suggestion that instead of examining the costs and benefits of the Leaders' decision, we could <we could> perhaps examine the costs and benefits of the options that are considered during the process. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Any comments on that? No? Are there any more amendments to that? Ok are we agreed? If not we'll come back to it later. Thank you. Bullet point three, any amendment? Are we agreed? We are agreed. [slight noise from the side] Oh Australia ...

Australia – I think this just relates to the same issue ... uh a progress report. I think if <if> the Council finds it acceptable to <to> look at the implementa ... to make ... <to to> ... to make ... to pro ... a draft implementation plan ... uh to be submitted to the three governing councils and the Forum in 2008.

Chair – Can we ... can you please just repeat that Australia ...

Australia – ‘a draft implementation plan to be submitted to the three governing councils and the Forum in 2008.’ And I would just seek a clarification on the draft final report in 2009, I think that ... I'm not sure how that fits with <with>having already presented it to the <to> Council in 2008. Perhaps if I could just get a bit of clarity from the Secretariat on that.

Chair – Director?

Director – Thank you, thank you Chair. The way in which the consultative process is actually outlined at the moment is in fact, in 2008 there would be uhmm <a> draft ... you know some progress made in terms of various things that would need to be exempt [examined] and so on,

that would go before the councils of the various ... of the three organisations with a view obviously to getting, you know, er ... or elaborating those further and getting some agreements around further development. The idea then being that in fact that would be worked on in the year from the next Council session to the second Council session with a view to actually providing a final draft, meaning you know obviously a near final implementation plan which would need to go before the various councils for their <for their> consideration and endorsement. [from the side "Hmmm?"] I guess what your suggestion, or the suggestions at the moment are that in fact this final draft report would in fact be going before Council in less than twelve months time; and so therefore from listening to some of the discussion in fact what's being suggested is a compression uhmm of <of> the time line ... and that what goes before Council in September or when councils meet, not in September of 2008, but when councils meet that in fact they would be uhmm in a position where they would need to be considering and endorsing a near-final draft. ["Yes", says a female voice in the background].

Australia – Yes ... thank you sir, thank you Chair. Um ... Yes I think <I think> the reason I <I> put that, is obviously I think that <you know> for a whole range of reasons that were mentioned this morning in my earlier presentation ... for reasons of certainty and to reduce risk, I am of the view for <for> for the sake of the members and the donors and the staff and other stakeholders in this, it is to everyone's benefit to have certainty as soon as <as> they can. And I think that to prolong the process will reduce that certainty and will in fact bring about the very problems of <of of> falling away of morale and certainty that <that> people have identified as a risk. And <I I> I'm wondering whether uhmm the Council wouldn't be prepared to go along with the approach that the SPC used which was to do as I suggested in the/in my previous intervention to suggest that the <that the ...that ... that> ... a draft implementation plan be brought back to the Council next year for consideration; uhmm and then, uhmm rather than uh specify what it is exactly that will proceed uhmm in the other governing councils, because after all we don't uhmm <we don't> uh uh dictate what the other governing councils do ... uhmm that we just simply keep at specifying what we want for our next <our next> Council meeting. So uhmm there's a sense in which uhmm uh ... I think that we could even omit that particular recommendation because uh we've <we've>

really made a recommendation for our own Council in the previous dot point uhmm above ... [slight pause] ... point number one is the one I was referring to.

Chair – Ok Australia. Guam?

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman. Excuse me, but in my experience in writing development plans and implementation plans over the years – an implementation plan we've always treated (and this maybe US influence that leads to this) ... but that's always been after you've got an approved plan and the implementation plan says this amount of money and these people will be doing this and this; but first you have the master plan and I'm a little confused in the recommendation in calling it a draft implementation plan upfront. Perhaps we could discuss that, Australia?

Australia – Ok. I'd be happy not to use the term 'implementation plan'; I'd be happy to use <to use> some other <some other> terminology.

Chair – Thank you. Samoa...

Samoa – Thank you Mr Chairman. In no way are we trying to delay this process deliberately but I think we do need to proceed with the course of action very cautiously and in a transparent manner; and I feel that if we need time, we should give it time but the fact is we have to be realistic with our timing as the issue of this rationalisation process is a very critical one. I wonder whether we can – because we are now constantly referring to the SPC record – they refer to a draft roadmap <so> as opposed to a draft implementation plan – can we, for recommendation three can we look at an initial draft roadmap to be submitted to the three councils and the Forum in 2008, and then the final ... final report or final roadmap, in 2009 and this will take into consideration any further recommendations or deliberations arising from the Council meeting in 2008, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Fiji ...

Fiji – Thank you Chair. Chair, I agree with what's being discussed but I think if we look at the <the that the> dates that are being set out there, there are three dates – two thousand and eight [2008], two thousand and nine [2009] and two thousand and ten [2010] and we're dealing with three councils and a forum at the same time, which meets every year. Now, the Forum and the Leaders' Communiqué have made a decision. They have not said when they would want that decision be carried out – there's an open ended ... Now, as I see it, two thousand and eight [2008] would be the first year for

consideration by each of the councils regarding this the Communiqué. Two thousand and nine [2009] comes into play and the presentation of it as in paragraph one – that it be presented to uhmm to the Forum in two <two> thousand and ten [2010]. I think that's a much more comfortable passage dealing what is ... we're dealing with now through those three councils and <and the , and > the Forum and I <I> believe what will take place at the Forum of two thousand and eight [2008] is an update of <of> what has already taken place. A final report <in> given in two thousand and nine [2009] and then in two thousand and ten [2010] it comes into play to the Forum. I think we might ... it might be wise for us to look at that uh uhmm ... passage.

Chair – Kiribati?

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think we feel the consensus that a ... the rationalisation is agreed in general, but it has to be taken into cautious the time frame and I do agree with what already been stated here as I already previously alluded in my earlier statement – time is very important – we don't have to rush. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Niue?

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think ... [Side B of Tape 3 ends] [... a lot of concerns have been raised in the last couple of days about what we're discussing here; I will tend to agree with the delegation from Fiji and Kiribati's position [on the need for time]. Thank you.]

[Side A of Tape 4 starts]

Chair – Thank you Niue. Federated States Micronesia ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Yes Sir, thank you Chairman. I guess I just wanna raise a point that we gotta keep in mind that SPREP Council actually met before the decision was made, so that Council itself has not even considered this decision made by the Forum so I wonder if we are forcing the ... by <by> giving this deadline of next year when the SPREP Council will meet for the first time to consider the issue, we're saying that we're gonna present the roadmap.

Chair – Yes, thank you Federated States of Micronesia. Australia ...

Australia – Thank you Chair. I'm sorry to intervene one more time but I would just like to make the point that I think in our <in our> three organisations, SOPAC, SPREP and SPC, we have three very competent administrators, we have <we have> in those people <those three people> embodied the knowledge of the

three organisations. And I think that we need to be able at least invest in them a modicum of trust that between them they can come up with some very firm and very practically-based suggestions about how we might do this. Now, with <with> due respect to everybody around the table, I don't think that there is ... there can be a more suitable set of people to examine the way forward than those three CEOs and to come up with some very clear suggestions as to how we might go ahead. Now I think that get three people around the table who know their organisations very well; who know where the likely connections and synergies lie – they are in a position – I don't think that they need two years to come up with a suggestion with some suggestions for us as councils to look at. They know the organisations – it's not a matter of getting more consultants to look and give their views – we're asking the people who are at the centre of the organisations, the CEOs, who know the organisations to provide us with their combined wisdom on how we can do this. Now, I am ... I <I I> would like the Council to consider that this is not a process that needs to take two years – it can be done with those people sitting together in a <in a a> a shorter time, which would at least start to provide us with some of the certainty that I think that we are all agreed we need if we are to protect the very important functions of SOPAC that we've been talking about. Thank you.

Chair – Australia ... New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair and just echoing the comments that my colleague from Australia made just to draw Council's attention once more to recommendation 6 that the Secretariat has put to us “acknowledged with concern that change processes such as this increase demands on the Secretariat, and cause stress on the staff, that will impact current levels of service delivery”. So if <if> we're going to be proposing a time line that goes out beyond a year for a document to come back for our consideration, then <then> we do need to make that conscious decision that we're also accepting that that risk level on our organisation – on our benefits to members also extends – and <and> we just need to be conscious of that, we need to bear that in mind when we're making our decision, thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – I too wish to ... thank you Chair ... I too wish to add my voice to the recommendations by Australia and New Zealand. The fact being, time is of essence; a Leaders' decision has been made; SOPAC's, SPC and

SPREP CEOs are best placed to recommend a framework of analysis on how we can fit in the details – this is how we went through with the Pacific Plan, if I may remind Council members who are members of the Pacific Islands Forum. And as I said in <in> my recommendation in my statement before I left – in the conclusion seven – that we need to maintain momentum and I think it would be I guess uhmm ... we would be doing a disservice if we don't because of the cumulative effect of considerations <that would amount> that it would amount to in terms of the delay if we do not at least embark on a process that would involve the three CEOs – initial discussions – thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea, Fiji ...

Fiji – Thank you Chair. I'm glad to see that the High Commission[er of] Papua New Guinea has come back revived from his consultation with the doctor. I don't want to delay this discussion Honourable Chair, the thing is I was just putting those dates up for consideration – 2008, 2009, 2010 – because they are reflected in the document that was given to us. Now, going on experience from what has happened in the Forum over the many years regarding decisions such as this – taking HIV AIDS for one – the decision was made and it was implemented three or four years down the line. So the passage of <of> time regarding decisions in the Forum has been over a period of time –and I know that for a fact, HIV AIDS <it> was mooted in <in> Nauru and didn't come on line until the <the uhmm> Forum in Papua New Guinea – some three years later and yet that was an imminent decision that should have been made, because of the effect of HIV AIDS in the Pacific. That's all I'm <I'm> saying, I'm <I'm> not fighting the dates but that has been the pattern over a period of time. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. I think we probably need a bit more discussion on the time line. Maybe we can move on and come back to that paragraph – and so we go on to paragraph four (iv). Any amendments? New Zealand?

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair, just again another small drafting suggestion, that the recommendation as I understand it is asking the three organisations to begin a new process of designing and developing all regional projects – uhmm I <I> guess all that the Council is able really to do is to make a recommendation to the other two councils that they might like to consider this – we can't instruct them to – so <so> my suggestion would be to change the beginning to “recommend to the CEOs of SPC and SPREP that the three organisations design and develop” – something along those lines – just to get in that flavour, thank you.

Chair – Thank you, we'll take note of that ... that amendment. Are we agreed? French Polynesia?

French Polynesia – Thank you Honourable Chair. I just want to have a clarification concerning the reference to the SIS summit – is there any particular reason to mention the SIS summit decision? Thank you.

Chair – Thank you French Polynesia. I'll ask the Director if she can uh ...

SOPAC Director – In fact, at the recent SIS summit there was a decision taken that SPREP and SOPAC should work closely together on addressing the strengthening of national and regional met. and climate services; and so therefore the suggestion in this paper is that this provides an opportunity to start to explore how you would look at joint programming and addressing some of the issues wherein there is complementarity of technical advantage between the two agencies. So that that part of that recommendation alludes to the fact that there was a decision taken and just giving an example of an area in which we would and we could start to proceed in this fashion.

Chair – Thank you. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I think that there's merit in what French Polynesia is suggesting and <and> therefore, without trying to highlight a particular summit we might as well put a list of summits – because there's quite a [this decision?] that will be taken will affect a whole range of issues across the board. There may be a special decision in relation to SIS but I think this sentence should actually end [at] “as a starting point”, period, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Can we add that amendment ...? Are we agreed, paragraph four (iv)? Paragraph five (v) ... any amendments? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair, just a <a> thought for people's consideration, uhmm bearing in mind I guess that uhmm uh that <that> the consultative process will involve three organisations uh that with similar membership, uhmm – perhaps rather than a sub committee of <of of> each Council being set up, uh another option is <is> a <a> committee that includes members of <of> all of the three agencies that can be a committee that comes together during the process to be informed and if necessary offer <offer> guidance along the way ... uhmm that that committee uhmm perhaps could usefully be based in Suva ... uhmm as a <as a> thought just to sort of have a central hub where we can uhmm uhmm conduct a sort of efficient process bearing in mind we're working <working>

across three different councils, but with <with> very similar membership ... uhmm ... just a <just a> suggestion.

Chair – Can you suggest a form of wording on that New Zealand ... uh?

New Zealand – Will I be able to have a bit of time to perhaps come up with some wording, perhaps during a break or uh? Thank you.

Chair – Right, thank you. Niue ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think this recommendation is a very important one and I would like to recommend that we move that to number one [i] ... please. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Niue ... suggestion to move paragraph five (v) to number one (i). Australia, and then Samoa ... Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you Niue, uhmm thank you Mr Chair sorry Honourable Chair and thank you Niue for that. I was also going to call uhmm to ask that that recommendation also come first because this sub committee will actually give direction to SOPAC, as to how it should engage with SPC and SPREP. Just uh ... I also uhmm feel Honourable Chair that the committee should have a terms of reference drawn up, so that it will be clear on the exact tasks that it has to take on board, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Australia ...

Australia – Chair it's just uh seeking clarification really ... uhmm paragraph five (v) I think there was a suggestion for an amendment uhmm so I assume ... I was just seeking clarity really from Niue and Samoa on the reference that they were making to paragraph five (v)?

Chair – Yes, the suggestion by Niue was to move paragraph five (v) to paragraph ... to be paragraph one (i) ...

Australia – In its? my question was, in its amended form or as it is now?

Chair – Niue?

Niue – Sorry Mr Chairman, thank you. In its <in its> form as it is, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Well a slight variance to the distinguished delegate's of Niue's suggestion; I think if it were amended it would make sense to place it as a new paragraph three (iii) – reason being, we need to acknowledge that there is a consultative process that will take place; and then paragraph two (ii) what that consultative process will entail; and then immediately following that a recommendation would be made that the ... they have a council meeting ... a <a a> joint council SPREP, SOPAC

and SPC – we have to also think about the <the> governance of each of these councils and how they will meet – whether they <they> meet as was suggested by the Secretary General in the revised service <services> council form or whether they meet as we ... how we currently have CROP – but reduced specifically to these three organisations that are affected – so with the new language that New Zealand will provide, it will give us clarity as to how we would move but I would suggest that we place it after paragraph two (ii) as it currently exists. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Niue? ... do you have anything to comment on that?

Niue – I <I> stand with my uh proposal actually, Mr Chairman, thank you.

Chair – Can we move on to paragraph six (vi). Any amendments? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. I guess <I guess> this recommendation raises the point that the <uh the> representative of Papua New Guinea brought up before he <he> left to go to the doctors around who was going to facilitate the discussions because currently, I guess, we're inviting SPC and SPREP to engage in a process but as I understand it – or well as I know in fact – SPC has accepted the offer of the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to facilitate the process and uhmm and I think the <the> representative from Papua New Guinea was inviting us to consider that also, thank you.

Chair – French Polynesia?

French Polynesia – Thank you Mr Chair for giving me the floor again. It seems to me that paragraph six (vi) duplicates what is currently in paragraph one (i), and furthermore if paragraph six (vi) refers to the governing bodies; uhmm it might be a problem. We might consider to refer to SPC and SPREP CEOs, because I don't see why we should have a double consultative process at the level of the governing bodies and at the level of the uhmm directions ... so I would like to have clarification on the need to keep paragraph six (vi) as it is, and have your view on that, thank you.

Chair – Thank you French Polynesia. Can I ask the Director for comment on the seemingly duplication of paragraph six (vi) and paragraph one (i).

Director – I can understand why you would see that there is duplication there. I guess the reason for paragraph six (vi) at this stage is the fact that you're a governing body unto yourselves and you really cannot dictate to other governing bodies you know what they can do as legal

entities unto their own right and so I guess in paragraph six (vi), the suggestion is 'be invited'; but rather than ... you know so therefore the invitation to those governing bodies uhmm to actually be engaged in ... to be fully engaged in the consultative process.

Chair – French Polynesia?

French Polynesia – Yes, thank you, <it's> but it's quite obvious that the governing bodies will be involved as they are sovereign bodies – so that's why I have this interrogation concerning the need to refer to the <govern> governing bodies in the consultative process; knowing that at the final stage it will be the responsibility of the governing bodies of SPC, SPREP and SOPAC to decide about uhmm ... about the reform, but I thank you for your clarification.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I think there's merit in ... thank you Chair ... there's merit in what French Polynesia is saying but may be it is really an appeal to the governing bodies to remain fully engaged in the consultative process and more to the point that they must remain interested in what <what> the CEOs would be engaging in <in the> for the future. I think that's probably the way in which this current formulation of the paragraph seems to suggest to be. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you. We've noted those amendments ... uhmm ... can we? If we can move on and come back and discuss paragraph six (vi). [long silence] Alright? [some lively discussion going on off the mic system] ... this is how the Secretariat understands the amendments that were made; but we can come back to it after the can we move on to the next paragraph, any amendments? If not, are we agreed? Next paragraph ... Australia ...

Australia – Thank you Chair. Uhmm I <I> would uhmm ... I would be concerned that, in its efforts to "secure resources for sustained service delivery", uhmm that this be done in the context of the RIF uhmm discussions ... of the consultations on the <on the> uh – shall we call it consultations of the <the> CEO in the context of the CEOs consultations because I think we <we> made the point earlier that uhmm the pursuit of <of> uhmm of resources uh that not in the <in that> context will <will> ... could have the <the> the chance of undermining the process or working contrary to the process; so uhmm ... perhaps the words that I would suggest is uhmm ... 'and secure resources for sustained service deliveries in the context of CEO consultations', uhmm yeah get rid of the rest yeah [referring to the editing on the screen].

Chair – Thank you Australia ... are we agreed on that paragraph? Oh we'll come back to it ... the last paragraph. Any amendments? If not, we are agreed. Australia, did you want to? Yes, I take it that we all agree to that last paragraph. Ok agreed. [Side A of Tape 4 ends] [Australia do you want to ... ? I take it you all agree to the last paragraph, ok [much stalling here] ... while we start to [collate] the changes and amendments to the paragraphs we might as well take a ten-minute break and come back and ...]

[Side B of Tape 4 starts]

Chair – [...] give it to you to have a look at, it might make it easier so would you please just bear with us for a little while longer, thank you. [short break] ... running off more copies to be distributed to uh other members who have not received it, but I think all representatives have received copies each ... so can I suggest we go through starting with first paragraph again ... paragraph one (i) was agreed. No amendments was made to that. No? Paragraph two (ii), we agreed with no amendments. Agreed. Paragraph three (iii) – an amendment by New Zealand to delete the word 'secure' – is everybody fine with that? Are we agreed? Agreed. Paragraph four (iv) – no amendments. Fiji?

Fiji – Thank you Chair. Paragraph four (iv) as it is reflects what we want to say, but I don't think it's being said properly. I <I> think we need to look at the wording there, it's a bit hazy; and I suggest the experts in this look at that.

Chair – Any particular suggestion Fiji that you might ...?

Fiji – Chair, the way it reads ... "recognised further that throughout its existence the Commission has regularly been "reviewed" in regard to its future, its role, and its direction, to which it has responded positively and emerged with improved and strengthened of services to its members" – I think 'strengthened of services to its member' ... that could be done better.

Chair – New Zealand ... oh Papua New Guinea and then New Zealand

Papua New Guinea – I agree with the Honourable Minister from Fiji. I think what we need to reflect here is what uh PMEG does for the organisation [plus] STAR, because they are set up by Council – that arrangement – that's where the basic uh review process takes place and I think if you want to leave it as it is, it's very uh ... using uh Ratu Epeli's language ... hazy, ambiguous, hanging in the air, or nebulous ...

Chair – New Zealand did you want uh...?

New Zealand – I was hoping that maybe if we just took the word 'of' out, it might solve the

problem, but <but but> perhaps not ... it will solve one problem anyway. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Could the Secretariat review that language as suggested by Fiji. Ok, Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. Maybe along the same line as New Zealand, probably leave ‘of’ and add ‘delivery’ straight after ‘strengthened’. Alright ... well ... Ok Director ...

Director – Thank you. In actual fact under paragraph four (iv), what that paragraph is actually referring to is some text <in> on page ten of the paper that was provided to you; and that is on ... under paragraph five, as well as <and then> paragraph six in the bullet points below of that. There were two cases uhmm if you like, in <in> recent <in the recent> history of SOPAC wherein there were two occasions where SOPAC was comprehensively reviewed – the first was in 1996 and 1997; and then again in 1999 when there was ... when CEOs of SOPAC and SPC in fact undertook to pull together a uhmm a study exploring integration of the two organisations – so that is what that review in paragraph four (iv) refers to.

Chair – Does that addition meet your needs Fiji?

Fiji – Chair, do you mean the explanation by the Director or the ... or the amendment by Cook Islands?

Chair – The amendment by Cook Islands ...

Fiji – [loud silence] ... Chair I could go along with that, although I ... although ...

Chair – Thank you Fiji ... are we agreed on that? Thank you. Agreed. Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea – Uhmm I think the order of the way in which ‘Recognised further that throughout its existence the Commission has been regularly “reviewed” ...’ ... I think that should be the order it should come; and is there any reason ‘reviewed’ is in brackets, uh inverted commas, sorry?

Director – Certainly at the moment it has emphasis on it but in fact you could remove the emphasis.

Chair – Are we agreed on those changes? Ok next paragraph. Do we agree to that being totally deleted? Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Lemme maybe take a little more time to explain why I suggested its deletion. I did refer to it as being an erroneous representation of the Leaders’ decision; it also points towards trying to second guess or if you like ... infer too much into what the Leaders have said. In order to move positively

on it, let it reflect in the conclusions that we’re actually proactively engaged on a consultative process, hence the reason why I suggested to Council that this could be removed – but if Council doesn’t agree PNG won’t stand in the way, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Palau?

Palau – Thank you Mr Chairman. Palau would like to reinstate the whole paragraph. I think that was the subject of our intense discussion today; and <and> I feel that ... you know ... that was what happened. Now the ... and that is why we’ve been discussing this for so long, thanks.

Chair – So we retain the whole paragraph as ... are we agreed to that? New Zealand?

New Zealand – Uhmm perhaps a way forward maybe to say that some members believe this is the case, but certainly New Zealand would not be able to associate with <with> that, we <we we> heard today from the Secretary General about the process; we also heard from uhmm the former chair about the process so I think it’s <it’s> quite ... uhmm it’s not factual at all to say there’s been no due diligence ... there’s been quite a lot [finds the ‘no due diligence’ claim humorous]... thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Niue ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think the point that Palau is trying to say here, and I would like to support his proposal, is that the report that we are doing here is actually reflective of what has been discussed without the meeting in the past couple of days and I would like to support what he is saying, thanks.

Chair – So we retain that paragraph? Australia ...

Australia – Excuse me Chair, I think that I heard New Zealand say that they would not ...uhmm they <they> needed a change; and as long as we have the ... some members ... ‘cause <because> I would certainly associate Australia with uh ... with the comments that a very serious process of <of> consultation has taken place and uhmm we have had some of that outlined for us today. So I would agree that it is <it is> not factual to make that comment, and I think that uh uh ... for uh ... for us to make the comment that our Leaders haven’t exercised due diligence is quite a long way to go and I’m certainly not prepared to make that comment when I know that there has been a three-year process of consultation and discussion uhmm uh ... which has involved members uh of every uh <uh uh> visitation uh <uh uh> of member countries ... so I would certainly at least ... at the very least associate myself with

it being some members uhmm; and would in fact be happier if it were out but I can live with it as 'some members'.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Papua New Guinea joins New Zealand and Australia in that position. Thank you.

Chair – So we include the word 'some members' ... uh Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair ... uhmm with the current paper and section that we're looking at at the moment, I think we have a leeway in this particular section; and I may not go with the whole set of language, but certainly the <the> issue of 'due diligence' is the important factor here and I take on board Australia and New Zealand's point in that regard. Why I said there's leeway there is that because the Secretary General of PIFS today established as such, as New Zealand mentioned, some members agreed, some didn't and some didn't know; so there are three points of reservations in that regard. And I believe we all took note of the comments made by the Secretary General; however, uhmm, in noting Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea's position on <on> this particular uh section uhmm ... I'd just like to highlight, as alluded to earlier by my colleague, that in-country transparent process of the consultation uh never really got to a stage of bringing on board the <the> doers as I <I> would call – the actual implementers of the programmes to date – hence my request that maybe the language in this section be uh re-hashed to articulate uh in fact ... the ... maybe to seek to in country from around the table here – whether the whole stakeholder, whole island approach was consulted to this programme in terms of programme delivery. Uhmm however noting the issues ... the interventions by my colleagues of New Zealand and Australia; and Papua New Guinea – the leeway as I mentioned are in ... to start of this sentence ... the paragraph ... "some members" ... therefore I <seek to> seek the experts around the table or around the room to look at another language to reflect the views of Council – this I believe is a <a> unique process that we come together as Council ... Council members here to first of all, to have dialogue or maybe to sus out what is in-country ... what's happening in-country to see whether a full consultation has taken place. And there are, I believe my colleague also in his intervention uhmm stated earlier that uhmm the political arm of the process has taken over without the other arm ... uh not knowing what has transpired, thank you sir.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Federated States of Micronesia ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Mr Chairman just uh ... I should just uh suggestion put on the table ... if we can, maybe shorten that statement to read, 'noted further that the Leaders' Communiqué does not necessarily call for total disintegration of SOPAC' ... period.

Chair – Thank you. That'd be reflected in the paragraph. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Chair. I'm a little bemused as to why we want to refer to words like 'total disintegration' – we're trying to reflect on a decision with ... sorry, with due respect to my colleague from FSM – we're trying to reflect on a decision that was taken. Stemming from that decision we're now suggesting that these ... that they're radical <radical> changes are likely to take place and that; however, it was not supported by evidence. There's two things that go here: one, there was a process involving consultants – they brought these reports to us; we had all the time – uh I mean I had considerable difficulty understanding why, as Chair in the June meeting, the people were still undecided; and whether they were actually carrying out national consultations or not, that's an issue for them to account to; however, I do feel that if with the retention of this paragraph in the way in which we originally amended it through New Zealand's suggestion would easily tell us that there remains that division through the RIF process of the three – undecided, positive, negative – and might I also remind Council members who are members of the Forum that when my letter went, we did ask for an alternative option to be provided by Leaders. None of us were in the retreat, except the Secretary General. He alluded to the fact that Leaders considered it – we were at a drafting committee – I was initially shocked that this process did not go through – but who am I to question my Leader's decision. And that's the brief with which I come, because I'm also past Chair, through my Leader, Interim Chair and Chair; and we've been doing it for the last two years. I know the pains we went through – the difficulties with the legal constitutional mandate issues that we went through; but these were all articulated for all members to consider and I think the retention of 'some members' would go a long way in satisfying the concerns that at least Papua New Guinea has uh ... and without the new amendment introduced by my colleague from FSM. I thank you Chair.

Chair – New Zealand and then FSM ...

New Zealand – I just wanted to uhmm ... I guess, what I heard earlier Chair was <was was> pretty

much consensus around the table that people wanted to respond positively and constructively to the Leaders' decision ... uhmm, and I mean, I, like Australia, can live with the words 'some members' but it really would be nice, I think, if we could <we could> move past that issue and <and> focus again on the process that we're trying to construct to take <to take> it forward ... uhmm ... thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Mr Chairman. Actually ... sorry I was not there at the meeting of course ... the Forum meeting; but I'm just reading the statement b) it says ... 'with a view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP' – perhaps the term 'disintegration' might not be <accept> acceptable there, but you know, there might be a better word that would reflect the language of uh nineteen bee [19b] – the way I read it – it does not say that all functions of SOPAC will be integrated into SPC and SPREP – it says 'rationalise functions of SOPAC programmes with SPC and SPREP, with a view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP.' To me that means that they are not saying that 'let's eliminate SOPAC' and put all the functions into SPC; I'm saying this because I'm mindful of the fact that we're talking earlier that, you know with the STAR that we have ... there would be, no matter how we do it, SPREP is a regional environmental programme; SPC has a whole host of areas that they handle – and SOPAC as <as> it started ... geoscience ... and then we agreed – we realised that from the beginning in <in> our conclusion. To me, I'm afraid that in the process we're gonna lose out ... the countries are gonna lose out in some of the services that are provided by SOPAC; by eliminating SOPAC entirely.

Chair – Thank you FSM. So we need to amend 'some members' ... and remove 'total disintegration', thank you. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair, uh ... I think in this particular section it does reflect the <the> views that we've shown, however we, as I understand the Council, to be ... where we are today is the uhmm ... on issues as such, we would normally come to a general consensus and go forward on this; however I can't uh ... I don't think we're can go past what Niue and Palau has established in their interventions. Therefore, in <in> view of this I think, you Sir, have established a <a> language forward and taking note what New Zealand and Australia has also put forward. But I'd like more in <in> terms of what the colleagues from Palau and Niue has <has> in their interventions – uh we

need to ask those two whether they agree with the uh <the uh> with the new changes or the language that we have there now. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Niue, do you want to comment?

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I fully support what the Cook Islands have suggested, thank you.

Chair – Ok so basically we retain the wording, with the words 'some members' in front. Ok, agreed? Can we move on to the next paragraph. I think this paragraph New Zealand had some suggestions in form of wording for this? I think this is the new paragraph five (v) that was suggested. [after some whispers at head table] Yeah sorry, this is paragraph six (vi) as paragraph five (v) has been retained with some amendments ... so this is paragraph six (vi). Are we agreed on this paragraph? FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Mr Chairman I'd like to suggest that ... deleting the whole paragraph. I'm ... not that I'm [not] mindful of the stress on the staff, which I guess would be from job security ... but I'm also uh would like to call in the process of any organisation or re-organisation, considerations are given for job security or placement of staff in you know ... that's always a consideration in any re-organisation and I wanted to flag that as part of the re-organisation to take the security of the staff into consideration in the process.

Chair – Thank you FSM. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – May I suggest that we could take the delegates' point forward as a principle, to guide the discussions and retain the paragraph. [Side B of Tape 4 ends]

[Mostly silence]

Chair – Thank you. Are we agreed to that?

[Side A of Tape 5 starts]

Chair – [...] Agreed. Next paragraph [long pause] paragraph seven (vii) was agreed. We move on. Are we agreed to the ... oh New Zealand.

New Zealand – Oh thank you very much Chair. Just a small suggestion that perhaps the ordering of this paragraph could be changed? uhmm because it refers in fact to the consultation process, so uhmm I think it should come after the first recommendation that actually talks about the consultation process. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. You referring to paragraph eight (viii), New Zealand?

New Zealand – Sorry I was referring to paragraph seven (vii); were we still on eight (viii)?

Er ... seven (vii), yeah, beginning “recognise the need to adhere to at least four principles...” that would become I guess recommendation two (ii) ... is that right?

[Lengthy pause after much whispering at head table]

Chair – Alright the old paragraph eight (viii) has been deleted and replaced by a new paragraph seven (vii) or eight (viii) ... these two need to be reworded? uh is that right New Zealand?

New Zealand – Thank you Chair, I’m just looking at the first three words say, uhmm, talk about the ... I beg your pardon ... we’re talking here about the principles I think that are going to guide the consultative process so I think it’s <it’s> perhaps in the wrong place. It needs to come after the first recommendation referring to the consultative process; so we <so we> agree to a consultative process; and then we agree to some principles for guiding that process – because currently we’re just ... they just appear but not related to the process in the ordering – so my suggestion was to take it down to uhmm ... the recommendation after the one beginning “a consultative process be established between ...” Thank you.

Chair – Alright, we’ll move that to be after recommendation two (ii) ... Australia ...

Australia – ... in fact would it help Chair if I said that what’s designated line one oh seven [107] in the left-hand margin; is that what; is that where you mean to have it? one oh seven? you look at the left hand on <on> page six? [“Yup”, from New Zealand in agreement].

Chair – Yes, yes that’s right. Yes Director ...

Director – I guess, again, just a suggestion to Council that New Zealand ... I mean I ... where it goes in the text clearly is <is> important and I <I> agree with that but uhmm ... er paragraph eight (viii) which is line sixty eight – the suggestion is that those principles be deleted and in fact be replaced by paragraph starting at line seventy seven ... uhmm and so therefore I would <I would> suggest that perhaps we do need to look at those two paragraphs together to see that in fact uhmm members agree to the uhmm you know believe that that paragraph starting line seventy seven in fact strengthens the principles uh in respect to the process; uhmm and then obviously the placement of that paragraph uhmm, you know, then clearly becomes important in terms of its logic. But I would suggest that in looking at this you look at line sixty eight to seventy five; and then seventy seven to eighty five – the suggestions by New Zealand uhmm to look at whether the language from line seventy seven in fact strengthens the

principles that uhmm <you know that> will be upheld during the process, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair. And Director, yes you’re quite right. Just to clarify the ones from seventy seven on are the ones that were agreed at the SPC meeting, so uhmm, the <the the> suggestion was we have a look at those because they’re already out there ... uhmm with a preface that said something like ... “guiding principles that could include ...” and then we make a decision on whether we’re happy with those or whether we need to add to them. Thank you very much.

Chair – Thank you. Fiji ...

Fiji – Thank you Chair. The word after ‘transparency’ is that ... should that be ‘timelines’ or ‘timeliness’?

Chair – Yes it is timeliness. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – There was just one extra point uhmm ... that was in the SPC one that we might want to consider and it was: “and effective involvement of stakeholders”. So the first one reads, “transparency and timeliness with respect to the process, and effective involvement of stakeholders.” Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Are we agreed to that? No further comments ... uh Cook Islands.

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. I have no problems with the current language except maybe to have a rehash after ‘timeliness’ to read – this is just a suggestion here – this is just the starting ... “recognised the critical need to adhere to at least the four principles of transparency and timeliness; cost-effectiveness; focus on the RIF process of creating ...” and then the other language to the end. And taking out the objective. Er ... sir for ... again I’d just like to repeat that bit there “recognised the critical need to adhere to at least the four principles of transparency and timeliness; cost-effectiveness; focus on the RIF process of creating an institutional framework that further improves [...] the service delivery.” Thank you.

Chair – Thank you ... try and include that. Cook Islands and Australia, then FSM Cook Islands ... [FSM then snuck in]

Federated Stated of Micronesia – Thank you Chair. I was gonna suggest in line eighty one to perhaps put a semi-colon after ‘PICTs’ and eliminate the word ‘and’.

Chair – Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. I uh ... I also forgot to mention that when I made that in-

tervention to take on board also the <uh the> language after that by <by> New Zealand.

Chair – We include the suggestion by New Zealand as well. Australia ...

Australia – Oh Sorry, beg your pardon ... uhmm
Chair I would just seek a clarification from my colleague from the Cook Islands ... I'm not sure that a principle is to focus on the RIF process. I think uhmm ... the RIF process is behind us. I think <I I I> I'm not quite sure that I'm understanding uhmm ... uh the uhmm ... what it adds. I'm a little bit concerned. I wouldn't want a focus on a process as a principle; it's <it's> really <it> ... as I see it, it really is that objective of uhmm a framework that improves service delivery to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

Chair – Cook Islands can you comment on that ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. And I would just like to reply to my colleague from Australia ... uhmm I think ... by my way of thinking at this point is that the process will always ... will continue – and mindful of the intervention by Samoa, in her intervention earlier. And by way of uh uh the roadmap that we intend to take as Council, until implementation. Thank you.

Chair – Does that answer the query Australia? or New Zealand

New Zealand – Uhmm ... uhmm ... we do just <just> run the risk if we change that word of departing from what's been decided at SPC, so I think we <we> probably ought to just take a little bit of care in doing that because we could end up two different uhmm sets of words and then we'll have some <some some> difficulty in sort of interpreting what that means. So <so> my suggestion really is we try and stick as closely as possible with <with> if we're happy, with the principles. We stick <stick> with them and then if we need to add a new principle we <we> do that in its entirety. Just <just> so we <we> we don't start our process with <with> debate around what the principles are that are going to guide it. Thank you.

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – Chair I just wonder whether it would help if we just said something like “focus on creating an institutional framework that further improves services to the PICTs”, rather and then just left out altogether that section from ... that 's highlighted on the board there. So, “focus on creating an institutional framework ...” Is that satisfactory?

Chair – Cook Islands?

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I apologise

to my colleagues around the table for taking up this time; however, in line with the suggestion by Australia, I ... I think I will go with it; however, the uh ... maybe the uhmm ... the wording uh uh ... add consultation ... consultative [having difficulty pronouncing this word] process sorry before 'process'. So I really, at this point, if that is as mentioned by New Zealand, if we're all happy with that then we go with it ... otherwise Australia has a good point but I <I> would still ... I still see this process by way of consultation carrying on until then, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. So are we clear on that paragraph? Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I don't want to belabour the issue, thank you Chair, but I think what we're <what we're> ... we've got now is if we're gonna take transparency and timeliness together, then that's one set of principles; and we've only got three principles up there. But I think the original formulation where it stated clearly to focus on the RIF objective was really the <the uh the> punch line as it were because you state the principles and then you bring in the focus on the RIF objective ... in creating a regional institutional framework ... that was the original formulation, which I didn't see any difficulty with, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Can uh ... delegates read through that ... uh Kiribati ...

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think I agree with Papua New Guinea; I think the ... we have to emphasise the main idea behind this RIF and I think the four principles has to be stated and it was well stated out in the one that has been deleted; and so I do agree it is uh <it is> the guiding principles that has to be stated also and that the process has been stated in line seven, thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Yes Director.

Director – It is just a small comment because it is grammatically incorrect at the moment; but just after 'to PICTs' ... it then says 'assists with effective implementation' ... I mean I don't know whether in fact that was meant to go with the previous ... so “improved service delivery to PICTs to assist with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan ...” ... but as it stands at the moment 'assists with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan' is kinda sitting out there on its own and doesn't really make a whole lot of sense at the moment; uh but if it's taken with ... immediately after 'improved service delivery to PICTs' ... 'to assist with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan' uhmm that kinda hangs together a little bit better ... just a suggestion.

Chair – Agreed to that? Right ... ‘to assist’ ... New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Sorry to have to come in, I ... just uh draw your attention to the fact that it’s an ‘and’ in the SPC decision; so it <it it> ‘further improves service delivery to PICTs ‘and’ assists with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan’ ... uhmm ... just a small point.

Chair – Are we agreed to that paragraph as a whole ... [calls from the floor that they can’t see parts of the paragraph, so Chair to scribe] ... can we move the paragraph up? [long pause] ... you able to read the paragraph? FSM?

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Mr Chairman, with due respect to my colleague from New Zealand, the reason why I proposed to separate those is, the way I’m reading it, is that we’re to improve services delivery to member countries in accordance with the Pacific Plan; but if that’s not the way its ... so long as we understand that doesn’t mean that we have to connect those two, because service deliveries and then Pacific Plan implementation, to me are separate.

Chair – Thank you. Are we agreed on ...? after this latest amendment? French Polynesia ...

French Polynesia – Yes thank you Mr Chairman. Um English <English> is not my first language, not even the second one; so I apologise in advance if I may say something stupid but uhmm, but as I read the text, I recognise five principles and I don’t understand why transparency and timeliness are together as one principle. So maybe we should reword the paragraph saying ‘adhere to at least five principles’ ... then ... ‘transparency, timeliness, cost-effectiveness’ ... and so on; ‘cause I ... it doesn’t make sense to me to have one principle including two principles in fact, thank you.

Chair – Thank you French Polynesia. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I’m just echoing what Samoa said, there’s a set of principles but – I think the important fact to note here is that we have to agree that there must be a flow-on – once we state those principles then the RIF, as it was originally formulated by New Zealand, follows. When you read it: ‘focus on the RIF objective of creating an institutional framework that further improves service delivery to PICTs and assists with effective implementation of the Pacific Plan,’ ... it’s not to assist – there’s two different things here – it assists ... and it also assists with the implementation ... ‘effective implementation of the Pacific Plan’. One is a larger process; the other is a subset. I thank you Chair ... I hope that’s clear.

Chair – ‘and assist’ ... alright. Are we agreed with that as <it> amended? [Long pause] Do you agree to that delegates? Agreed? [Side A Tape 5 ends] [Agreed. Move on. [Mostly silence]]

[Side B of Tape 5 starts]

Chair – This paragraph had been agreed to, any comments? If not, are we agreed and move on to the next one. Agreed? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair. I just wanted to make a small suggestion in the paragraph above, just seeing everything running together now. I wonder if we really want to say ‘recommends’ because it begs the question ‘to whom?’ and instead we want to say ‘agrees the following course of action’ ... so the Council’s ‘agreeing the following course of action’; and <and> we may just have to make some small changes at the beginning of <of> the other uhmm ... recommendations as we go through just to <to> follow on from that if people agree.

Chair – Thank you ... [reads] ‘agrees the following ...’ Agreed? Agree to that change? ... fine? Agreed to that ... ok. Now, paragraph one of the recommendation ... of the uh, I mean ... Australia?

Australia – Chair I think Samoa made the suggestion that instead of ‘implementation plan’ we might use the term ‘roadmap’; and I wondered whether that had been omitted.

Chair – ‘Roadmap’ was suggested by Samoa. Samoa?

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair; and if I can just turn back to a statement made by Australia earlier that the three CEOs are competent professionals who understand fully the functions and operations of their respective organisations which they are leading; but uhmm Samoa would like to remove from this particular paragraph reference to CEOs ... to the word CEOs on line a hundred; and reference to the word CEO on line a hundred and two. Uhmm but the reference to CEO on line a hundred and two to be replaced with the original wording, which is ‘three organisations’. I think Honourable Chair, we have to be reminded that this should be a Council-driven process. It is our organisation and we make the decisions as a body; especially as it is going to affect us and <and> the future of SOPAC, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa for that reminder that uh ... Palau and then New Zealand ...

Palau – Thank you Mr Chairman. Palau would like to reinstate the original wording. Palau is too, is a have a full confidence on the CEOs but I think this should be driven by the country. Also

the Communiqué didn't provide a timeline; and as people ... many people mention, if we need time, time should be allowed, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Palau. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Pardon me Chair, thank you. I wonder if the member of Samoa appreciates that this was the <the> process again agreed at the SPC meeting that the three CEOs uh would come together in a consultative uhmm ... a consultative process to agree an implementation plan or <or> roadmap. I just wanted to <to> check that with <with> Honourable member, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Samoa?

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair. Uhmm what I'm tryin' to say is this has to ... these decisions have to be made by Council; it has to come to Council as opposed to just the CEOs making the <the> decisions. And whilst it has been an issue that was heavily debated at the recent SPC meeting; I don't think that we should be driven by what SPC uhmm comes up with. We are an independent body, we make our own decisions; and we don't have to go by uh <by> ... for instance ... some of the wording that they're proposing uhmm uhmm ... I think that's all I have to say for now, thank you.

Chair – Guam, and then Papua New Guinea, then Niue ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman. I'd just briefly like to strongly support what Samoa has just provided us, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I think the Australian delegate had her flag out before me so if I can defer to her and then I'll take the floor Sir ...

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea, Australia, then PNG, and then Niue ...

Australia – Uhmm Chair just in response to the comment made by Samoa, uhmm I <I> would like to know how the consultative process can be taken ahead when we have three councils uhmm made up of a number of people that you see around the table here and more ... a number of countries ... uh I would like to know what sort of process she is proposing because obviously I wasn't saying that the CEOs should make any decision at all – the point I was making was that the CEOs should talk and based upon their understanding of their organisations, make proposals for their councils to consider for decision making. Uh ... I think the reason we have Secretariats after all is because of the impossibility of all of us doing what we're doing here today around organisational issues.

I <I> cannot see how we could have a process that would move anywhere unless we were prepared to entrust it to our CEOs.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Lemme also piggy back on what Australia has said; but more important to the point that this uhmm; one – the chapeau of that reads “Council therefore recommends the following course of action as a way ...” so that in fact takes account of Samoa's concerns about it being driven by Council <... if you look at the preambular part of it the chapeau reads “Council therefore recommends the following course of action as a way forward in responding the Leaders' decision ...”> ... and then you have a sub-set which asks for a consultative process to be established between the CEOs. Now you could call them the heads of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP; but I think that really is where it takes account of Samoa's concerns about Council-driven and the fact that Australia has articulated, which I endorse, that the CEOs need to consult, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Niue and then Tonga ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I'd like to echo and support the proposal by Samoa actually. As <as> a Council member we need to ... this is our process – it needs to be driven by the Council, and no other councils – so I'd like to support that Mr Chairman, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Tonga ...

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. Tonga would like to concur with what Samoa has proposed, and to make things more complicated, can we add on the suggestion from Niue earlier on, to uhmm ... for the new first recommendation. I think they go hand in hand, in terms of ownership and having a say in what's ... uhmm the consultative process.

Chair – Thank you Tonga. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – I was just a uhmm ... just <just> wanting Chair, thank you, to <to> reflect again on how we would <we would> implement that. Effectively we might have a situation where we have three big tables of people like this ... different people from different ... from the same ministries but on the same council or how would we literally get three councils together to uhmm ... to drive this process forward, I wonder? Thank you Chair.

Chair – French Polynesia ...

French Polynesia – Thank you Honourable Chair. May I suggest uhmm language in order to reconcile the points of view – ‘a consultative process be established between the CEOs of

SOPAC, SPC and SPREP to prepare a draft <a draft> roadmap to be submitted for consideration by the SOPAC Council in 2008' – I think it will reflect clearly the power of the Council and of course the consultative process must be held at the level of the secretariats; it can't be otherwise, thank you.

Chair – Thank you ... French Polynesia, could you please just repeat that suggestion ...

French Polynesia – Yes, so the first line stands as it is 'a consultative process be established between the CEOs of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP' – so we keep the wording of the Australian delegation – 'to prepare a draft road map' – and you delete "mutually agreed upon by the three CEOs" – 'to be submitted for consideration by the SOPAC Council in 2008', full stop. Thank you.

Chair – Niue <Niue>, and then Cook Islands ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. Maybe as a way forward, may I recommend that the uhmm ... the process could be chaired by the three chairs of the councils ... the three councils ... and that way the process could be seen as Council driven. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Niue. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair. I concur with the intervention by French Polynesia; and maybe to add 'governing' before 'Council'. And uh ... but seeing that they are to meet as the three CEOs and uh ... I was thinking maybe we could uh ... along the same lines as French Polynesia, 'to be submitted for consideration by their respective governing councils in 2008' – uh I am not really clear as to whether <we> they can all meet at the same month in council ... but like this year ... SPREP already met, we <we> meeting now; but I <I was> thinking that because/of the meeting together they need to go back to their respective councils to get their uh decision, endorsed; or carried, for that matter. And I also like to also be mindful of the intervention by Palau, earlier in this particular section in uh ... trying to retain the last ... the language in the last part, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. The suggestion by the Cook Islands was to include the chair of <three> the three governing councils to chair the consultation ... [Director in an aside, saying it was a Niue suggestion] Oh that was Niue, yes. Palau ...

Palau – Thank you Mr Chairman. Palau will support the proposal from Niue; and we request that the CEOs should be advising the three chairs of the three organisation.

Chair – Thank you Palau. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. I'm just what's being allowed here, whether we're creating uh different layers of bureaucracy when we know that we've employed Secretariats that are responsible for carrying out those mundane duties ... I wonder <I wonder> how the chairs of these three governing councils will, you know, be of ... will avail themselves to constantly meet with the CEOs to discuss matters that needs to be fleshed out at the technical, scientific, advisory levels and brought to them and that they, as governed by their rules and procedures, carry out their tasks with uh ... in the rules ... in the respective governing councils' rules and procedures. Secondly, we've just gone through and adopted ... uhmm ... in relation to transparency and timeliness, and now we want to seek the retention of a mutually agreed-upon report to be submitted to Forum by twenty ten (2010); so what definition are we giving timeliness, in this regard, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea, New Zealand ...

New Zealand – There is also another question which <is> doesn't need to go to the Forum at all; and unfortunately I don't know the answer to that question. Would be nice if the Secretary General was <was> still here, able to answer that but ... I'm not sure that that level of detail would need to go back to the Forum – we may need to seek clarification at some point. The other associated comment I guess, is that, in a sense we don't need to make a decision at this stage on what the next steps are. All we're suggesting is keeping our eye on the next milestone – the next key milestone, which is for this Council here in a year's time to be able to consider the work that the three CEOs have done. So, my suggestion is that we don't really know what the next steps are; we can only really see as far into the future as we can <we can> reasonably see; and that is really our next time to meet, in a year's time; and I guess it would be nice to know that when we do meet together, we'll have something to <to> be able to consider and discuss that gives us some more clarity and certainty about where this thing's going. But I <I> don't think we need at this point to <to> map out a process beyond that because it'll become very apparent when we receive uhmm ... the uhmm <the> document ... what needs to happen next. We'd be much betterer informed about where we go to from there. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. The paragraph one (i) as amended is on the screen. [Long pause] Guam ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman. In proceeding with this type of wording, uhmm I would like ask or note concern that uhmm the SPREP Council has not met to discuss whether the CEO would be involved like this; isn't that part of the process, that we need that approval of that Council? Thank you.

Chair – Yes that's right Guam. Australia ...

Australia – I think we, just in answer to the question from Guam, I think that that's right we did hear from the CEO of SPREP this morning who gave us an outline of <how> how he saw the situation; uhmm so that's why I think that uh the wording that says that this "should be submitted for consideration by respective governing councils" maybe us overstepping the mark a little and that what we're <we're> agreeing is to be submitted to us – uhmm to the <this> Council in 2008. Uhmm And ... so that <that that> would be my er response to that question but uhmm ... uhmm that's just my opinion so I don't want ... but the other thing that I would like to draw to your attention uhmm ... in the uh <in the> wording there ... in <in in in> the square brackets in black where it says "in the final report mutually agreed upon by the same" ... I'm not sure what is meant by the 'final report' 'cause this is a draft road map that we're talking about.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair, I think we're <we're we're> being straight jacketed on a conveyor belt into a decision that we should really not be an approach, and I <I I> do concur with New Zealand the important fact to note is a process has to be started; and I take note of Australia's point that the governing council of SPREP has not met – he's informed us also – uh and therefore we should be reporting to ourselves or getting our CEO to report to ourselves and leave it at that. Thank you.

Chair – Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair. I think I'll concur with the latest intervention; and uhmm however, I'd just like to echo one of the earlier interventions by one of my colleagues around the table ... uh that we <we uhmm> I suppose we do not ... we are not responsible for the other councils or we don't direct the other CEOs to come to the floor. However, I think it will be a smooth process just by themselves organising themselves and uh ... but the language as it stands uh ... by the interventions, is fine with the Cook Islands. Keyoo.

Chair – Keyoo ... so as the paragraph stands uhmm, with those amendments ... does it need to be further amended or are we agreed on that as it stands now. [long silence] Are we agreed? Guam, then French Polynesia ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman. I find it a bit confusing in the first two lines. We're talking about 'between' ... when we say 'between' that's two parties; it should be 'among' ... aren't we talking about among SOPAC, SPC and SPREP instead of looking like it's the chairs of the three versus the CEOs of the three, if you say 'between'; uh maybe chairs shouldn't be there? Uh can I ask for further discussion.

Chair – 'Among' ... change that to 'among' [directed at the scribe] the chairs and CEOs. French Polynesia and then Papua New Guinea ...

French Polynesia – Honourable Chairman, I'm sorry to take the floor again ... but I really wonder if there is a need to involve the chairs knowing that at the <at the> end, the draft road map will be submitted to the Council; so it's clear that it's the Governing Council that will have the final uh say. So ... and as far as French Polynesia is concerned, my delegation was asked to be consistent with its position two weeks ago at the CRGA and SPC conference, so the more we can ... we stick on the uhmm the resolution adopted by the SPC the better it is for French Polynesia, it doesn't mean that this body is dictated by another one. But I think that for the consistency, uhmm I really don't see why we should involve the chairs – it doesn't add anything on the substance and it will complicate the whole process, thank you.

Chair – Thank you French Polynesia. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I'm sorry Chair and I also beg the indulgence of Council members ... uhmm I <I I I> endorse and I did say earlier on that the involvement of the chairs will only clutter up the whole process; because we really need to differentiate between the role they play in providing uh policy guidance through the Council and <their rules> the rules of procedures that govern their role. And may I also reiterate that the CEOs have been charged by us to carry out the mandate of looking at what affects each of our ... [Side B of Tape 5 ends] [... or each of the organisations therefore it would really not add value if the chairs were in there; and the process is already driven by Council – we're taking a decision here to direct the CEOs to do what they're supposed to do. I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Niue ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chair. I think that the suggestion of including the Chairs to lead the process is because it needs to be seen that it is being driven by Council. I think that the direction of the process should be seen as being] ... [Side A of Tape 6 starts] ... from the Council. I hope that explains why the proposal was put forward, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Niue. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Sir, Thank you Chair ... Honourable Chair, I wonder what we've been saying all along is that we should not tell the Council of SPREP and SPC what to do. So I wonder what we are saying is that we establish a consultative process, and of course will be submitted to us the Council here, but then we're saying the CEO of SPREP and SPC should submit to their Council also in 2008. So I thought ... I wonder if we can reword it to mean that "the consultative process and roadmap will be submitted to this Council at the earliest opportunity" rather than locking in a time frame and saying that the Director of SPREP and the Director of SPC have to submit to their councils the roadmap; when earlier we have also heard that SPREP has not met and of course I don't wanna tell SPC that they have to consider the roadmap in 2008.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair. That's one of the points I was alluding to earlier, however, I would just like to take on board what we've got as established on the screen and to ... with the question of the chairs being present, I concur with my other colleagues here, that the chairs are not at the meeting with their specific CEOs. However, the CEOs must keep their Chairs abreast of every step of the way in developing the roadmap and then finally submitting it to the councils, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – I think ... thank you Chair, I would endorse the suggestion made by the representative from the Cook Islands. We could perhaps amend one to say, "agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of SPREP and SPC ..." <I'm getting my acronyms confused ...> and then perhaps have another ... "and provide regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC" on how that ...you know ... regular progress briefings to the Chair of SOPAC, thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Kiribati ...

Kiribati – Thank you Chairman. I'm not quite sure <because English also is my second language> but if I try to think deeply about it, we

are originally ... bring back again where we are losing the ownership which we have to drive against this with [this] process by leaving out the chairs of our councils, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Niue ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. As a way forward I'd like to agree with the proposal by New Zealand, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Niue. Did you get the amendment by New Zealand?

Director – New Zealand could [into microphone] could New Zealand just ... perhaps just uhmm repeat what you said.

New Zealand – I'll have a go ... "agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP and provide regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC" ... on the process, we could add, thank you.

[long pause as meeting watched scribe enter words into text under review]

Chair – New Zealand, and then Samoa ...

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair, the bottom bit has now dropped off which we still need to slot in somehow relating to submission of a plan for consideration by governing councils in 2008, so at the risk of making this very long we could say "agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP, providing regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council and with a view to submitting a roadmap to SOPAC Governing Council for consideration in 2008" ... or a draft roadmap, thank you.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Honourable Chair, I was just wondering if we can eliminate the timeline of 2008 considering that we're asking other CEOs to consult and I'm not sure what the process will be and perhaps we can leave the date out with [the] understanding that of course because of the time [inaudible] we'd like to get it as soon as possible, but not necessarily locking in that date.

Chair – So FSM's suggesting we take out the timeline ... New Zealand?

New Zealand – Just to mention Chair that the SPC Council has already instructed their CEO to report back with a draft roadmap in 2008, and just to say also, again going back to that issue of uncertainty and risk to our core business and services that we all enjoy and we want to preserve ... I really do feel very strongly, it's a strong position for New Zealand that we do have something to aim for in the foreseeable

future and we do our very best to get there ... we may not get there but we do our very best to get there, thank you.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Honourable Chair, I again we keep referring to SPC and I thought we had agreed that this is a Council in itself. Yeah I think we understand the timeliness of it, and I agree with New Zealand that we have to keep the momentum and of course what she's saying <what my colleague from New Zealand is saying> can work on the other side too ... if we rush it then we stand a risk of losing and maybe disrupting the services ...[...] what I was trying to refer to is without specifying a timeline, because once you specify a timeline then we're stuck with that timeline. The understanding that we wanna consider is that we want it in a timely manner and I think that should take care of any concern that we have, but not necessarily saying that by the meeting of the Council which could be August next year.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Tonga

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. I just want to bring to the Council members' attention that we should be very conscious of directing other council bodies. As I understand it, the SPREP Council meeting will be late next year and we don't have to pre-empt that they gonna agree to the same as we do today; so in that regard I would like to ask other Council members to reconsider putting on a timeline.

Chair – Thank you Tonga, Australia ...

Australia – Chair, I think the wording says “for consideration by the SOPAC Governing Council in 2008” ... now it's only for consideration, it's not saying that we have to make a decision one way or the other, it's just there for us to consider at that point. Ummm make a decision ... make a number of decisions one way or the other, but it is only for consideration in 2008 and it gives at least something that we can work on rather than leaving it in limbo. So it's not putting us in a strait jacket about timing but it is setting that time as a time when at least that Council can consider it again and that they would have something to consider. And I think that we are actually now just talking about our own Council, SOPAC Council.

Chair – Thank you, Samoa and then PNG, then FSM and then Tonga ...

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chairman, I wonder if we can just put a note, some stronger wording or some stronger language in terms of

the wording that is on the screen at the moment, in terms of line one-two-four “with the view to submitting ...” I think the intention is that we have to submit, we MUST submit the ... yeah it has to be submitted to Council, so if we just put in some stronger wording there, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa, PNG

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. I think Tonga's intervention did bring out the fact that we're now suggesting that the CEO of SPREP has a mandate to meet with the CEO of SOPAC ... I think we have to be careful here. His consultations would have to be dependent on what his governing council tells him to do, so probably in brackets after SPREP we can say “(pending SPREP Governing Council decision)” ... it's important that we make that distinction ... but for the timeline I think there is some merit in what Australia is suggesting in that we get some initial ... because SPC's governing council has already authorised the CEO to meet with SOPAC and if we take that decision now Cristelle can meet with Jimmy and talk about some way forward pending Asterio coming on board after his governing council has made a decision; so that covers Asterio and that covers the fact that mandate issues ... governing council issues are addressed. But by the same token I think all of this is tentative and we have to at least agree on some integrated milestone process roadmap initially before we move on ... it's really a framework at the moment, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Mr Chairman. I thought we had changed the language to say that we are directing the Director of SOPAC to engage in consultative process, we're not saying that SPREP has to be in that process, we're asking, directing our Director to engage in the consultative process. As to the timeline, you know, if we do put a timeline considering ... in view of what my colleague from PNG has said, then we're saying that if SPREP does not engage or any body else then the Director of SOPAC will come up with a draft herself and submit it for our consideration in zero-eight, I don't think that's a point. The point is that we want engagement with all the councils at that level and then if there is a roadmap ready, and if it could be ready for oh-eight then let's do it; but let's not tell 'em that they have to do it by oh-eight ... in view of the fact that again, as referred to by the delegate from PNG, we don't wanna tell the other councils our timelines because they have their own.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Your suggestion was “as early as possible” ... or some wording like that “as soon as practicable” ... Tonga ...

Tonga – I’m sorry Mr Chairman, I’m ... my delegate from Papua New Guinea has answered my question, thank you.

Chair – Fiji

Fiji – Thank you Chair, I could go along with that I don’t see any problems whatsoever there. The thing to remember is the Leaders gave the instructions at the last Forum. By doing this we would have covered enough ground to give a report. They would like to see a progress report at the next Forum, that’s the normal procedure for Forum; you get a progress report, it’s not a final report then it goes on again. But the base there, from my experience, is rather pedestrian. And I say that very sincerely, but we have to be prepared that at least at the next Forum something goes forward, whether we are marking time or progressing with vigour or whatever, so the wording there covers it amply.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – ... just wondering if I could try a compromise which would be to re-insert the words “with a view to submitting” and reinsert the date; and that just means that at this stage in time we’re asking people to enter into it ... oh sorry our Director to enter into a process “with a view to submitting” a draft plan in 2008; and of course if she can’t because the other councils aren’t engaging then so be it. But at least we would have something there that we could be aiming for if other things go well ... hopefully that would meet the concerns that my colleague from FSM has raised. Thank you.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Honourable Chair. I’m sorry to take on the floor again. Yeah I understand “with a view”; I mean “with a view” is to submit something to the Council for consideration. I’m again mindful of the fact that I really don’t wanna rush into this process, because there’s too much at stake, therefore rather than locking myself in into a timeline which I may not be able to meet, I’m not ... you know ... I don’t consider time as critical to this process, what is more important to me is services are delivered, they’re improved and so forth ... I don’t have to lock myself into oh-eight or oh-nine or oh-ten; what is more important is the services that are gonna be received as a result of the process is improved, or maintained; and not worse.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. I think as important as it is, it’s attracting a lot of very good discussion but I’m not going to throw a spanner into the works I’m just gonna rise and, through you Chair, seek from FSM whether the formulation provided by New Zealand and I quote “and with a view to submitting a draft roadmap for consideration by SOPAC Governing Council ...” well the suggestion was in 2008, “as soon as practicable” is his formulation; but if we took on board the Honourable Minister from Fiji’s suggestion that it ... you know, it’s really ... what I’m getting to is that this is all a tentative process ... “for consideration” does not lock you in on a timeline; “for consideration” would mean that you can have as basic a draft as to what progress has been achieved in terms of the consultations that took place ... and I think I would respectfully beg the indulgence of (through you Chair) the colleague from FSM to consider that in that light so that at least we have some tentative report given to our Governing Council oh-eight, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Cook Islands and then

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. Maybe also just like to re ... maybe a bit of rehashing also ... Sir such as New Zealand’s views ... I’d just like to highlight maybe ... “agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP providing regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council in the preparation of a draft roadmap to be submitted to SOPAC Governing Council for consideration.” In other words she ... the Director will be engaging her staff to assist with the preparation of the roadmap and I believe the others will also come on board in that regard, thank you.

Chair – FSM

Federated States of Micronesia – Yes I understand from what my colleague from Samoa proposed agreed to the elimination of the oh-eight timeline, I fully support it.

Chair – Cook Islands could you repeat the amendment you made.

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair ... “agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP providing regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council in the preparation of a draft roadmap to be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration.”

Chair – Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Chair. Can I ask whether the distinguished delegate from the Cook Islands is aware that the chapeau it says “Council therefore ...” and why are we therefore repeating “and agrees that Council ...” it becomes pedantic.

Chair – Thank you. Tonga.

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. As I’ve raised earlier on in a ... proposed by the Honourable Delegate from Papua New Guinea, the wordings in brackets (pending SPREP Governing Council’s decision). I would propose that we bring that back on because we don’t wanna sort of pre-empt the SPREP’s Governing Council.

Chair – Thank you. Cook Islands.

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair I concur with the comments by Tonga to bring back that particular section, I forgot ... I mean to say to bring that out too, thank you.

Chair – Australia.

Australia – I’m sorry to make another intervention Chair but I think by putting the words “pending SPREP Governing Council’s decision” ... is actually pre-empting SPREP’s Governing Council. We are told this morning by the CEO of SPREP that he wasn’t aware of what process there would be. I am not sure that it’s helpful to put in “pending SPREP Governing Council’s decision.” [Side A of Tape 6 ends] **I ... I will be frank in telling you why I think that that is not a good er ... contribution; one obviously is that it would be pre-empting SPREP’s Governing Council if you put it in, but secondly I am concerned that one of our principles** [Side B of Tape 6 starts] of timeliness can very easily be undermined if we keep on inserting clauses that give us reason not to get started on moving the process forward and I think that in our discussions this morning I don’t think that there was anyone who was saying that we shouldn’t be moving the process forward. Clearly if it turns out the SPREP Council has issues, and the consultation can’t take place with SPREP well it won’t take place, but we shouldn’t pre-empt that and we shouldn’t put in a clause that has got every potential to delay taking this process forward.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair, I do agree with Australia. It would mean then that we do not even put SPREP up there. That’s what it basically means, because we’re already pre-empting, whether we qualify that with “pending SPREP’s Governing Council decision” or by the fact that we just leave [it]

as SOPAC, SPC and SPREP ... that reference alone also means that we’re trying to suggest an engagement should take place. But you know this is ... this is forward looking rather than ... but I do agree that it does give us [mumbling] ... I was only trying to respond to Tonga’s intervention, but maybe we shouldn’t even have it, thank you, including SPREP.

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – I thank Papua New Guinea for that comment but frankly again I think that SPREP is one of the agencies concerned so perhaps we could put something like “as appropriate” or some qualifier of that sort. I think it would be unfortunate to leave them out.

Chair – ... [reading] “consultative process as appropriate,” Niue ...

Niue – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think this process has been taking quite a long time; you’re not getting anywhere. May I suggest that we adjourn and get a fresh text in the morning, clean, and move from there. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Niue. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I think the only area we have a problem is the brackets and I think Australia has established an appropriate language there using “as appropriate”. However I was thinking to maybe have a bit of humour in dialogue with the word “pending” and change it to “in anticipation”. As I had a dialogue with the SPREP Director this morning and we talked about the Bible, it meaning “hope”, and in that regard I just [stretch that out for humour]. I think the language “as appropriate” is ok with the Cook Islands and I think we should finish this off tonight and for us to have a new agenda item tomorrow morning, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I concur with Niue, thank you Honourable Chair, and I would, through you, ask if Secretariat can provide the current ... whether it just be this portion and those ones that we need to look at so that delegations can have an opportunity to mull over the issues overnight, and we can go by Niue’s suggestion to adjourn, I thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Well we have one suggestion to return back in the morning and let everybody have a rest and another suggestion that we continue to try and finish this item and start with a new item tomorrow morning ... uhmm ... oh Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, I think we’ve had a fairly long day and I go with the

suggestion by the representative from Niue, thank you.

Chair – New Zealand

New Zealand – Just another thought Chair, thank you, is uhmm that we go through the remaining recommendations and find out how close or not we are and then mull over the whole suite of recommendations overnight, thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. FSM?

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman. I would go along with the recommendations from Niue; at the rate we're going we might go until 10:30 and I'm really not prepared to go that far because I understand the restaurants close at 9:30 I gotta find something to eat.

Chair – Well delegates, if delegates are feeling rather tired, it might mean we start earlier in the morning at about 8 o'clock. If that is what Council wishes we adjourn our meeting and return at 8 o'clock in the morning. Australia? you wanted the floor?

Australia – Thank you Chair, No.

Director – Just a quick announcement. We will need a little bit of time to clean up the text and so on for the parts that have been agreed and so we'll leave copies of those at the Dateline Hotel as well as ensure that they are delivered to the other places of rest for yourselves, so whichever hotels you're at if you could leave a note with us here at the Secretariat, but I'm sure we've got most of your details anyway so we'd actually ensure that we have a text that you can work with tonight but we'll just need a bit of time for that. Uhmm ... the other announcement is for those that volunteered for the Drafting Committee, and as you know it is an open-ended process so 6:30 tomorrow morning and as the Chair has advised, an 8 o'clock start ... I would hope that we can keep to time and start promptly at 8 o'clock because outside of this agenda we still have a number of other agenda items that we would like decisions on before we leave Tonga either tomorrow afternoon or Friday, so if we can be here promptly at 8 o'clock and promptly at 6:30 for those that have so kindly agreed to be part of the drafting committee, thank you.

Chair – Thank you delegates. The meeting is adjourned until 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

[END OF DAY, Wednesday, 28 November 2007, 8 pm]

[Resumption of Agenda Item 11.1 on Thursday, 29 November 2007, 8 am]

Chair have a good rest and hopefully reflect what we discussed last night. As you know today is the last day of our Council meeting and I'm hoping we can move quickly through the rest of this agenda item as we have other items to complete before the meeting is finished. So if I can go on to where we were last night, on the screen is the wording which we believe we arrived at last evening and I would hope that we can agree to that quite quickly and move on to the remaining paragraphs, so if you could please have a look at what's on the screen. New Zealand

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair. I apologise for having to raise this in a way, but there was a recommendation that was amended before this one and I don't think it quite reflects the point I was trying to make last night; and I do apologise if I wasn't very clear. But it was the original recommendation that noted the risk around change processes; it was originally recommendation six [vi] and it read "acknowledged with concern that change processes such as this increased demands on the Secretariat and caused stress on the staff that will impact current levels of service delivery." This was a recommendation put forward to us by the Secretariat. We had a discussion, as I recall last night where my colleague from FSM raised the concern around staff security and my suggestion at the time, although I appreciate I may not have made it clear was that we retain the recommendation around risk, because that is a reality that the Secretariat has put to us and we need to keep that in mind and manage that risk as best we can, but to perhaps address the comment that my colleague from FSM was making in the principles – whether there was something we can put in the principles to manage the concern around staff/staffing. And so I guess my proposal would be that we do retain that original paragraph on the risks and we think about a new ... have a look at the principle around staffing that's there now under the principles; with a suggested change because currently I think the principle refers to job security, which perhaps isn't quite what we mean because many staff of SOPAC are currently employed on contract. My suggestion would be that we instead focus on staff welfare; that we bear staff welfare in mind as we're going through this process. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Just include that in the principles. Thank you New Zealand. Can we now turn our attention to paragraph two [ii] on the screen to see if we can clear that up ... Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I don't want to sound pedantic here but I think we should try to stick to formal language that's used in most resolutions because when ... there's already a preambular paragraph that says "Council agrees ..." and then we're now saying in two 'Council agrees ...' we can remove the reference to Council ... that's normal sort of processes ... it's an operative paragraph, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. We can remove "Council" and just start "agrees".

Director – Good Morning members ... I'd just really like to make a comment, again under this paragraph, I mean, yes my title is 'Director of SOPAC', and I would suggest that in fact, for accuracy, we actually describe the SPC Director General as the Director General of SPC and the Director of SPREP. If not, if we call all of us CEOs then let's just go with that but I think that it would be quite useful to be more accurate, thank you.

Chair – Is that paragraph ... oh New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. New Zealand is still very concerned I think about the absence of some form of timeline. We had a lot of discussion last night on this matter and on this recommendation endeavouring to reach a compromise and we were unable to do so unfortunately. But uhhh ... there are risks to be managed and we do need to be conscious of that, and if we don't have some form of timeline there to work within ... really I don't think we're fulfilling our role as a Council to adequately manage risk. As you know, our preference was to focus on the next feasible milestone really, taking into account that we meet annually, and that was 2008. But I heard very clearly from many colleagues around the table yesterday that that's not something that they can sign up to. So with that in mind, I was wanting to propose that we revert to the wording that was in the original supplementary paper proposed to us by the Secretariat, and that reads "the final report mutually agreed by the three organisations be submitted for consideration by the Forum in 2010 for final agreement and implementation to begin." I'm hoping that that will be acceptable to other members of Council. I would just also propose some small amendments to that for consistency with the rest of our document. Firstly, that we would be talking about a 'road map' rather than a report; and that we would instead of saying "submitted for consideration in 2010", we could say 'by 2010' which just leaves us that opportunity, should it arise ... and should things appear to the CEOs when they start engaging to be able to be advanced more quickly than 2010, it gives us

that opportunity to take it; but it also has that original wording that the Secretariat proposed. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. If we're agreed we can return to the original wording in the paper and insert that. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. In view of the intervention by New Zealand, I think when we go back to that one we will never get past this particular section; however, I just wanted to highlight on the current set up as it is – it's just changing that part of the text that says 'which may be submitted to SOPAC Governing Council'; that that be changed to what we were talking about last night "to be submitted to SOPAC Governing Council for consideration". <Could we just bring that up?> [to top table]

Chair – [to scribe] Could we bring up the proposed paragraph ...

Cook Islands [continued] – Anyway, the text looked like "agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the CEOs of <as alluded to earlier by the Director ... [i.e.] the right acronyms> providing regular briefings to the Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council in the preparation of a draft roadmap to be submitted to SOPAC Governing Council for consideration." And in view of the intervention by New Zealand it's uh ... we will now have to rethink the whole process in trying to come to a final decision on this. However, in light of what we already have when we left off last night, is in my view, sufficient for us to go forward ... and that's my view from the Cook Islands, thank you.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I'm really not ... sorry to say but I really would not be comfortable putting in a timeline in this, simply because, as we've said before, this is too important for us and if time is what we need then we should give us time to do it to ensure that we come up with the correct response and not rush it. And I might call your attention to item two or the next one, which says that during the consultative process some of the issues to be considered will include: bullet point number three – "proposing a realistic timeframe <timing> for implementation that would need to be taken into account practical, legal, contractual obligations and/or any problems that might require prior resolution as a results of absorption."

Chair – Thank you FSM. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you very much Chair. I think it's really important that we bear in mind the distinction between a road map for

implementation and the implementation process itself. All we're really talking about here is actually the plan for implementation, the actual process is something that will be included in that plan, including the timeline for that implementation process. So really we're not saying that it'll all be done and dusted by two thousand and ten in any way shape or form – we're simply talking about the plan to begin the next stage.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you for that clarification from my colleague in New Zealand, but actually I was gonna bring up another point too because my understanding of the Forum procedure is that they do have what they call a FOC, which actually decides on what the agenda would be during any particular year. It's all actually prepared by countries and they have to agree on any agenda items that would be there. To me that essentially we're telling FOC that they should put that on the agenda – it's not up to us, it's up to that [final word inaudible].

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – I'd just like to make the comment that seeing as we're talking about procedure and what countries require, I would just like to remind delegates that we are representatives of countries and we come here as representatives of countries and not representatives of particular departments we come as representatives of countries and I think this is ... in a way gets to the nub of part of difficulty – in understanding what our role is. And certainly it does take me back to the decision of Leaders – where Leaders did talk ... did actually give us an instruction – they are the Leaders of our nations. They gave us an instruction that we needed to look to commence the process and carry it forward and I think that it's important for us to remember that.

Chair – So can we go back to the paragraph ... sorry did somebody ask for the floor ... Oh Fiji ... [no response from Fiji] Can you all read the paragraph on the screen? [long pause while delegates read] Cook Islands and Australia ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. I would uh ... in order for us to go forward, I will concur with the current text except to finish ... er full stop behind ... after 2010.

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – I would endorse that comment.

Chair – Alright paragraph ends at 2010. Are we agreed to that? If we are then paragraph is agreed to. Thank you. We move on ... the next

paragraph is line one twenty-two on the paper that was distributed, beginning “during the consultative process” This paragraph was agreed to and we're just looking at it again. The first bullet point was also agreed. [Side B of Tape 6 ends] [...when we looked at it earlier ... (rest mostly silence)]

Chair – [Side A of Tape 7 starts] Okay we move on to the next bullet point. There was one amendment by New Zealand to this bullet point, is that acceptable? Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Sorry just a point of procedure, I think there are a number of delegates who are raising this [indicating the country name plaque], I think the Secretariat should at least be alert to who is raising their plaque for the floor, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea ... should try and take note of those who wish to speak. So bullet point two – “Examining the costs and benefits of the options considered during the process, the technical programmes, the memberships, and the external supporting agencies, identifying opportunities for improved service delivery.” Are we agreed to that? Agreed, thank you.

Move on to the next bullet point ... there's no change to this one “Proposing a realistic timing for implementation that would need to be taken into account including practical, legal, contractual obligations, and or any other problems that might require prior resolution as a result of absorption.” Are we agreed to that? Agreed.

Next paragraph with amendments by Australia and Samoa. We have [whispers] ...

Director – The suggestion here is to delete that paragraph because it is taken up in paragraph ... uuhm what is now the opted paragraph two [ii].

Chair – Right we delete that paragraph. Next paragraph, with amendments ... Australia ...

Australia – I'm sorry Chair but I'm having real trouble just working out where we are in the document and I <I> I was given two documents last night, one which has tracked changes in it and one which didn't. I assume we're working from the tracked changes document. I'd find it very useful if we <if we> err at each instance gave the line number, I don't know whether that's <that's> possible ... but I'm finding a little confused because for instance that tracked document – that tracked change document that we have has got one paragraph <that> noted as agreed on page five that is then repeated on page seven as agreed and my understanding is that neither of them were agreed so I'm feeling some consternation that something on page

five that we didn't even look at to start with is there; <which> so I think there's a few things that uhhh worry me and I'd like to be assured that we can get to those in due course.

Director – Thank you Australia, uhhh, in actual fact in discussions yesterday there was a suggestion from a number of countries to move, and I refer to that particular paragraph on page seven, line one-four-five – to move that paragraph – Niue in fact made their intervention errr ... earlier on that <well later yesterday afternoon> – and the suggestion was to move that to be the first recommendation; the first operative recommendation following “Council therefore” ... that was in fact supported by a number of members around the table. Subsequent to that there was a suggestion from the delegate from Papua New Guinea that in actual fact in could be better placed at paragraph three, so ... as paragraph three of the recommendation. So, clearly there would need to be some discussion here as to where that particular paragraph would need to be placed, thank you.

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – Thank you. I accept that, but I think also there was a <a> another recommendation that was also put on the table by New Zealand about those words, and my recommend ... my recollection is that there was no agreement about the particular words.

Chair – FSM, Papua New Guinea ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Mr Chairman, I sympathise with the comment from Australia because I was gonna suggest that maybe after we've gone through all this mess that we go back and quickly review the whole paragraph.

Chair – Sure, thank you FSM. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Well I'd rather paragraphs than this, thank you Honourable Chair ... I had discussions with Niue, Samoa and Palau and we felt that ... I think what they were proposing in terms of elevating what I initially amended to a proposed three [iii], to be brought up to one, I thank you.

Chair – Thank you PNG. So that paragraph will be elevated to one. So we're now at page eight ... oh Samoa?

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, are we now looking at that new paragraph one ... ? I'm just a bit lost here ...

Chair – Yes, we just decided to move it to number one.

Samoa – Okay, but will we be touch ... going back to it again, or is it agreed? [Chair replies “Yes”] Okay thank you.

Chair – We're now on line one-five-zero on page eight. [pause while delegates read] Kiribati ...

Kiribati – It is only a little comment Mr Chairman, for consistency purpose because there it is recommended to the CEOs of SPC and SPREP, whereas before we actually mentioned the Director General and the Director of SPREP, so it's only a little comment on that.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati, can we make that amendment? Thank you. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman, I was gonna suggest that we delete the last sentence.

Chair – Director.

Director – If I <if I> may Council, I'm at the moment the way I actually read it is that we're actually directing to other organisations to do something, when in fact we're quite silent on the fact that SOPAC is not in fact involved in that process, so the idea behind it all was the fact that the three organisations would start to get to work very closely together on any new initiatives that were emerging or new opportunities to look at the ways in which we could each bring our various technical competitive advantages to bear, so uhhh, right at this moment, the way in which I read it, is in fact that SOPAC will not be involved in this, and we're directing two other agencies on how they should do their work; but that's just my interpretation, and English is my first language.

Chair – New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Uhhh just bearing in mind the point that we all agreed yesterday that we shouldn't be directive to other agencies ... uhhh just a small suggested change – the suggested time frame for this is early 2008, I mean I wonder whether we even need a time frame because in a sense it is up to the agencies to make that decision but if we have to then <then> I would caveat it certainly with a suggestion because it really is not something that we can determine ourselves, thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. I think we <we> uh it's been suggested we delete the time-frame. Australia ...

Australia – Chair while I'm <I, I, I> I won't uh... I'm prepared to accept the amend ... the issue of deleting the time frame. I would wonder why SOPAC, as an organisation, would want to be worried about getting immediately onto

the job of developing new regional projects to demonstrate complementarity, a higher quality of work and more effective delivery through cooperation and sharing resources ... I would wonder why any organisation wouldn't want to do that at the earliest possible opportunity if they are interested in attracting donor resources. I don't think that it's a very good message to send to those people who are key supporters and partners that we don't want to get on to doing that at the earliest opportunity. Having said that I leave it to the Council to reach agreement and I won't uhhh stand in the way of it, but that would be my view.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Tonga ...

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman, I would like to suggest that to insert the wording, after “SPREP, that the organisations” and insert “in consultation with SOPAC.” On that note Mr Chairman I would like to raise again the point that I raised yesterday that we don't wanna dictate other council such as SPREP who hasn't met on the issue.

Chair – Thank you Tonga. Fiji

Fiji – Chair I'm just wondering whether that paragraph is really necessary?

Chair – So we? Are you suggesting that we delete that paragraph Fiji? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – I would support that suggestion as well Chair, I think really the more concise and clear we can be around this the better, thank you.

Chair – Yes, alright. Council feels like that we can delete that paragraph. [lengthy pause as delegates read and absorb] we move on to line one-six-five, page eight ... delete “

Council” and start with “agreed.” Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I move that we endorse this paragraph, thank you.

Chair – Are we agreed? Agreed ... oh Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair, uhhh, I concur but maybe have a look at that language for a little bit ... “agreed that a committee comprising of members of governing bodies ..” should we have bodies or councils? “of the three agencies be established and adequately...”... blahlahlah to the end, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. The paragraph is endorsed. Agreed? Thank you. Line one-seven-zero, page eight ... Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair, I think I may have been misunderstood.

I was only trying to explain that the original language as it was uuhmm, which is the original four ... sorry five ... six, “SPC and SPREP governing bodies be invited to fully engage in the consultative process,” – I was just trying to infer from that that that's what it meant, it was an appeal. But I think the Secretariat were ahead of me, considered it an amendment to the text, I wasn't suggesting any amendment, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. [long pause] Australia ... [long pause] we've Tonga

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. In light of the fact that we've taken out the previous paragraph, which to me sets the principle for this one, we suggest to remove this paragraph as well.

Chair – Do we delete this paragraph? Are we agreed to delete? Agreed? Alright then we delete that paragraph. Line one-seven-five on page nine. [long pause] Kiribati

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman, I'm not quite sure what it's really meant in the context of the CEOs consultation as proposed by Australia, because I think the consultation is only the roadmap that will be discussed and planned, but the context of the paragraph is quite different, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Australia

Australia – Thank you Chair, the reason that I asked that that be inserted was that I think that given that we will be in consultations about the rationalisation of SOPAC functions, it is important for us to keep that consultation in mind as we seek new resources.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Does that clarify the question, Kiribati?

Kiribati – Thank you Chair, but ...uh well ... in my understanding it could have been stick there if we come back to I'm not quite sure on that which paragraph would emphasize the efforts to try to improve the services and somewhat to continue on the donor fundings and to somewhat start a bit on the rationalisations of the services of the SOPAC, yeah I'm not ... I cannot really go back to which paragraph that stated before with this also mentioned by Australia; but what I'm trying to say is it could be more appropriate if we stick to that and we match it with this one because in my thinking this is a completely different context, well English is not my first language, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Chair, I think we're all proficient in English so nobody should claim first or second ... uhmm, maybe Kiribati ... Kiribati's ... the connection is made to ... in relation, sorry in relation to the delegate of Kiribati's comments that connection is made, apart from the explanation Australia has given, to line one-six-five, when you're talking about members of governing councils of three agencies being established, that's taken in line with that and I think the emphasis that Australia has made is relevant because we're responding to a decision by leaders of the Forum; and in the same context whilst we're talking about resource acquisitions and you know technical support – this is <this is> we should keep in mind that the CEOs will be consulting, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. So we keep the amendment? Kiribati?

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chair, I'm still worried because I think we have to emphasise the fact that having too much burden the Secretariat, because I mean to me it's only the roadmap that has to be concentrated with the other and the ... in this paragraph, that's a different role for the Secretariat on its own for the sake of us as members of the governing council to continue its role in its interim period. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – I wonder if I can suggest an alternative wording perhaps, uuhmm, that we have a full stop after “delivery” and we say something like “any efforts to secure new resources to be managed by the Director in a way that is consistent with the change process.” That might help just [to] clarify the point, thank you.

Chair – Could you read that out again New Zealand

New Zealand – “efforts to secure new resources to be managed by the Director in a way that is consistent with the change process.”

Chair – Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. From the Cook Islands' view on this I think we just in ... where it is bracketed by the Australian intervention that we look at inserting “in collaboration with the” ... just using “in collaboration” with the CEOs consultants ... consultations. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Tonga

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. I would like to suggest that uh ... to remove “change” and insert “review”.

Chair – How does that look? New Zealand

New Zealand – I just think it's a little ... perhaps not quite consistent with language we've used elsewhere around “change process”, I mean it almost seems that's the sort of environment we're in now and perhaps <with> for consistency with other aspects of the text, it would be clearer to use those <those> words, thank you.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Sir, Thank You Mr Chairman, actually I would suggest that we just remove everything following “sustained service delivery” and then ... in other words go back to original language yeah, with the amendment from the Cook Islands “in cooperation” ... and continue from there.

Chair – So the suggestion is do we end after the word “delivery”? In collaboration? [some whispered clarification by Director at head table] Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I know we're enga Thank you Honourable Chair, I know we're engaged in a collaborative process but contextually it takes out ... what we're trying to do here is that whilst we're undergoing this change process we must do it within the context of the consultations that's being carried out by CEOs, I think that's the important fact here. Business as normal for SOPAC, however, it has to be done within the context of the consultations we've agreed to that all three agencies will be engaged in ... that is the crux of the issue as Papua New Guinea sees it, I thank you Chair. [Side A of Tape 7 ends]

[Nothing but silence in this bridge segment]

Chair – [Side B of Tape 7 starts] [whispered consultations at head table, Chair being briefed about something] Okay, Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – What I am actually saying is going back to the original language but retain the original amendment that Australia introduced, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Do we have agreement on that ? going back to original language ? Kiribati; and Cook Islands ...

Kiribati – Sorry Mr Chairman, with due respect to my colleagues, I still have that understanding in my own, this is my personal view, that we don't have to pre-empt that we are now on the way of doing the <the> rationalisation, we are on just the roadmap and the ... this paragraph is only securing us as Council members of the <the> role of SOPAC to continue in the interim, thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. Uhmm my intervention was [...inaudible ...] the intervention by Kiribati in trying to come up with a uuh more, maybe a more sound ... aligned language <to> to the intervention by Australia; however, in this regard I uhm I suppose it's the same thing from the understanding of the text – if everybody is in agreement with the original text, then we'll go with that ... but I ... in more ... for the whole ... this <this> section is really uhhmmm talking about, I mean in terms of the delivery, we will still be in consultation with the CEOs up until the time for the <the> next step up from what we are doing right now, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Uhmm, quickly Honourable Chair would it help if rather than using the original lang ... uh the amended language introduced by Australia, whether we say, “keeping in mind the CEOs consultations” – if it would allay Kiribati's concerns, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea, [reading] “keeping in mind the CEOs consultations”. Do we agree to that wording ... original wording with the amendment as suggested by Papua New Guinea? Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, we're happy with the wording as proposed by Papua New Guinea, thank you.

Chair – Thank you, are we agreed to that? Agreed. Thank you. Next one is line one-eight-two, page nine. We agreed to this paragraph during the first reading. Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, can we also include donor partners in the list of those uh who would be advised of the outcome of the Council meeting ... this Council meeting. Thank you Samoa.

Chair – Thank you Samoa, that will be included. Are we agreed? Thank you. New Zealand

New Zealand – Thank you very much Honourable Chair, uhmm, we raised a – I raised a suggestion yesterday that ... uhmm ... that ... uhmm ... for Council consideration that we developed some words along the lines proposed by the Chair of STAR committee in recognition of the science community. The wording was something like – that we ask our Director to take into the negotiations [and] the discussions with the other CEOs an interest to find a mechanism to take forward the benefits of the STAR network – to have that issue in mind during the negotiations or the discussions. Thank you Chair.

Director – ... uhmm and possibly the place to actually put that in would be “during the consultative processes some of the issues to be considered will include” – and that in fact could be one of the bullet points underneath that so we'll get that wording in ... inserted into the text, thanks.

Chair – Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair, with the ... maybe to also ask my colleague from Samoa whether we should include the other ... uh ... stakeholders apart from just the donor partners, as we've articulated the donor partner we may as well insert the inclusion of the other partners that we have in this Council, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands, yes we'll include that as well. Uh delegates I think what we need now is to uh ... Secretariat to uh ... oh Australia ...

Australia – I'm sorry Chair, there's one more point that I would ... another point that I would like to put into the uhmm ... into the uh ... the ... the agreed recommendations and I will read out the words – I think it hasn't been covered as yet – uhmm it's following our discussions yesterday about the uh ... the consultations between uhmm the two directors and the director-general – the CEOs, uhmm and I'd like to propose uhmm the/this wording “requires <so under the chapeau “Council ... Council [consulting with colleagues in an aside <what's the chapeau?> ...] “Council therefore” ... I think we got “Council therefore” – and so it begins – no leave off the “Council therefore” cause this is just a further point. I'd actually recommend that this come under our discu.... under the paragraph where we have talked about uhmm the process [rustling paper and talking under the breath <which paragraph is that> searching for place in the paper being referred to ...] the process of discussion between the CEOs ... er uh uh [speed reading some text ...] ... yes dot point three, under there – that reads “requires that the process be a consultation among equals under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.” I ... I, in making that proposal I uhmm, I note the absolute importance of the comment by members around the table, the interim minister from Fiji made the point that this needs to be a consultation among equals, and I think this is extremely important. Uh I also note that, uhmm we as a Council, have one of other uhmm er conclusions that uhmm the er ... that our Director be supported by a ... a Committee of the Whole uhmm and an adequately resourced team uhmm to

provide support in that. I further make the point that we need a uh facilitator to bring this together to ensure that it happens, uh uh uh in <in in in> the manner that the uh ... that the leaders have have set out for us; and that therefore makes the Secretary General uhmm the appropriate person to facilitate the process; and I make the point that this is a facilitation process; or actually he doesn't even need to facilitate, but he needs to be there as part of the ... uh ... the auspicing process.

Chair – Thank you Australia. FSM and Tonga

Federated States of Micronesia – Sir, thank you Chairman. I would suggest that we delete that entirely.

Chair – Thank you. Tonga

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. Uhmm I would suggest to put the uhmm ... the full stop after “equals”.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you. I would go along with that, thank you.

Chair – Kiribati ...

Kiribati – Thank you Chairman, I think we agree with the where it full stop after “equals”.

Chair – Thank you. Australia ...

Australia – Uhmm ... I would just like to ask how the Council proposes that the process will be carried forward?

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair. Uhmm ... the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat made an offer to facilitate the discussions, and our view is that ... if we can sort of leave it open. We have the three ... the three CEOs who can actually come together; who know the organisations; who know the functions and operations of their respective organisations and I feel ... we've also suggested and which we'll be touching on later – there will be a committee that will be established to provide guidance to the CEO, and they can call on the Secretary General if need be; but he has made the offer and they can take up the offer if they see fit, or if they see necessary, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Somehow there's a feel that we should put a full stop after “equals”? Are we agreed to that? New Zealand? Oh Australia and New Zealand?

New Zealand – Thank you Honourable Chair. I'm not sure we can leave that hanging actually ... uhmm ... to me it's quite critical that there is a process that is facilitated by the Secretary

General ... for many reasons, including quite practical reasons of bringing people together and you know providing the sort of normal support for a process that a facilitator can provide so that the three director-generals can focus on the issues. But also, it will be the Secretary General who'll be reporting back to Forum leaders, as directed, in 2008 on progress. And the Secretary General will need to be somehow engaged in that process in order to be able to make that report back to our leaders. And, well I could go on, but I'll just leave it at that Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Honourable Chair. I think as pointed out by Samoa, those, we're saying, they would meet as equals, and I think they can work it out among themselves how they [are] facilitated but it should not be up to us to say who should be the facilitator, who should be the chairman or vice-versa ... whatever. I think the process is they'd consult and report back to the respective councils for consideration. So, you know whether it's one or the other ... I'm just not comfortable with the idea of saying, that one of them should be ... we're saying there, meet as equals and then one of them is gonna be facilitator ... and we're essentially telling them, you know they should choose the director-general of PIFS as their facilitator; why not leave it open – up to them – as pointed out by Samoa.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Tonga and then PNG.

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. Uhmm ... to use a much more simple language, I think all CEOs are big boys and girl ... they can handle the job. In terms of reporting, they have to report back. Any report that goes to the Forum should be ratified by Council.

Chair – Thank you Tonga. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. Let me suggest some language ... “requires that the process be a consultation amongst equals, with the option to engage the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum as appropriate.” That's being suggested in the interest of uhmm ... taking account [of] all the concerns that have been raised, keeping in mind also that we are responding to a Leaders' decision; and whilst the process requires that Council will endorse anything that we do before it goes, the Secretary General remains the person who will report back to [the] Forum, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. FSM? Federated States of Micronesia – Sir, Thank you Chairman. I noted the comment by my colleague from PNG but we have plenty of options, and that’s only of ‘em. And if we are gonna give ‘em options, why not just list a whole slew of options that are available to them, there have a lot of options such as – I would just take it out – and fullstop after “equals”.

Chair – Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair, without wanting to engage in a war of words I think the suggestion here is that this is the only option Why? Because it relates to a decision that our leaders took at the Forum that relates to a reform process we have underta ... we’re undertaking now; and if we do not recognise the fact that the Secretary General will be the person that will report back to the Forum, then who would? I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Australia ...

Australia – Thank you Chair. I would just like to add to the words from my colleague from Papua New Guinea, uhmm I think that in addition the ... the ... in response to the comment from FSM regarding to a meeting of equals, obviously I was referring to the three organisations who are part of this uhmm ... whom the Leaders have asked to consult, to rationalise the functions. Now the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is not one of those agencies, it sits outside – but that apart – we have a <a, a> current institutional framework for our regional organisations in the Pacific that puts the CROP ... that makes us a member of the CROP. And at the moment the Head of the CROP is the Chair of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, so that is another reason why we need to use the institutional framework that we have. We’re not an organisation that sits outside. I’ve heard suggested around the table uhmm, that one, we don’t have to pay attention to the decision that our Leaders have made; two, that we don’t need to operate within the regional institutional framework that we have been a part of for very many years. Now, I know that this is a difficult process but I <I, I, I> just don’t think it serves us well to leave behind those years of organisational operational principles at this time. I think we need to be able to trust in our regional institutional framework as it has been in operated to carry us forward; and we’re talking about some well-established practices, so I ...and I think in conclusion I would agree with the member from Papua New

Guinea that I don’t think we do have any other options ...uh in this case.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I would like to uh add my comments on this one and go along with the intervention by my colleague from Tonga – is that this process, as we’ve already established in the other bullet points that – it must come back to Council before we move forward on the established process or format that we intend to go forward on this. On the uh ... I mean in terms of the ... just preparing the roadmap. In terms of the CROP, I think we all know where we stand in this regard; however, uhmm at the moment I believe the end product will have to come back to us as Council, before we go forward on [this], thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair, thank you ...Uhmm “requires that the process be a consultation among equals with the option to engage the ... with the Secretary General of the PI[F] as appropriate and ensure that any decision in relation to this must be approved by Council,” ... or words to that effect. So it ... I mean it takes account of concerns that a reference to the Council must be made, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – [Clearing throat] Thank you Honourable Chair, I think we’re mixing up a couple of issues here. I think it is very very clear in our recommendations that any roadmap comes back to this Council for consideration. I don’t think there’s at all any dispute about that. So I think this recommendation is really trying to get at who will facilitate [the] consultative process ... so I think we should focus on that. With respect to my colleague from Papua New Guinea, uhmm and take it as absolutely read that any roadmap most certainly comes back to this Council for consideration, and therefore we could delete that latter part of that sentence beginning “and ensure any decision” Thank you.

Chair – FSM

Federated States of Micronesia – Yes Sir, if its ok by my colleagues then I would suggest that we just delete the whole paragraph eh? No, as far as the process of consultation is concerned I was supporting the fact that they should meet as equals. The way I envision it, is that they will discuss with each other on bilateral basis and then perhaps somehow agree to meet together

... not always in groups. So you know so there is that option also to move forward. I am just not comfortable saying that one of 'em should be the lead facilitator, taking of course [undecipherable] comments. We understand what the process at the Forum is and we know that the Secretary General is [the] one reporting to the Forum, but at [the] same time ... and I think we should leave that to the CEOs themselves to carry it forward in the best way possible, clear, transparent – and best way possible – to arrive at the correct response.

Chair – So the suggestion is to delete the paragraph ... Australia ...

Australia – I think that I can't agree to deleting it. I would like to ... I believe that we have to have some reference to the engagement of the Secretary General of the PIFS; I think that without this we haven't got a process to carry it forward. I would be comfortable with the wording as put on the board by Papua New Guinea and Samoa ... "consultation amongst equals <under the auspices of the sec [under the breath]> with the option to engage the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum as appropriate." Yeah ... but I <I, I, I> do believe that we need a process that engages the Secretary General at some ... in some way so that we have a conduit to the Leaders.

Chair – FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman. I really, I would not really feel comfortable saying that one of 'em should be the lead facilitator, given understanding if what PNG and Australia are saying that's the only option, then maybe that's what the CEOs will arrive at. Maybe that's the only option, I don't know, but they're ... but they're ... we wanna do is to make it open, transparent and ensure that it moves forward under the auspices and the approval of the councils – because they do have to report to the councils; and then we will move forward from there. I noted the comments from Australia that we do have the CROP organisation format right now; but in my mind that's exactly why we're dealing with this issue here because the CROP has not worked in the past fifteen, twenty years, or however long it's been around.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Papua New Guinea and then Samoa ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. I don't wish to belabour the issue but the reference to facilitator was ... came about when we said "under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum." We've now relegated him to being an option that can be called upon if the CEOs feel that they

should. That in a sense allays somewhat FSM's concerns about somebody taking the lead in all this; but the fundamental issue here is that this is a decision that all Forum Leaders, including FSM's President, took. And it came out from that, and that relates to a process, and I recall what the Director of SOPAC said yesterday that in the past we have taken into consideration all Leaders' Communiqués within the Governing Council as a way of maintaining that linkage with the Pacific Island Forum; after all that is the premier body, political body we respond to regardless of how we feel within Council on decisions that they take which could affect us in a different way. But I think the point was made by Australia – we are representing countries – and hence we should reflect what our Leaders put as their decision. That's fundamental to our discussions on this ... and that finally I would want a retention of that taking into account the fact that Council retains the right to say "Ay" or "Nay"; and secondly, that that fundamental link with the Pacific Island Forum through the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum should not be negated in our discussions, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Samoa and then FSM ...

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, just wondering if we could add to that that we're mindful that any decision [Side B of Tape 7 ends]. [... will need to come back to Council. I think, uhmm, Mr Chair, we need to respect that Guam is not a member of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; so we will need to report back to Council first for comments. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa, FSM ...]

Federated States of Micronesia – Sir, thank you Chair ...] [Side A of Tape 8 starts] ... I thank my colleague from PNG for reminding me that my President's agreed to that and I am fully aware of that but I think we're looking at the process on how to do this; and I think as I pointed out from day one my interest would be to move this forward and ensuring that we do not jeopardise the services that we are getting at this point, in other words if we're gonna improve it then that's better; but if we're gonna make it worse then we should probably not even submit it to the leaders because their decision was to rationalise.

Chair – Guam and then Cook Islands

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman, I'd like to thank Samoa for that intervention too and I think it is important to remind everyone that we are in this situation where we do not have any direct influence or input to the Forum.

Chair – Thank you Guam, Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. At this juncture my intervention would be on the issue of whether we should keep text or take it right out. In view of the interventions just now, from what I gather here in terms of the additional after “equals” ... is that we’ve already made, or the assumption is that the review or the process has already been established. And hence my view on ... most probably to have ... to agree with the other colleagues that we finish at “equals” in light of the issue of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. And we/I would just like to maybe highlight that in view of facilitator ... maybe ‘facilitator’ or ‘facilitators’ one or three to facilitate the dialogue that we’ve got now. It could well be that the three chairs of the three councils could be the facilitators of the outcomes of this process and at one stage – not to directly have on the outcome on the document to say “with the option of engaging the Secretary General”; but that is their decision when the time arrives for them to engage, or to have the option of engaging the Secretary General of PIFS at that time. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Australia. Australia, then Fiji

Australia – I wonder whether I know that we are separate from SPC, we are SOPAC we are not SPC however, as members – member governments – we ... the ... many of us did agree to the following wording at the SPC Council meeting and in it it put a number of caveats that I think could be useful. What the SPC Council did is that they “accept the offer by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to facilitate consultations between the CEOs of the organisations concerned, including appropriate involvement of member representatives, development partners and other CROP agencies and recommends that the discussion between the CEOs be usefully guided by a set of principles” and I think that brings in the concerns that Councils be fully consulted, but it accepts the offer and that is what our ... those of you who ... I recognise that not every single government that is here may have been around the table at SPC but that is what governments accepted at the SPC meeting. I put it on the table as a suggestion.

Chair – Guam and then Cook Islands, I mean Fiji, and then Cook islands

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair. With regard to the concern raised by Australia and New Zealand about a link between the decision or the consultation; or the result of the consultations between or among the CEOs, I think that’s sufficiently covered in item one and two; plus the

fact that the Chair of the SOPAC Council also reports directly to the Forum. That’s another way. But I understand where Australia is coming where the Forum Secretariat being the ... being required to report on the progress. Perhaps the Chair could just, after consultations write to the Secretary General conveying the decisions or the progress of the consultations amongst the CEOs. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. Cook Islands, and then Guam ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. In view of what my in my earlier intervention that is to say I have every confidence in you as Chair, and our Director in capably taking this forward in view of this Council as SOPAC. And we all agree just recently, just a while ago that our/ the CEOs are more than capable to handle this process; therefore I have every confidence in our Chair in delivering – as part of my earlier intervention. And I would just like to highlight that having dialogue around the table is very good for us to go forward because if we just sit and not talk about this then it becomes a stagnant approach to how we intend to go forward on this document. And therefore every dialogue and interventions that we have, I believe, is healthy for this organisation in the development of its programmes and its processes as well. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Solomon ... uh Cook Islands. Guam ...

Guam – Thank [you] Mr Chairman. I am sad to say but unfortunately Guam at the last minute was not able to attend the SPC meeting and once again we were not represented in such decisions; but however, I think the important issue is that we’re working here with this Council and not to bring in the other organisations as influencing our decisions. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Guam. [whispering by D that New Zealand wanted the floor and the need to summarise discussion up to this point] New Zealand

New Zealand – I accept both the comments of the representative of the Cook Islands about the importance of good healthy discussion here. That’s a comment well [made] I think honourable Chair. Also, acknowledge the point made by Guam that the SPC is a separate Council; however, we are all grappling with the same; the very very same issue and we’re all required to coordinate to find a resolution to that issue. And if we can’t at this point agree a process that is compatible with each other; and frankly ‘rational’ then nothing will happen, and I think it’s really important to bear that in mind. We do need to be conscious of what other Councils

have decided in the same way that we will need to be conscious of that when we consider other issues on this agenda; the CROP remuneration issue will be coming up shortly, where decisions have been taken at different Councils about the remuneration of staff at SOPAC and its important that we have information about what other Councils have decided on that matter so that we can make an informed decision about the use of the resources for this Council. In the same way when we're sitting here today trying to positively and constructively come up with a solution/a process for taking forward our Leaders' decision on one single issue it is absolutely relevant that we bear in mind the need to design a process that is compatible across the three agencies that will need to take this forward. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I thank New Zealand for her comments on the issue; however; I still have and I think we're all in agreement, that the final or the roadmap process or consultation will come back to us as Council hence my emphasis on the chairs of the councils to be the facilitators of this process. And take up on the intervention by Fiji to maybe then have the option of writing to, or engaging, the Secretary General after Council. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Well delegates it seems to me that there's quite a large number who wish to stop the text at "equals". And about three members wish to make the additional amendment. And as has been stated this Council makes its own decisions, so the consensus seems to be to stop the text at "equals". How do you ... How does Council feel about that? Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair thank you, I feel a little uncomfortable that we're going to leave the sentence hanging in the air, but I respectfully also suggest to you sir that there is no consensus on this because the strong point that I have expressed to you sir, is that there must be that fundamental link made with the Leaders' decision and the involvement of the Secretary General as Australia has suggested, a conduit to put forward Council's decision on the outcomes of the consultations. I really wish to beg the indulgence of Council members that we must not lose sight of that. Whilst we continue as a body; and that's the reason why I suggested language which I thought would capture both the sentiments of those who did not wish to involve the Secretary General and at the same time having him as facilitator; but as I suggested earlier relegating him to being

an option that is available but noting also that the linkage he has to our Leaders in the context of the Pacific Islands Forum. And I would respectfully ask that a consideration be given in looking at that option in that light so that we can move forward on it because really I must stress on Papua New Guinea's point, that if we leave it at "equals"; it would not take account of why we should make that linkage to the Pacific Island Forum, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Tonga

Tonga – Thank you honourable Chairman Tonga would like at this point to (aside ... "oh you changed it again") in light of what Australia and Papua New Guinea has raised I would go with "requires that a process be a consultation amongst equals with the option to engage the Secretary General of the Forum as appropriate," and period.

Chair – So the proposal by Papua New Guinea, that was the wording. Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you honourable Chair, I think in the interest of trying to move forward with this we also support what has been suggested by Tonga to full stop after the word "appropriate"; and I don't recall supporting the first sentence "requires that a process be a consultation amongst equals" period, thank you. But I'm glad to see that the option is given so that the CEOs and the consultations can determine whether there is ... or the option is with them anyway, so its fairly flexible and whether they will be using the services of the Secretary General, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. The American Samoa ...

American Samoa – Thank you Mr Chairman. I know all my member/our member delegates want a positive outcome of this rationalisation and I can also understand the feelings by our colleagues from FSM and the smaller island countries because I know we, even though we hope for a positive outcome, but if this process is not handled properly it is the small islands countries with their limited resources that stand to lose out the most and American Samoa we agree with Tonga and Samoa and also the language there as proposed by my colleague from Australia ... you know we don't want any outside influence to affect the consultation. The consultation process should be carried out first and any outcomes should be reported to the Forum. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you American Samoa, so the suggestion which has been made is to include the words "with the option to engage the SG of

the PIFS as appropriate” full stop. Can we ... uh Fiji ...

Fiji – Sorry Mr Chairman to take up the floor at this late stage I’m just wondering if there should be a little definition of what “equals” is? It could be misinterpreted, what “equals” is yeah; perhaps we can be more specific and say the directors, or the CEOs of SPREP, SOPAC and SPC, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Fiji, Papua New Guinea.....

Papua New Guinea – Thank you honourable Chair, may I suggest through you to the Fiji delegate that this is language that was taken from the Honourable Ministers’ intervention, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. [long pause] So the suggestion uh Fiji ...

Fiji – I’m suggesting the deletion of “equals”; it’s used in a different context to the way we used it in our opening statement, thank you.

Chair – So the paragraph now reads “consultation amongst the director of SOPAC, the DG of SPC and the Director of SPREP, with the option to engage the SG of the PIFS as appropriate.” Is that acceptable to Council? Tonga ...

Tonga – I’m sorry honourable Chairman but I understand that Fiji moved to delete “equals”.

Chair – Alright we can delete “equals”; is that acceptable to everybody? Kiribati, Cook Islands ...

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman, with due respect to my colleagues I just want to offer a suggestion that I think in the original text to “equals” it says “to encompass everyone” if I’m right (or if I am wrong) and then another thing that we are puzzled about is the fact of the “under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat” with the option that has been given by our colleagues from PNG ... I think that’s ... its only a suggestion whether in the consultation process; if there is a need for the Secretary General then they can do so with this I think “as appropriate,” thank you.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati, Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I think my intervention is the same as what my colleague from Kiribati has just established; however if it’s a way forward for us as the intervention by my colleague from Samoa, the end product will be after the chairs or the councils have met and engaging the Secretary General. However, I can’t go any further without having to capture the chairs of the councils, especially our Chair

and to be captured in this dialogue somewhere in there to say, I mean at this point in time we are not showing confidence in our chairs in that regard. It is therefore my wish to insert somewhere; maybe someone can come up with the language, to include the respective chairs of council ... maybe then could this be a way forward for us to finish this sentence at this time? Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. We’ll work on some wording to reflect that. How does that sit?

Cook Islands – Thank you sir, I propose that we move forward and I’m in dire need of a caffeine intake.

Chair – Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair thank you very much for the floor again. I think in my intervention yesterday about chairs being engaged there’s a clear rule/engagement of where the chairs can get engaged and that it relates to providing advice, guidance and presiding over our Council meetings; and once you get them engaged with the directors and director generals you know it just clutters up the whole process. They will consider in their judgement what will come out from the consultation amongst the directors and that’ll be when they preside over our Council meetings. In including them here, I mean you’re introducing new functions and responsibilities that they are not empowered to do, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Cook Islands and Australia ...

Cook Islands – I take onboard the intervention of my colleague from Papua New Guinea. Maybe the text to ... maybe rehash the word “including”; maybe some other word to maybe sound as if we’re capturing the progress ... kind of progress report, I mean the directors will have to make that intervention or dialogue with their respective chairs as the way forward. Now if ... with the same view that my colleague from Papua New Guinea has established, the same could be said with the last sentence in the “option of engaging the <solicitor general, sorry the> Secretary General” ... <solicitor general> I’m so used to using that word back home. But in this regard maybe the text of the word including could be rehashed to reflect my views in engaging the chairs in the dialogue or the process of coming up with the product ... end product, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Australia then New Zealand

Australia – Chair thank you, I think that we ... if we have some words that are similar to

involving ... appropriate involvement; but can I make the point that I really wanted to take up the point that was made by the representative from FSM about our endpoint here is not to disrupt the functioning and the effective service delivery of SOPAC; and I really fear that if we're not careful in our deliberations here today by stepping right outside processes, accepted processes; we're going to do just that. And I think we need to think very carefully before we walk away from accepted process. If we're talking about our credibility, if we're talking about our being an organisation that attracts strong support, I think that's absolutely right but if we continue down a path that takes us right out of established practice, I for one am going to have real difficulty within my own government context in maintaining that credibility and I think it is something that we need really and truly give very serious thought to. We've got a process that is proceeding and I think we need to make sure that we don't set up something that is really going to stop it from happening.

Chair – Thank you Australia. New Zealand

New Zealand – Thank you honourable Chair, I echo the sentiments of Australia; our credibility as a Council is very much on the line here to design a process with an appropriate role for council and an appropriate role for the managers of our organisation. As a way forward, if we must, but I really don't think we need it because we have a [it] well caveated elsewhere but if we must, we do have some wording in recommendation 1, that the director of SOPAC will provide regular briefings to the chair of SOPAC and if we must repeat that then we could do that, but really when I set out my opening comments I really wanted us to provide a clear direction forward for our Director so that she could move forward empowered and able to take our thoughts forward and we do have a lot of words in here and I would submit that many of them are redundant; they're belts and braces and sort of reflecting people's nervousness and so forth but you know let's put it in for now, but maybe we could come back and really think about whether we need to have quite so many belts and braces and because we're going to be wanting to provide a clear mandate for our Director, thank you.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Tonga [Side A of Tape 8 ends]

Tonga – Thank you Honourable Chairman. In light of Australia and New Zealand raising the process, I would have thought that the initial meeting of this process should be the three chairs, and then from there the CEOs will take it up ... the process of the whole consultation

process [...wording of recommendation...][the initial meeting should be the three chairs, or three councils ... the rest is hardly audible]

[Side B of Tape 8 starts]

Chair – Thank you Tonga. [long pause] Kiribati, then Cook Islands

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman, I think we have done quite a lot in the process and most of the stuff has been there; and its only, to myself, the last that get us stuck with it; and I think most of the things has been stated, and as I proposed earlier, the option to consult the Secretary-General I think that's the way forward and that's all, thank you. That's in my opinion thank you, due respect with my colleagues around the table.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati, Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair, I am comfortable with the current language and [as] established by Tonga that, you know, in recognising our chairs in these respective councils, but most importantly our SOPAC Council Chair, as being consulted. And along the same lines as the intervention from my colleagues in New Zealand, in providing progress with the review, as Chair. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Honourable Chair. I've just kinda looked back to what we agreed already and there seems to have ... item two [ii] – “Council agrees that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process, with the CEOs of SPC and SPREP,” and I am wondering whether we are just repeating ourselves here?

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair. What goes round comes around, I think what has happened here is that when the original language was formulated by Australia and introduced it was really to reflect the role of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General as facilitator; however, based on the discussions we relegated him to just be an option to be there to engage with. Now, we're repeating the language that appears in one [i] – so I think let's go back to the original intention and look at it as I stridently spoke on earlier in that we maintain that linkage taking into account the need to report ... if it's reflected already in one, then there is really no need to reflect it again; and that is the requirement to keep the Council informed [aside to scribe – sorry, if you could just maintain the paragraph that I'm speaking on please, yes, thank you]; and then we can then agree whether we maintain the original

language which requires that the process be a “consultation amongst equals with the option to engage the SG of the Pacific Island Forum.” The reason why “equals” was brought in was to ensure; and to also address concerns that the Director of SOPAC may have that she is not entering into this discussion as an equal; and I think that this is fundamental, that when we maintain ... when we introduced the language “equals” it meant that all of them will be sitting at the same table as equals and discussing this ... point? Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. Uuh with due respect to my colleague from Papua New Guinea, I’m uh as I alluded to earlier, I’m comfortable with the current language as we’ve got there now, and as Australia has also intervened in the last ... and I think we’re in agreement and to my colleague from Papua New Guinea also alluded to being a way forward “with the option to engage the Secretary General of the Forum and the SOPAC Chair, as appropriate.” And we finish there; and to take us forward again Honourable Sir the caffeine level is getting low, thank you.

Chair – So, if I am correct; is there general agreement around the wording? Is that palatable or which could be tidied up ? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Honourable Chair. Yes, I think there is. The way we could get round the repetition, although we would have a long recommendation; but we could get around it by including the language “with the option to engage the Secretary General of the PIFS as appropriate” within recommendation two [ii], which also talks about the consultative process and talks about the regular briefings of the SOPAC Chair. So we would be able to capture all of those elements of the consultative process in the single recommendation and therefore avoid the repetitions. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Well delegates, if the Secretariat can have a chance to tidy up what we’ve discussed this morning, and in the meantime, we’ll take the morning tea break and come back and have a look at the document. We’ll break for morning tea.

[RESTART AFTER MORNING TEA]

Chair – Thanks for your patience, I hope you’ve all received the clean copy, and I suggest that we look at it page by page, so start with page two ... was agreed. No further amendments ? Page three?

Director – Thank you Chair. Just a suggestion in terms of consistency of language ... under ... on line fifty just to insert “noted that some members expressed concerns ... <concern> that whilst the” ... just to keep the language consistent ... “noted that some members expressed concern that whilst” ... and then the rest of the paragraph.

Chair – Thank you. Take note of that. Page four [iv]? was agreed. Page ... Director

Director – I’m sorry, again maybe on page four, part seven [vii], rather than having “nonetheless” again for consistency “is fully cognisant”.

Chair – So delete “nonetheless”. The paragraph will start “is fully cognisant.” Page five? Samoa ...

Samoa – Thanks Honourable Chair, just going back to page four; there’s reference there to at least five principles but I note that there are now six principles. Does it matter? But I thought that uhm; I think yesterday there was mention that maybe we could look at a set of principles rather than give a number, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa.... Use a “set of principles.” Thank you. Page five? Agreed? Page six? We have here on line ninety four, a paragraph which we haven’t cleared yet. New Zealand and Samoa ...

New Zealand – Thank you Honourable Chair. I’m not sure we need this paragraph in here because I think we’ve already managed in the next paragraph to secure a very strong level of Council ownership of this process through the regular briefings that the Director will provide to our Chair; and also because the roadmap will of course come back to Council. So my suggestion is that we could, we could do without that paragraph, I’m not sure what it adds, and it seems like perhaps there’s too much process going on. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Samoa ...

Samoa – Can I just uhm ... just reserve my comments ... I’ll get back to it later.

Chair – Thank you. FSM, and then Fiji ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Yes, thank you Chairman. I, I would support leaving that paragraph in because I think that is the ownership of the process by the Council even though in the next paragraph it says that they will report, as appropriate to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council. In preparing the roadmap, the ownership part is that, actually the process is embodied in number one [i].

Chair – Thank you, Fiji ?

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair. I think this paragraph is quite important. It sort of sets the parameters for how the process should proceed and I would suggest that this paragraph remains as is, or with a little bit or few amendments if countries around the table feel strongly on this point. I think it also covers the general consensus of countries around the table today so I would suggest that this paragraph remains as it sets the parameters for the process. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Fiji, Samoa

Samoa – Thank you Honourable Chair, I think its important that this whole process shows ownership by the Council and so we support the recommendation by FSM and Fiji; and I recall yesterday that there was a call for a terms of reference for this sub-committee or this team, including the director, and I wonder if the Secretariat has managed to put together a terms of reference and if they can circulate it to the Council. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. I've been advised that a terms of reference has been drafted and can be circulated. Palau, then Cook Islands and then Kiribati ...

Palau – Palau likewise would like to support the previous speakers. Thank you Mr Chair.

Chair – Thank you. Kiribati and then Cook Islands, Australia and Vanuatu ...

Kiribati – Thank you Mr Chairman. I think this is an important paragraph that should be included and like my other fellow colleagues this is the paragraph that state ownership of the RIF or the ongoing process and it will be amiss for us if we do not include this and stated earlier so that we as the Council drive the process behind this. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair I also echo the interventions by my colleagues in retaining this section here, and for obvious reasons, and now just being produced a terms of reference, I was going to allude to that however, in saying ... in one of the previous councils, a sub-committee of such nature was convened and chaired by Niue. This was to really look at the appointment of the Director at the time, and the composition of the Committee was : Cook Islands, Australia, Tonga, Niue and the Suva-based missions. We were able to come to a conclusion in consultation with the Suva-based missions by e-mail and finally getting a endorsed document by the end of the process, and that took nearly a year for us to produce

that for acceptance by Council year after. And hence one of the important points of retaining this and establishing a committee to / or like Samoa has mentioned to have a composition of members of Council. And/but up the top of the terms of reference it just defines the Suva-based members, however I think it should be extended to council members in other countries via e-mail and not necessary have to be in Suva to undertake the task. And therefore I concur with my colleagues to keep/retain this particular section.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Australia

Australia – Thank you Chair. I recall the comments of the Papua New Guinea member who made the point that we ought not be in the business of establishing a process that is really so cumbersome that we get/don't get anywhere. Now, I am all in support of this Council having ownership of the work as it moves ahead, but I fear that with the terms of reference we have here, we're again undermining the value of the three organisations getting together to understand how they can best bring about the most sensible synergies regarding how they may/they might join their operations. Because as much as our CEO and our Council know about SOPAC's operations, they are not so familiar with the operations of the other two organisations. So if we set up a position whereby we want to pre-set the way the organisations will be / will work together, again we undermine that sense of cooperation and the sense of working together to build something new rather than holding on to a set of arrangements as they exist now. I ... so I believe that with these terms of reference we have our Council examining how these activities of priority may be delivered more effectively and efficiently; and how the absorption should take place, but that's not taking on board the knowledge and the understanding of the other programmes. Now, I am not saying that we shouldn't have a group of people from our Council doing it but I wouldn't want that group of people always having to be there to approve the next step, because if you do that you're again setting up a process that doesn't allow the CEOs to bring together their collective wisdom and to work out a creative way forward. So I would ask that the members of the Council think about how we can/we can have this involvement, but we can have it in a way that supports a creative process. I haven't had a chance yet to look at the terms of reference in detail and I'd hope to be able to do that before proceeding, But that would be my request that we don't set up a process that doesn't allow that creative getting together of organisations to seek how those

synergies that exist can really be used in – to get the best opportunities for moving forward for service delivery for the region.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Vanuatu ...

Vanuatu – Thank you Honourable Chair, I think Vanuatu would like to support the intervention made by FSM, Fiji and Samoa. It basically refers back to our intervention made yesterday, so that we ... so that the Council can take ownership and responsibility over the process. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Vanuatu. Tuvalu, then New Zealand.

Tuvalu – Thank you Honourable Chairman. Tuvalu would also like to have this recommendation retained again emphasising the importance of ownership and the driver of this process. If I may just refer to the concerns raised by Australia with regard to the consultation process and the cooperative manner that should be emphasised in this process; would that? I'm sure that will [be] taken care of in other recommendations. If I may also refer that to recommendation two [ii], that follows this first recommendation could make reference to that cooperation and having all the CEOs of the three bodies fully engaged and consulting. Thank you Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Tuvalu. New Zealand...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair. I feel really unable to consider this matter further without some time to look at the detail of what's being proposed since its just arrived for us. I don't think we can really proceed further until we've had that opportunity, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Guam ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chair, I just wish to echo our agreement with Vanuatu and [the] suggestion by FSM originally, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Guam. Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Honourable Chair. As a way forward I suggest that we deal with the / with this particular component and deal with the terms of reference at a later stage on a separate agenda, because as I ... as I see around the table there's a general concensus as to how we want to move on this, and that is to ... taking ownership of the <of the> discussions, therefore I move that we deal with this one; and deal with the terms of reference at a later stage, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Vanuatu ...

Vanuatu – Supported by Vanuatu, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Vanuatu. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair, it's not supported by <by> us. We see the terms of reference and the clause as not being able to be separated out, and so we want to consider them together if we may sir to be able to comment, thank you.

Chair – FSM and Australia ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman, just wanna echo and register our support for the intervention by Samoa, I mean Cook Islands.

Chair – Thank you FSM, Australia ...

Australia – Thank you Chair. Like New Zealand I'm not able to agree to the <to the> point until I am comfortable that we all understand ... and that I'm not comfortable with <with> the terms of reference. I think that there are <there are> questions that need <need> to be answered before I can join Australia with this recommendation and I uumm <I, I, I> believe that er uh unless it's resolved we've left in the air something that is <that is> quite fundamental to the whole discussion that we've been having up to this point.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Chair. I uh, I take on board the comments by my colleague from Australia; however, I'd just like to point out that what we have on here is the same as what we have agreed in the statements that we've had [with] maybe some small amendments to the language I suppose; however, I can see all these have been reflected in the documents that we have all agreed to just a while ago, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Chair, with respect we all want to proceed in this matter in an appropriate way reflecting good governance principles of allowing people time to consider issues and we've just received some very important information on our tables, uuhm and we really would respectfully ask sir that we have the opportunity to consider the detail before a decision is made on the recommendation, thank you Sir.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. What sort of time do you need New Zealand, any idea ... any ?

New Zealand – Up to an hour would be useful, if possible, certainly yeah perhaps 45 minutes we could perhaps think it through, thank you.

Chair – In that case, perhaps we can move on to the rest of the record and come back again to allow New Zealand time to consider this paragraph. So can we move on and come back ...? Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Sorry Chair to [come?] back to the table ... I uh ... with due respect to my colleagues from New Zealand and Australia; in this regard how we are developing the latest interventions have <have> uh err... in other words I'm not comfortable because there are around the table general consensus as to move forward and if we have to reflect one or two then it defeats the purpose of us being around the table, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Thank you Honourable Chair, it's <it's>the nature of how we proceed and I think if two members wish to seek a deferment of the consideration of this, that should be respected. So let's allow that time and then once they come then we can proceed debate to adoption on this, I thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea [long pause] ... in that case I would like to ... Fiji

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair, uuhm I don't want to intervene but I think in the name of moving forward perhaps I think all members[Side B of Tape 8 ends] ... [(from notes) have been given the same document at the same time, and if we could just agree on item one (i), and defer consideration of the ...]

Fiji – [Side A of Tape 9 starts] ... terms of reference. Perhaps after agreeing to the items here before us and obviously there is some consensus, there is consensus on maintaining this paragraph. If Australia and New Zealand could consider that in the name of progressing the meeting today, you know it will be highly appreciated by all members here. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – We certainly have no wish to duly delay the process, however there is consensus on the question of ownership of the process by Council but there is not consensus on this recommendation. And well I'll leave it at that, but really respectively your indulgence for us to have some time to think about that would be much appreciated.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. Well as has been mentioned delegates; there is a large number of delegates who wish to retain this

paragraph. I think I have to accept that as the decision of the majority to retain this paragraph one [i]. We move on to the next, thank you. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank [you] Mr Chairman, are we on number two right now, Mr Chairman? [Chair replies “yes number two now”] two, ok I was gonna suggest language in line one-zero-four ... “preparation of draft roadmap that maybe submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration...” but I'm kinda confused if we gonna say “by the Forum in 2010” doesn't seem to flow from there? SOPAC Governing Council for consideration by the Forum in 2010?” maybe we just need some clarification with that language.

Chair – Can I ask the Director to clarify that?

Director – I'm just trying to recall the extensive debate on this particular paragraph and at the time ... I'm just trying to go back to the actual wording. In the original paper, Supplementary 1, Part 1 after the recommendations, at the time New Zealand was providing some suggested wording as a way forward in terms of timelines and the notion is introducing “by 2010” was made. The wording in the Supplementary Paper was “to be submitted for consideration by the Forum in 2010,” but then in fact that “in” was changed to “by”. But at the time, it was “and the final road map” so at this stage I can understand FSM's point, in the way that it's worded, is that the draft roadmap to be submitted for consideration by both the SOPAC Governing Council and then by the Forum by 2010, so there would be a need to tighten up that language a little.

Chair – Thank you Director. New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Thank you Director I agree with you. We were suggesting that we revert to the recommendation that you put forward yourself which was “a final roadmap to be submitted to SOPAC Council...” well really it was “submitted to the Forum in 2010” with the assumption that it had been approved by the Governing Council before that time. Maybe we could just revert to the wording that was in your recommendation.

Chair – Thank you New Zealand. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman. Actually my confusion here is that it says “to be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration by the Forum”. No other than that. That's my concern, it says submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration by the Forum; maybe we just delete SOPAC Governing Council and say “sub-

mitted for consideration by the Forum,” with the understanding that it has cleared through the SOPAC Council of course.

Chair – Thank you. Guam ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman, One way of looking at this as I am interpreting it; maybe we could insert after “consideration” wording that ‘it would be submitted to SOPAC Governing Council for consideration, and then insert ‘with the intent of a final draft (or report) to the Forum by 2010.’ I think that was the intent.

Chair – Thank you Guam. We can insert that wording on the screen. Is that agreed? New Zealand ...

New Zealand – Sorry Chair but may I just take a minute to read it through.

Chair – Sure. [pause] New Zealand

New Zealand – Thank you sir, I’m not sure it does capture where we were in our original recommendation, if I may read it out, “roadmap submitted for consideration by Forum in 2010.”* So that was quite clear and obviously before that there would be discussions with Council along the way. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – I am in alignment with the current language, with the option of maybe inserting after “consideration” ‘in 2008’, “with the intent oflah lah lah...” right to the end. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you honourable Chair, just a slight variation to Cook Islands...”preparation of a draft roadmap to be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration and approval with the intent of a final roadmap being submitted to the Forum in 2010.”

Chair – Thank you. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman. With due respect to my colleagues, I think we had taken out the timeline of 2008 simply because we are asking the Director of SOPAC to engage in the process with SPREP and SPC; and I think we heard already from the SPREP Director that he cannot engage until after he’s had his meeting; which may not be

until after our meeting next year, and we cannot of course ... we requesting and we telling our Director to engage them but of course it is up to them to engage and I think the other point I was trying to make earlier is that we cannot of course demand our Director to come with a roadmap I guess if the directors don’t wanna engage. We’re asking her then to come up with a roadmap on her own without the consultation process.

Chair – Thank you FSM. Cook Islands

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair. I concur with the intervention by Papua New Guinea and on the timeline being taken out I concur with the final text as it is.

Chair – Thank you. Samoa

Samoa – Thank you honourable Chair, Samoa has no difficulties with the text as it is, thank you.

Chair – Agreed. Guam

Guam – Mr Chairman, thank you. I think I’d feel better on approving or deciding on this paragraph if there is a brief explanation ... perhaps the Director could explain what the view of the roadmap would be.... what is that entailing that we’ll be receiving, just very briefly ... what the roadmap would be, what sense? Thank you.

Director – Well clearly under Part three (iii), it does actually outline quite a number of areas that will need examination; and so I would suggest that the three CEOs would need to look at the various areas that you as Council, and I’m sure their councils will instruct us to examine in greater detail. I would suggest as well that our discussions would likely need to result in various options being presented, and so therefore the roadmap would need to be able to outline the most effective way forward with that genuine intent of what is the best arrangement for improved service delivery of regional services to yourselves as members of the various organisations that currently exist. But I’m you know, very much thinking out loud at the moment, I wish I did have a vision of what that roadmap looks like right now; but I suspect that it would comprise a number of elements but clearly with some indications of just what the new arrangements would look like as well as how we would travel that path to achieve the new arrangements. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. So are we happy with the paragraph as it stands now with those amendments? Are we agreed? Agreed. Paragraph three (iii). FSM

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chair. I feel that the main thrust of the para-

* While this text was read out by New Zealand at this juncture, the Drafting Committee received a submission later from them at its final meeting in Suva early in December that the reading should have been – “a final road map submitted to the Forum by 2010” – as agreed by Council during the RIF discussion. Council accepted that reading when clearing the finaldraft of the Summary Record of the 36th Session in late December.

graph there has been covered already. I would suggest that we delete the whole paragraph.

Chair – Suggestion that we delete the paragraph, are we agreed on that? New Zealand; and then Guam

New Zealand – No we wouldn't agree with that honourable Chair, I think the addition of the SOPAC Council as a whole and the possibility that we would also have a SPREP council as a whole and an SPC council as a whole, if anything, strengthens the need for an option of facilitation to be available; so we would certainly not want to see this recommendation being deleted, thank you Sir.

Chair – Guam, and then Papua New Guinea

Guam – Thank you Mr Chair. We'd support the deletion of this paragraph. I think previous paragraphs are sufficient to cover the need, it could be looked at as being a bit repetitive, thank you.

Chair – Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair I think I belaboured this issue for quite some time because of the original language that was introduced; however, towards the end the suggestion that was made by Cook Islands was not opposed so I don't see any reason why we're trying to delete this. But I stand to be corrected, thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. So the feeling is to retain this paragraph as amended. FSM ...

Federated States of Micronesia – Thank you Chairman I feel that we are repeating ourselves because actually if you'd recall that we had actually come to the end of the recommendations, and the only reason why we're back to this is because of the suggestion from Australia that we put in the option to engage the SG. I think the original language was "under the auspices of SG of PIFS."

Chair – Australia ...

Australia – I would endorse the comment by Papua New Guinea. I think we agreed this, and I don't know how we're ever gonna end this meeting Chair if we keep on coming back to items that we've agreed. I don't know how long we can keep on re-opening subjects that we've agreed.

Chair – Thank you Australia. Yes I think that we've agreed on this paragraph. [Whispers at the head table] Yes we have agreed but the wording there is being proposed on whether

it is acceptable or palatable to Council. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea – I think let's get our facts correct. Under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat no longer exists as per the suggestion by Cook Islands, that's my recollection. That's the reason why the language "with the option to engage the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat" was offered by this delegation. I thank you Chair.

Chair – Yes, I think the suggestion ... the amendment was made by Papua New Guinea as a compromise to include "with the option to engage the Secretary General of the PIFS." Yes. FSM

Federated States of Micronesia – Because it seems like actually a different point from all others, so perhaps I could suggest to move that language "with option" somewhere in item two (ii).

Chair – Sorry to move? You suggest to move where?

Federated States of Micronesia – For example "with the option to engage the SG of PIFS" can be moved up to item two (ii) after "as appropriate".

Chair – Thank you, so the suggestion is we move "with the option to engage the SG of PIFS" up to paragraph two (ii) ... have a look at the new paragraph two (ii). [extra long pause] Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you sir. Just reviewing the document, I didn't agree with the movement of "with the option to engage the SG of PIFS" yeah, just where yeah yes! over there ... sorry I'm talking over the microphone I'm looking also at the ... [this is directed at the projector screen where text is being moved]. And I think my colleague from Australia will agree with me, because that's what she had yesterday, thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Guam ...

Guam – Thank you Mr Chairman. I view this as removing some of the redundancy of this two different paragraphs. I approve of this. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Are we happy with that? Can we accept that? Agreed. Thank you. If we go to paragraph three (iii), that makes it redundant, and we might as well delete it. Cook Islands

Cook Islands – That is correct sir, thank you.

Chair – Delete paragraph three (iii). Paragraph four (iv) was agreed. Bullet point one agreed. Bullet point two was agreed; and bulletin point three was agreed. There’s a new language bullet point four – “finding a mechanism that will enable the benefits of STAR to be continued”, we agreed? Fiji

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair, I beg the indulgence of delegates around the table. Just going back to the other point in the previous para. “it might require prior resolution” line one thirty four (134) and the use of [the] word “absorption.” Could that word be replaced with “rationalisation”? Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. Rationalisation We agreed? OK. Are we agreed on that final bullet point for STAR ... including? We are? Thank you. Agreed. Next paragraph. We agreed to retain line 94, so So we need to have a look at paragraph five (v) to see if we retain it or delete it since we have approved line ninety four (94). Palau ...

Palau – Thank you Chair, I think we should delete that one. Thank you.

Chair – Thank you. Samoa ...

Samoa – Thank you honourable Chair. We have called for the establishment of the sub-committee, a small sub-committee comprising of the Director and a small team under the suggested new one (i) and this is basically to provide direction and guidance by the team to guide the work of our Director. I wonder whether it is within our mandate to actually call for a committee comprising of other governing bodies and whether we should just leave it to SPREP and SPC to see whether they feel that there is a need to establish a sub-committees to advise their respective directors. Thank you honourable Chair.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Papua New Guinea ... and then Kiribati.

Papua New Guinea – Honourable Chair I fully endorse Samoa’s point here in terms of how they engage, letter can be exchanged between CEOs on the modus operandi. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea, Kiribati ...

Kiribati – Thank you I take in consideration what has been echoed by my colleagues but we need (in my opinion) to tie up that paragraph with the one that you mentioned in ninety four so that it doesn’t repeat itself and consistent in the flow.

Chair – Thank you Kiribati. It’s been suggested that maybe we do away with one thirty, paragraph five (v). I suggest we delete that, alright? Agreed? Delete! Can we move on to line one four four, which has been agreed. Are we happy with that? Agreed. Thank you. Line one fifty was agreed as well. Fiji

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair. I thought in discussions prior to this a lot of concern was raised with regard to STAR and I was just wondering if we could please include that the Chair of STAR could be included in the organisations that will be informed of the outcomes of this Council.

Chair – Thank you Fiji, yeah we can include that ... Guam

Guam – Mr Chairman I’d just like to support that idea and suggest we do it.

Chair – Thank you, we’ll include that Chair of STAR as informed as well. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair, I concur with my colleagues; however that is why we established a key stakeholder component there because we actually have a large number of partners in this regard, and if we articulate one then we probably have to articulate the whole lot and bring up the ones with the MOUs etc etc. Thank you.

Chair – Is key stakeholders sufficient Fiji, or do you need to specify ‘Chair of STAR’?

Fiji – Thank you Mr Chair, I think STAR plays a pivotal role during Council and since they perform a very valuable service and a free service to this Council and to SOPAC I think it is important we show our appreciation by including their name here. Thank you Chair. PNG, Samoa then Cook Islands ...

Papua New Guinea – Thank you honourable Chair. The distinguished delegate from Fiji mentioned a voluntary service and I take the point that Cook Islands made, there are those key stakeholders that have formal arrangements with us and there are those like STAR that are voluntary; now if we gonna do it we’re gonna be listing everybody so I would rather that we truncate that to donor partners and key stakeholders, STAR is a key stakeholder within that context, and I thank you Chair.

Chair – Samoa

Samoa – Sorry honourable Chair my intervention is not related to this ... just going back to line one four eight, and just for consistency purposes if you could just change the word CEO to what has been used throughout the document thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa, Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – Thank you Mr Chair, I
[Side A of Tape 9 ends]. [Missing part supplied from notes as no Voice Recorder record of this segment's bridge] The Chair of the STAR is an important part of our organisation and I commend the work, but I think that if we articulate one partner we have to do them all. So maybe leave the words at 'key stakeholders' but have a supplementary paper on who they are.

New Zealand – Alternatively we could just say 'including the Chair of STAR'.

Chair – Sounds reasonable. Agreed?

Cook Islands – Agreed but can we still have a separate list articulating other partners?

Chair – Yes

[Side B of Tape 9 starts]

Chair – ...agreed on the conclusions and recommendations. The terms of reference that was mentioned, I think New Zealand needed more time, and perhaps we can look at that after lunch. I also remind delegates that we also have quite a few items left on our agenda. Maybe if we take our lunch and be back at 1:30 to try and complete our business today. Meeting's adjourned.

[LUNCH BREAK]

[Reconvening after lunch on the last day, some delay occurred while New Zealand and Australian reps engage the Director in conversation. Meeting re-opens half an hour later than intended]

Chair – We apologise for the delay. We have received another proposal, a proposed amendment to paragraph one (i). As it appears up on the screen there it reads... [reading] 'agreed that a Committee of the SOPAC Council as a Whole be established and adequately resourced to guide and advise the Director during the consultative process with a terms of reference to be agreed at its first meeting.'

That will shorten discussions as the terms of

reference can be agreed later at its first meeting. [Pause to gauge reaction] ... Papua New Guinea ...

Papua New Guinea – I think that formulation meets with Papua New Guinea's agreement. We can at least reflect inter-sessionally on this to the first meeting of that committee. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you Papua New Guinea. Other delegates happy with that? ... Fiji ...

Fiji – Fiji agrees with that text, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Fiji. Samoa

Samoa – Thank you honourable Chair, we also agree with the text, thank you.

Chair – Thank you Samoa. Tonga ...

Tonga – Tonga would like to concur, thank you honourable Chairman.

Chair – Thank you Tonga. Cook Islands ...

Cook Islands – The Cook Islands would also like to concur with this. I would like for this text to also capture what Papua New Guinea has established. The consultative process, by way of inter-sessionary process.

Chair – Thank you Cook Islands. Could we ask Papua New Guinea where we'd like to insert "inter-sessionary"?

Papua New Guinea – I think what I was suggesting was that it's inferred there, not unless you want to be particular about inserting it so you could say "with the terms of reference to be agreed at its first meeting prior to which discussions can take place inter-sessionally." But I think it's too I think it's already inferred because there will be discussions. Thank you Chair.

Chair – Thank you. Ok, is that agreed? Agreed? Fine. Thank you. Agreed [to scribe]. Delegates that completes eleven point one [11.1], thank you for your discussions on this item, which is of crucial importance to the Commission.

[the end]

APPENDIX 8

LIST OF CONFERENCE ROOM DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TITLE
AS36/1 Info 1	Information Circular
AS36/1 Info 2	Preliminary Timetable
AS36/1 Info 3	Programme for Official Opening (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/3.1	Provisional Agenda
AS36/3.1 Rev	Adopted Agenda
AS36/3.1 Info 1	Provisional Daily Working Schedule
AS36/3.1 Info 2	Working Procedures
AS36/3.1 Info 3	List of Conference Room Documents
AS36/3.1 Info 3 Rev	Final List of Conference Documents (this document)
AS36/3.1 Info 4	Provisional List of Participants
AS36/3.1 Info 4 Rev	Final List of Participants
AS36/4.1	Designation of National Representatives (as at 30 September 2007)
AS36/4.1 Rev	Designation of National Representatives (as at 28 February 2008)
AS36/5.1/01	American Samoa Opening Statement
AS36/5.1/02	Statement from Australia
AS36/5.1/03	Statement from Cook Islands
AS36/5.1/04	Federated States of Micronesia Country Statement
AS36/5.1/05	State from Guam
AS36/5.1/06	Statement from Kiribati
AS36/5.1/07	Nauru National Representative's Opening Statement
AS36/5.1/08	Statement by New Caledonia
AS36/5.1/09	Opening Statement from New Zealand
AS36/5.1/10	Statement by Papua New Guinea
AS36/5.1/11	National Statement : Government of Samoa
AS36/5.1/12	Solomon Islands : Opening and Country Statements
AS36/5.1/13	Country Statement Tokelau
AS36/5.1/14	Tuvalu Country Statement
AS36/5.1/15	Vanuatu Statement
AS36/5.1/16	Fiji Islands' Country Statement
AS36/5.2/01	Statement by Pacific Power Association (PPA)
AS36/5.2/02	Statements by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
AS36/5.2/03	Statement by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
AS36/5.2/04	Statement by the University of the South Pacific (USP)
AS36/5.3/01	Statement by The Asia Foundation (TAF)
AS36/5.3/02	Statement by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
AS36/5.4/01	Statement by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)
AS36/6.1.1	Introduction to Director's Report (to Governing Council)
AS36/6.1.2	2006 Annual Report Summary
AS36/6.1.3	Summary Report of 2007 Donor Support
AS36/6.1.4	SOPAC/EU Project Report
AS36/6.1.4 Suppl	Outcomes of Project Meeting "Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific ACP States"
AS36/6.2	STAR Chair Report
AS36/6.2 Suppl	STAR Chair Report to Council 2007 (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)

AS36/6.3	PMEG Chairs Report on Cross-cutting Programme Issues
AS36/6.3 Suppl	PMEG Chairs Report on Cross-cutting Programme Issues (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/6.4	CROP and PPAC Summary Report
AS36/7.1	Report from the Community Lifelines Programme
AS36/7.2	New Initiatives and Emerging Issues in the Community Lifelines Programme
AS36/7.3	Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on CLP (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/8.1	Report from the Community Risk Programme
AS36/8.2	New Initiatives and Emerging Issues in the Community Risk Programme
AS36/8.3	Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on CRP (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/9.1	Report from the Ocean and Islands Programme
AS36/9.2	New Initiatives and Emerging Issues in the Ocean and Islands Programme
AS36/9.3	Report from the Programme Review Monitoring & Evaluation Group on OIP (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/10.1.1*	2006 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report
AS36/10.1.2*	Report on 2006 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds
AS36/10.1.3*	Report on Assets & Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2006
AS36/10.2.1*	Report and Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2007
AS36/10.2.2.1*	Status of Membership Contributions
AS36/10.2.2.1 Rev*	Status of Membership Contributions (as at November 2007)
AS36/10.2.2.2*	Increase in Membership Contributions
AS36/11.1*	Regional Institutional Framework (RIF)
AS36/11.1 Suppl 1	Supplementary Paper to Council for Agenda Item AS36/11.1, Regional Institutional Framework
AS36/11.1 Suppl 2	STAR Outcome Statement of its discussion on the RIF (Para. 19b of Forum Leaders' Communiqué, October 2007) (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/11.1 Suppl 3	Statement from PMEG (Circulated in Nuku'alofa)
AS36/11.1 Suppl 4	Governing Council Decision on the RIF Item (within SOPAC circulation only)
AS36/11.2.1*	CROP Annual Remuneration Review Report (Professional)
AS36/11.2.2*	CROP Annual Remuneration Review Report (Support Staff)
AS36/11.3*	Report on Review of the Financial Regulations
AS36/11.4*	Secretariat Accommodation and Related Institutional Issues
AS36/12.1*	Reserve Fund Ceiling
AS36/12.2*	Approval of Proposed 2008 Work Plan and Budget
AS36/12.2 Rev*	Approved 2008 Work Plan and Budget
AS36/13.1	Constitution of the PMEG under the Technical Programmes

APPENDIX 9

ACRONYMS

(CUMULATIVE LISTING)

AAPG	– American Association of Petroleum Geologists (Tulsa, USA)	APPEA	– Australian Petroleum Production Exploration Association
ACDP	– Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler	APPL	– Application of Petroleum Prospecting Licenses
ACIAR	– Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	APSC	– Australian Public Service Commission
ACP	– African, Caribbean and the Pacific countries of the Lome Convention	ARGO	– Array for Real-time Geostrophic Oceanography
ACTEW	– Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Corporation	ARGOS	– A satellite location and data collection system (CNES/NOAA)
ADB	– Asian Development Bank	AS	– Annual Session (SOPAC)
ADCP	– acoustic doppler current profiler	ASAP	– Alf Simpson and Associates Pacific Ltd
ADITC	– Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee	ASEAN	– Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ADO	– Automotive Diesel Oil	ASLR	– accelerated sea-level rise
AFAC	– Australasian Fire Authorities Council	ASPA	– American Samoa Power Authority
AGC	– Atlantic Geoscience Center (Canada)	ASTM	– American Society for Testing Materials (original name)
AGL	– Land and Water Development Division of the Agriculture Department of the FAO (UN)	ATP	– authority to prospect
AGSO	– Australian Geological Survey Organisation	AUD	– Australian Dollar
AIACC	– Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change	AusAID	– Australian Agency for International Development
AIDAB	– Australian International Development Assistance Bureau	AUSLIG	– Australian Surveying and Land Information Group
AMSAT	– Australia Marine Science & Technology Limited	AVI	– Australian Volunteers International
ANZECC	– Australia and New Zealand Conservation Council	AVHRR	– Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer
ANU	– Australian National University	AWA	– Australia Water Association
AOSIS	– Alliance of Small Island States	AWWA	– American Water Works Association
AOPC	– Atmospheric Observing Panel for Climate	BAC	– Climate Alert Bulletin
AOSIS	– Alliance of Small Island States	BGR	– Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (Germany)
APACE-VFEG	– Appropriate Technology for Community and Environment – Village First Electrical Group	BGS	– British Geological Survey
APAN	– Asia Pacific Area Network	BINAS	– Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Service
APEC	– Asia-Pacific Economic Commission	BIO	– Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Canada)
APPA	– American Public Power Association	BOM	– Bureau of Meteorology (Australia)
		BPoA	– Barbados Plan of Action

BRGM	– Bureau de Recherche Géologiques	C-GOOS	– Coastal-Global Ocean Observing System
BSc	– Bachelor of Science	CGPS (cGPS)	– Continuous Global Positioning System
CalCOFI	– California Cooperative Fishery Investigation	CHARM	– Comprehensive Hazards and Risk Management
CalTech	– California Institute of Technology	CIA	– Central Intelligence Agency (United States)
CAR	– Communities At Risk	CIDA	– Canadian International Development Agency
CARICOM	– Caribbean Community and Common Market	CIESIN	– Centre for International Earth Science Information Network
CATD	– Centre for Appropriate Technology & Development (Nadave, Fiji)	CIF	– Cost, Insurance and Freight
CBD	– Convention of Biological Diversity	CISNet	– Coastal Index Site Network
CCCC	– Climate Change Carrying Capacity	CISO	– Chief Information Security Officer
CCCCC	– Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	CLIPS	– Climate Information and Prediction Services
CCD	– Convention to Combat Desertification	CLCS	– Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
CBO	– Community-Based Organisations	CLIVAR	– Climate Variability and Predictability
CCAMLR	– Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	CLP	– Community Lifelines Programme (SOPAC)
CCOP	– Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (ESCAP)	C-MAN	– Coastal Marine Automated Network
CCOP/SOPAC	– Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (now SOPAC)	CMM	– Commission for Marine Meteorology
CDM	– Clean Development Mechanism	CNES	– Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (National Center for Space Studies)
CD-ROM	– Compact Disc Read Only Memory	CNMI	– Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CDPI	– Community Development and Participation Initiatives	CNO	– Crude Coconut Oil
CDR	– Centre for Disaster Research (of UPNG)	CNRS	– Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (National Center for Scientific Research), France
CEA	– Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (Atomic Energy Commission), France	CNRT	– National Research and Technology Centre for Nickel and its Environment (of New Caledonia)
CEHI	– Caribbean Environmental Health Institute	COE	– Corps of Engineers (properly USACE) (USA)
CELT	– Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching	COLA	– cost of living adjustment
CEO	– Centre for Earth Observation	COM	– College of Micronesia (of FSM)
CEO	– Chief Executive Officer	COMBAS	– a joint Japanese-French project to study active marginal basins in the Southwest Pacific (followed the STARMER programme)
CEOS	– Committee on Earth Observation Satellites	COME	– Coconut Oil Methyl Ester
CERMP	– Cyclone Emergency and Risk Management Project (Tonga)	COMSEC	– Commonwealth Secretariat (UK)
CESMG	– see ESMG	COOP	– Coastal Ocean Processes Programme
CFTC	– Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation		

CORA	– Canadian Ocean Resource Associates Inc.	DGMWR	– Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (Vanuatu)
CP1	– Core Project 1, the Global Description of the World Ocean	DGPS	– Differential Global Positioning System
CPCEMR	– Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources	DIMENC	– Direction de l'Industrie, des Mines et de L'Energie (New Caledonia)
CPI	– Consumer Price Index	DISMAC	– Disaster Management Centre
CPPS	– Permanent Commission for the South Pacific	DMA	– Defence Mapping Agency (US)
CPWC	– Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate	DME	– Direct Micro Expelling
CRED	– Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters	DMU	– Disaster Management Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
CRES	– Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (of the Australian National University)	DO	– Dissolved Oxygen
CRGA	– Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (of South Pacific Community)	DOE	– Department of Energy (Fiji, and elsewhere)
CROP	– Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (formerly SPOCC)	DoM	– Department of Mining (PNG)
CROP ICT WG	– CROP Information and Communication Technologies Working Group	DOALOS	– (UN) Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
CRP	– Community Risk Programme (SOPAC)	DORD	– Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd, Japan
CSA	– Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (USA)	DOS	– Disk Operating System
CSC	– Commonwealth Science Council	DOWA	– Deep Ocean Water Applications
CSD	– Commission on Sustainable Development (of United Nations)	DRR & DM	– Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management
CSI	– Coastal Regions and Small Islands (of UNESCO)	DRM	– Disaster Risk Management
CSIRO	– Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Australia)	DSDP	– Deep Sea Drilling Project
CSO	– Civil Society Organisation	DSM	– Demand Side Management
CSP	– Conservation Society of Pohnpei	DSTO	– Defense and Science and Technology Organisation (Australia)
CSPOD	– Canadian South Pacific Ocean Development Programme	DTM	– Digital Terrain Modelling
CT	– Composting Toilet	DWC	– Dialogue on Water and Climate
CTD	– Conductivity/Temperature/Depth Device	EC	– European Community (now EU)
DANIDA	– Danish International Development Agency	ECS	– Extended Continental Shelf
DBCP	– Data Buoy Cooperation Panel	ECLAC	– Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
DDSMS	– Department of Development Support and Management Services (of UNDP)	ECOSOC	– Economic and Social Council (UN)
DFID	– Department for International Development (UK)	ECU	– European Currency Unit
		EDF	– European Development Fund
		EEZ	– Exclusive Economic Zone
		EFH	– Essential Fish Habitat
		EIA	– Environmental Impact Assessment
		EMA	– Emergency Management Australia
		EMA	– Engine Manufacturers Association (US)
		EMDAT	– Emergency Events Database (CRED, OFDA, OECD, WHO)

EMM	– Energy Ministers Meeting	FAUST	– French-Australia Seismic Transect
EMP	– Ecosystem Monitoring Programme	FCCC	– Framework Convention on Climate Change
EMT	– Executive Management Team (SOPAC)	FEA	– Fiji Electricity Authority
EMWIN	– Emergency Managers Weather Information Network	FEPC	– Federation of Electric Power Companies (Japan)
ENSO	– El Niño Southern Oscillation	FEMA	– Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)
ENVISAT	– Environmental Satellite	FEMM	– Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
EPA	– Environment Protection Agency	FFA	– Free Fatty Acids
EPC	– Electric Power Corporation (Samoa)	FFA	– Forum Fisheries Agency
EPC	– thermal graphic recorder used in mapping (probably after company founder: Edward P. Curly)	FFEM	– Fonds Française pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Funds for Global Environment)
EPG	– Eminent Persons Group	FEMS	– Fiji Forest Export Marketing System
EMWIN	– Emergency Management Weather Information Network	FICs	– Forum Island Countries
EPCS	– Electronic Particle Counting System	FIELD	– Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
EPM	– Environmental Programme for the Mediterranean	FINNIDA	– Finnish Department of International Development Cooperation
ER	– Internal SOPAC Secretariat abbreviation for EU-SOPAC Project reports	FINTEL	– Fiji's International Telecommunications Provider
ESCAP	– Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)	FIT	– Fiji Institute of Technology
ESMG	– Earth Science and Marine Geology (SOPAC certificate course)	FJD	– Fijian Dollar
ESRI	– Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.	FLIS	– Fiji Land Information System
ESSI	– Earth Search Science Incorporation	FMS	– Fiji Meteorological Service
EST	– Environmentally Sound Technologies	FNPf	– Fiji National Provident Fund
EU	– European Union	FNTC	– Fiji National Training Council (now TPAF)
EUEF	– European Union Energy Fund	FOAM	– Forecast Ocean Atmosphere Model
EUEI	– European Union Energy Initiative [for Poverty Eradication for Sustainable Development]	FOB	– Free On Board (Incoterm)
EUMETSAT	– European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites	FOC	– Forum Officials Committee
EVI	– Environmental Vulnerability Index	FRI	– Fisheries Research Institute
EUWF	– European Union Water Facility	FSM	– Federated States of Micronesia
EWG	– Energy Working Group (CROP)	FSP	– Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific
FADS	– Fish Aggregation Devices	FSPI	– Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International
FAME	– Fatty Acid Methyl Ester	FTIB	– Fiji Trade and Investment Board
FAO	– Food Agriculture Organisation (UN)	GCOS	– Global Climate Observing System
FAU	– Finance and Administration Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)	GCRMN	– Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
		GCSI	– Global Change Strategies International Inc.

GDIN	– Global Disaster Information Network	MedGOOS	– Mediterranean GOOS
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product	PI-GOOS	– Pacific Island GOOS
GEBCO	– General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (IOC-IHO)	GOSSP	– Global Observing Systems Space Panel
GEF	– Global Environmental Facility (World Bank-UNEP-UNDP)	GPA	– Global Plan for Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GEO3	– Global Environment Outlook 3 (EVI)	GPF	– General Purpose Fund
GEOHAB	– Global Ecology of Harmful Algal Blooms	GPS	– Global Positioning System
GEOSS	– Global Earth Observing System of Systems	GRID	– Global Resource Information Database (UNEP)
GERIS	– Geological and Earth Resources Information System (PNG)	GROMS	– Global Register of Migratory Species
GEST	– Group for the Export of Services and Technology (of New Caledonia)	GSC	– Geological Survey of Canada
GHCN	– Global Historical Climatology Network (NOAA, US)	GSJ	– Geological Survey of Japan
GHG	– Greenhouse Gas	GTOS	– Global Terrestrial Observing System
GII	– Geophysical Institute of Israel	GTQ	– Gas to Queensland Project (Papua New Guinea)
GIPCO	– GOOS Integrated Panel for the Coastal Ocean	GTS	– Global Telecommunications System (of WMO)
GIPME	– Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment	GTSP	– Global Temperature-Salinity Pilot Programme
GIS	– Geographic Information Systems	GTZ	– German Technical Cooperation
GIS/RS	– Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing	GWP	– Global Water Partnership
GIWA	– Global and International Waters Assessment	HAB	– Harmful Algal Blooms
GLI	– Global Imager	HAU	– Hazards Assessment Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
GLOBEC	– Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics Programme	HDI	– Human Development Index
GLOSS	– Global Sea-Level Observing System	HDR	– Human Development Report (UNDP)
GMA	– Global Marine Assessment	HELP	– Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy
GMO	– Genetically-Modified Organism	HIG	– Hawaii Institute of Geophysics (of UH)
GNP	– Gross National Product	HLC	– High-Level Consultation
GNS	– Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (of New Zealand)	HOTO	– Health Of The Oceans (IOC)
GODAE	– Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment	HOTS	– Hawaii Ocean Time Series Station
GOES	– Geosynchronous Operational Environmental Satellite	HPLC	– High Performance Liquid Chromatography
GOOS	– Global Ocean Observing System	HRD	– Human Resources Development Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)
EuroGOOS	– European GOOS	HTML	– HyperText Markup Language
I-GOOS	– Intergovernmental GOOS	HURL	– Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (of UH)
NEARGOOS	– North East Asian Region GOOS	HYCOS	– Hydrological Cycle Observing System

IAEA	– International Atomic Energy Agency	IGODS	– Interactive Graphical Ocean Database System
IAMSLIC	– International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers	I-GOOS	– Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS
IAS	– Institute of Applied Science (USP)	IGOSS	– Integrated Global Ocean Services Systems
IAVCEI	– International Association of Volcanism and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior	IHO	– International Hydrographic Organisation (of IOC/UNESCO) French Oceanographic Research Institute
IBTS	– International Bottom Trawl Survey	IHP	– International Hydrological Programme (of UNESCO)
ICCEPT	– Imperial College Centre for Energy Policy and Technology	IIEC	– International Institute for Energy Conservation
ICES	– International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	IISEE	– International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering
ICG/PTWS	– Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System	IKONOS	– High Resolution Satellite Imagery
ICLEI	– International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives	IMA	– International Market Allowance
ICM	– Integrated Catchment Management	IMarEST	– Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (based in UK)
ICOD	– International Centre for Ocean Development (Canada)	IMO	– International Maritime Organisation
ICOGS	– International Consortium of Geological Surveys	INET	– Internet Conference organised by ISOC
ICRI	– International Coral Reef Initiative	IOC	– Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
ICSU	– International Council of Scientific Unions	IODE	– International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
ICT	– Information and Communication Technologies	IOI	– International Ocean Institute
ICU	– [Pacific] Islands Climate Update (NZAID)	IOS	– Initial Observing System of GOOS
ICZM	– Integrated Coastal Zone Management	IPCC	– Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IDNDR	– International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	IRC	– Internal Revenue Commission (PNG)
IEDS	– Integrated Exploration and Development Services Limited (Australia)	IRD	– Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (ex ORSTOM)
IETC	– International Environmental Technology Centre	IRETA	– Institute for Research Extension and Training in Agriculture (USP)
IFRC	– International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	IRI	– International Research Institute for Climate Prediction
IFREMER	– Institut Française de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Formerly CNEXO)	IRIS	– Incorporated Research Institution for Seismology
IGBP	– International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme	ISA	– International Seabed Authority
IGES	– Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	ISAAA	– International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications
IGNS	– Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (of New Zealand)	ISC	– Interim Sub-Committee (of SOPAC Governing Council to deal with future role and direction of SOPAC)
		ISDR	– see UNISDR
		ISDWC	– International Secretariat of the Dialogue on Water and Climate

ISM	– Island Systems Management	JPfA	– Joint Caribbean-Pacific Programme for Action on Water and Climate
ISOC	– Internet Society	JPOI	– Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
ISP	– Internet Service Provider	JREC	– Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition
ISPRS	– International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	JWP	– Just World Partners (UK)
I-SSEP	– Interiors-Science Steering and Evaluation Panel	KEEP	– Kiribati Environmental Education Project
IT	– Information Technology	kgoe	– kilogram of oil equivalents
IT-Pacnet	– Annual meeting of the CROP ICT Working Group	KIGAM	– Korea Institute of Geology, Mining and Minerals
ITIC	– International Tsunami Information Centre	KMPC	– Korea Mining Promotion Corporation
ITOPF	– International Tanker-Owners Pollution Federation Ltd	KOICA	– Korea International Cooperation Agency
ITSU	– International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific	KORDI	– Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute
ITTO	– International Tropical Timber Organisation	ktoe	– kiloton of oil equivalents
ITU	– Information Technology Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)	LADS	– Laser Airborne Depth Sounder
IUCN	– International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (The World Conservation Union)	LAFIA	– Leading Australia's Future in Asia
IUG	– International Union of Geographers	LAN/WAN	– Local Area Network/Wide Area Network
IWCAM	– Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management	LDC	– Least Developed Countries
IWP	– International Water Programme	LDG	– Less Developed Countries (UN)
IWRM	– Integrated Water Resources Management	LEO	– Long-term Ecosystem Observatories
IYO	– International Year of the Ocean (also YOTO)	LITHP	– JOIDES Lithosphere Panel
JAFOOS	– Joint Australian Facility for Ocean Observing Systems	LME	– Large Marine Ecosystems
JAIF	– Japan Atomic Industrial Forum	LMER	– Land-Margin Ecosystem Research Programme
JAMSTEC	– Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (formerly Japan Marine Science and Technology Centre)	LMR	– Living Marine Resources
JCOMM	– Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology	LOA	– Letter of Agreement
JGOFS	– Joint Global Ocean Flux Study	LOICZ	– Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone
JIBC	– Japan Bank of International Cooperation	LOIS	– Large Ocean Island States
JICA	– Japan International Co-operation Agency	LRD	– Land Resources Division (of SPC)
JNOC	– Japan National Oil Corporation	LTER	– Long-Term Ecological Research
JOGMEC	– Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (formerly MMAJ)	LUCC	– Land Use and Cover Change Programme
		LV	– Low Voltage
		MARPOL	– International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
		MBSM	– Multi-Beam Swath Mapper
		MCDEM	– Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (New Zealand)

MDG	– Millennium Development Goals	NESDIS	– National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NOAA, US)
MEA	– Multilateral Environmental Agreement	NGCC	– National GOOS Coordination Committee
MERIS	– Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer	NGDC	– National Geophysical Data Center (US)
MEXT	– (Japanese) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	NGO	– Non-Government Organisation
MHWS	– Mean High Water Spring (tides)	NIO	– National Institute of Oceanography (India)
MIMRA	– Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority	NIRE	– National Institute for Resources and Environment (of Japan)
MITI	– Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Japan)	NIWA	– National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand)
MLML	– Moss Landing Marine Laboratory	NLTB	– Native Land Trust Board (Fiji)
MLSNR	– Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources (Tonga)	NMFS	– National Marine Fisheries Service
MMAJ	– Metal Mining Agency of Japan (now JOGMEC)	NOAA	– National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
MMTC	– Marine Minerals Technology Center (University of Hawaii)	NODC	– National Oceanographic Data Centre
MNRD	– Ministry of Natural Resources Development	NOPACCS	– Northwest Pacific Carbon Cycle Study
MODIS	– Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer	NORAD	– Norwegian Agency for International Development
MOMAF	– Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Korea)	NPK	– Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potassium
MONBUSHO	– Ministry of Education and Science (Japan)	NSF	– National Science Foundation (US)
MOU	– Memorandum of Understanding	NTCA	– National Tidal Centre Australia
MRD	– Mineral Resources Department (of Fiji Islands)	NURP	– National Undersea Research Programme (US)
MRU	– Mineral Resources Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)	NZAID	– New Zealand Agency for International Development (formerly known as NZODA)
MSR	– Marine Scientific Research	NZIGNS	– New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences
MTR	– Mid-Term Review	NZODA	– New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance (now NZAID)
NAML	– North American Marine Laboratories Network	NZWWA	– New Zealand Water and Wastewater Association
NAO	– North Atlantic Oscillation	OBS	– ocean bottom seismometer
NAP	– National Action Plan	OCEANOR	– Oceanographic Company of Norway AS
NASA	– National Aeronautics and Space Administration (US)	OCHA	– see UNOCHA
NDMO	– National Disaster Management Office (various countries)	OCT	– Overseas Countries and Territories (which are associated with the European Union)
NEDO	– New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (of Japan)	ODA	– Overseas Development Agency
NEMS	– National Environmental Management Strategy (various countries by SPREP)	ODI	– Overseas Development Institute
		ODP	– Ocean Drilling Programme

OECD	– Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	PAMBU	– Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
OECS	– Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	PAOOP	Potential Applications of Ocean Observations for the Pacific Islands Region
OEDC	– Ocean Engineering Development Company (Japan)	PAR	– Photosynthetic Active Radiation
OFDA	– Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance	PAYE	– Pay as you Earn
OHP	– Operational Hydrology Programme (of WMO)	PCAE-SD	– Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development (of USP)
OISCA	– Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement	PCGIAP	– Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific
OJP	– Ontong Java Plateau	PCM	– Participatory Watershed Management
O&M&R&R	– Operations & Maintenance & Repairs & Replacement	PcSs	Pacific Coastal States
OOPC	– Ocean Observations Panel for Climate	PDC	– Pacific Disaster Center
OOSDP	– Ocean Observing System Development Panel	PDF	– Portable Document Format
OPCs	– Optical Plankton Counters	PDL	– Petroleum Development Licenses
OPRET	– Office of the Promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies	PDO	– Pacific Decadal Oscillation
ORAP	– Ocean Research Advisory Panel	PDWBC	– Pacific Deep Western Boundary Current
ORI	– Ocean Research Institute (University of Tokyo)		– Pacific ENSO Application Center
ORMP	– Ocean Resources Management Programme (of USP)	PEACESAT	– Pan-Pacific Education and Communications Experiment by Satellite
ORSTOM	– Institut Francaise de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération (formerly Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer) (French Institute of Scientific Research for Cooperative Development), see IRD	PEAMIS	– Pacific Environment Assessment and Management Information System
OTEC	– Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion	PECC	– Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PACE-SD	– Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development	PEG	– Pacific Energy and Gender Network
PACER	– Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations	PEMM	– Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting
PacESD	– Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development	PEMTAG	– Pacific Emergency Management & Training Advisory Group
PACINET	– Pacific Island Partnership Network for Taxonomy	PEN	– Pacific Energy News (SOPAC)
PACPOL	– Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention (Programme)	PESA	– Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia
PAFPNet	– Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network	PESTRAN	– Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in the Pacific Islands
PALM	– Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (acronym used to refer to Japan-PIFS Summit Meetings, begun in 1997, 2nd Summit in 2000, and 3rd in May 2003)	PET '98	– Pacific Exploration Technology (conference of 1998, Nadi, Fiji Islands)
		PFTAC	– Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
		PIAS (DG)	– Pacific Institute for the Advanced Studies in Development and Governance
		PIBA	– Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association
		PIC	– Pacific Island Country (s)
		PICCAP	– Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme

PICES	– North Pacific Marine Science Organisation	PIROF	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum
PICHTR	– Pacific International Center for High Technology Research	PIROF-ISA	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework – Integrated Strategic Action
PICISOC	– Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society	PIROIS	– Pacific Islands Region Ocean Information System
PICPP	– Pacific Island Climate Prediction Programme	PIROP	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
PICTAR	– Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement	PITA	– Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association
PICTs	– Pacific Islands Countries and Territories	PLU	– Publications and Library Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)
PIDP	– Pacific Islands Development Programme PIEP – Pacific Islands Energy Policy	PMEG	– Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group(s) (SOPAC)
PIEPP	– Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Plan (superceded)	PMEL	– Pacific Marine Environment Laboratory (of NOAA)
PIEPSAP	– Pacific Islands Energy Policies and Strategic Action Plan	PNG	– Papua New Guinea
PIESAP	– Pacific Islands Energy Strategic Action Plan	POC	– Physical Oceanography Committee
PIESD	– Pacific Islands Energy for Sustainable Development	POGO	– Partnership for Observation for the Global Ocean
PIFS	– Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	PPA	– Pacific Power Association
PIFSA	– Pacific Islands Fire Service Association	PPAC	– Pacific Plan Action Committee
PIG	– Pacific Island Gold	PPB	– private post bag
PIGS	– Pacific Islands Geological Society	PPISWM	– Pacific Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Water Management
PIGGAREP	– Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Renewable Energy Project (PIREP Phase II)	PPL	– Petroleum Prospecting Licenses
PIIPP	– Pacific Islands Information and Communications Technologies Policy and Strategic Plan	PNG	– Papua New Guinea
PIMD	– Pacific Institute of Management and Development	PORTS	– Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System
PIMM	– Pacific Islands Management Model	PRAP	– Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management
PIMRIS	– Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System	PRC	– People’s Republic of China
PIRATA	– Pilot Research Array in the Tropical Atlantic	PRDMM	– Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting
PIRC	– Pacific Internet Resource Centre PIREIS – Pacific Island Resource and Environment Information Service	PREA	– Pacific Regional Energy Assessment
PIREN	– Pacific Island Renewable Energy Network	PREFACE	– Pacific Rural Renewable Energy France-Australia Common Endeavour Project
PIREP	– Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (SPREP)	PREP	– Pacific Regional Energy Programme
PIRMBIS	– Pacific Islands Regional Maritime Boundaries Information System	PRETI	– Pacific Renewable Energy Training Initiative
		PRIP	– Pacific Regional Indicative Programme
		PSSA	– Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
		PPSEAWA	– Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women Association
		PTWC	– Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre

PUB	– Public Utilities Board	RS	– remote sensing
PUC	– Pohnpei Public Utilities Corporation	RSC	– Regional Steering Committee (of UNESCO, IHP in the Asia-Pacific region)
PV	– Photo Voltaic	SAP	– Strategic Action Plan for International Waters
PWA	– Pacific Water Association	SAPHE	– Sanitation, Public Health and Environmental Improvement (Project)
PWD	– Public Works Department	SAR	– synthetic aperture radar
PWP	– Pacific Water Partnership	SBSTA	– Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
RAC	– Regional Analysis Centers	SCOR	– Scientific Committee on Ocean Research
RAF	– resource allocation framework (GEF terminology)_	SDI	– Sustainable Development Indicators
RAMP	– Rapid Assessment of Marine Pollution	SDR	– Special Drawing Rights
RAMSAR	– Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	SDWG	– Sustainable Development Working Group (CROP)
RAMSI	– Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands	SEACAMP	– Southeast Asian Centre for Atmospheric and Marine Prediction
RAO	– Regional Authorising Office (EU)	SEAFRAME	– Sea Level Fine Resolution Acoustic Measuring Equipment
RAP	– Regional Action Plan	SEDAC	– Social Economic Data Applications Centre
RB	– Regular Budget	SERREAD	– Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo profiling floats in the South Pacific Ocean
RCI	– Regional Coordinating Institution	SeaWIFs	– Sea-viewing Wide Field of View Sensor
RE	– Rural Electrification	SEI	– Special Events Imager
RE	– Renewable Energy	SHMAK	– Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment kit (New Zealand)
REEEP	– Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership	SIDS	– Small Island Developing States
REM	– Regional Energy Meeting	SIEA	– Solomon Islands Electricity Authority
REP	– Rural Electrification Policy	SIO	– Scripps Institute of Oceanography (University of California, US)
REP-PoR	– Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction	SIS	– Small Island States
REPP	– Regional Energy Policy and Plan	SIWA	– Solomon Islands Water Authority
RESCO	– Renewable Energy Service Company	SIWIN	– Small Islands Water Information Network
REU	– Rural Electrification Unit (Fiji Department of Energy)	SLH	– Sea Level Height
RIF	– Regional Institutional Framework	SM	– SPREP Meeting
RIFRR	– Regional Institutional Framework Review Report	SMEC	– Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Australia)
RINEX	– Receiver Independent Exchange Format	SOA	– State Oceanic Administration (China)
RMI	– Republic of the Marshall Islands	SOE	– State of the Environment
RMP	– Regional Maritime Programme		
ROC	– Republic of China		
ROV	– remotely operated vehicles		
RPN	– Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network		
RTFP	– Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (Pacific)		

SOC	– Southampton Oceanography Centre	SURE	– Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy
SOEST	– School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology (of UH)	SWA	– Samoa Water Authority
SOI	– Southern Oscillation Index	SWPHC	– South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
SOOP	– Ship-of-Opportunity Programme	SYSMIN	– A special financing facility intended for ACP States whose mining sector plays a major role in their economy and is faced with known or foreseeable difficulties
SOPAC	– Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission; and also – Secretariat for the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission	TAF	– The Asia Foundation
SPACHEE	– South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment	TAG	– Technical Advisory Group
SPAS	– School of Pure and Applied Sciences (USP)	TAO-IP	– Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Implementation Panel
SPaRCE	– Schools of the Pacific Rainfall Climate Experiment	TCDT	– Tonga Community Development Trust (now called Tonga Trust)
SPBCP	– South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme	TCSP	– Tourism Council of the South Pacific
SPBEA	– South Pacific Board of Educational Assessment	TCWUP	– Tropical Cyclone Warning Upgrade Project
SPC	– Secretariat of the Pacific Community	T-DEM	– Time-Domain Electromagnetic
SPDRP	– South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme	TEC	– Tuvalu Electricity Corporation
SPICE	– Southwest Pacific Circulation and Climate Experiment	TEC-MIS	– Tuvalu Electricity Corporation – Management Information System
SPILLCON	– Asia Pacific marine environmental pollution prevention & response conference	TEMA	– IOC Training, Education and Mutual Assistance programme
SPILLS	– Worldwide Tanker Spill Database (etcentre.org)	TEPB	– Tonga Electric Power Board
SPM	– Sustainable Project Management	TESL	– Teaching English as a Second Language
SPOCC	– South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (now CROP)	TNA	– Training Needs Analysis
SPPO	– South Pacific Programme Office (of UNDHA)	TNC	– The Nature Conservancy (Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia)
SPREP	– Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	TOGA	– Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere Research Programme
SPSLCMP	– South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project	TOPEX	– Typhoon Operational Experiment
SPT	– Station Polynésienne de Teledetection (Papeete, Tahiti)	ToR	– Terms of Reference
SPTO	– South Pacific Tourism Organisation	TPAF	– Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji (formerly FNTC)
SST	– Sea Surface Temperature	TQM	– total quality management
STA	– Science and Technology Agency (of Japan)	TRITON	– Triangle Trans-Oceans Buoy Network
STAR	– Science, Technology and Resources Network	TTPI	– Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
START	– (Global Change) System for Analysis Research and Training (IGBP)	TWAS	– Third World Academy of Sciences
		TWB	– Tonga Water Board
		UFP	– Université Française du Pacifique
		UH	– University of Hawaii
		UK	– United Kingdom

UN	– United Nations	USDIA	– United States Department of Industrial Accidents
UNCED	– United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	USDOE	– United States Department of Energy
UNCLCS	– United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf	USGS	– United States Geological Survey
UNCLOS	– United Nations on the Law of the Sea	USP	– University of the South Pacific
UNCTAD	– United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	VEI	– Volcanic Explosivity Index (EVI)
UNDESA	– United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	VISSR	– Visible and Infrared Spin-Scan Radiometer
UNDHA	– United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs	VMS	– Vessel Monitoring System
UNDOALOS	– United Nations Office of Legal Affairs/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	VOS	– Voluntary Observing Ship
UNDP	– United Nations Development Programme	VOME	– Vegetable Oil Methyl Ester
UNEP	– United Nations Environment Programme	VPA	– Virtual Population Analysis
UNESCO	– United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation	VSAT	– Very Small Aperture Terminal
UNESCO-IHE	– Institute for Water Education	VUW	– Victoria University of Wellington
UNFA	– United Nations Fisheries Agreement	WAGIS	– Wide Area Geographic Information System
UNFCCC COP	– United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Conference of the Parties)	WASH	– Water Sanitation Hygiene (WSSCC)
UNICEF	– United Nations Children’s Fund	WASH WG	– Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Working Group (STAR)
UNICPOLOS	– UN Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea	WCMC	– World Conservation Monitoring Centre WCRP – World Climate Research Programme
UNIFEM	– United Nations Development Fund for Women	WDI	– World Development Indicators
UNISDR	– United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	WERI	– Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (of University of Guam)
UNISPACE	– United National Conference on Outer Space	WESTPAC	– IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
UNOCHA	– United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (formerly UNDHA)	WGNE	– Working Group on Numerical Experimentation
UNU	– United Nations University	WHO	– World Health Organisation
UoG	– University of Guam	WHOI	– Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (US)
UPNG	– University of Papua New Guinea	WHYCOS	– World Hydrological Cycle Observing System
URL	– Universal Resource Locator	WIOMAP	– Western Indian Ocean Marine Applications Project
US	– United States	WMO	– World Meteorological Organisation
USACE	– United States Army Corps of Engineers	WPTWG	– Western Pacific Tsunami Working Group
USAID	– United States Agency for International Development	WPSs	– Work Programme Strategies (SOPAC)
USD	– United States Dollar	WQM	– Water Quality Monitoring
		WRI	– World Resources Institute
		WRU	– Water Resources Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)

WSIS	- World Summit on the Information Society	3rd WWF	- Third World Water Forum
WSSCC	- Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council	WWG	- Water Working Group (STAR)
WSSD	- World Summit on Sustainable Development	WWII	- World War 2
WTO	- World Trade Organisation	WWSSN	- World Wide Seismic Network
WWF	- World Wide Fund for Nature	XBTs	- Expandable Bathy-Thermographs
WWF-SPP	- World Wide Fund for Nature - South Pacific Programme	YOTO	- Year of the Ocean
		YPR	- Yield-Per-Recruit