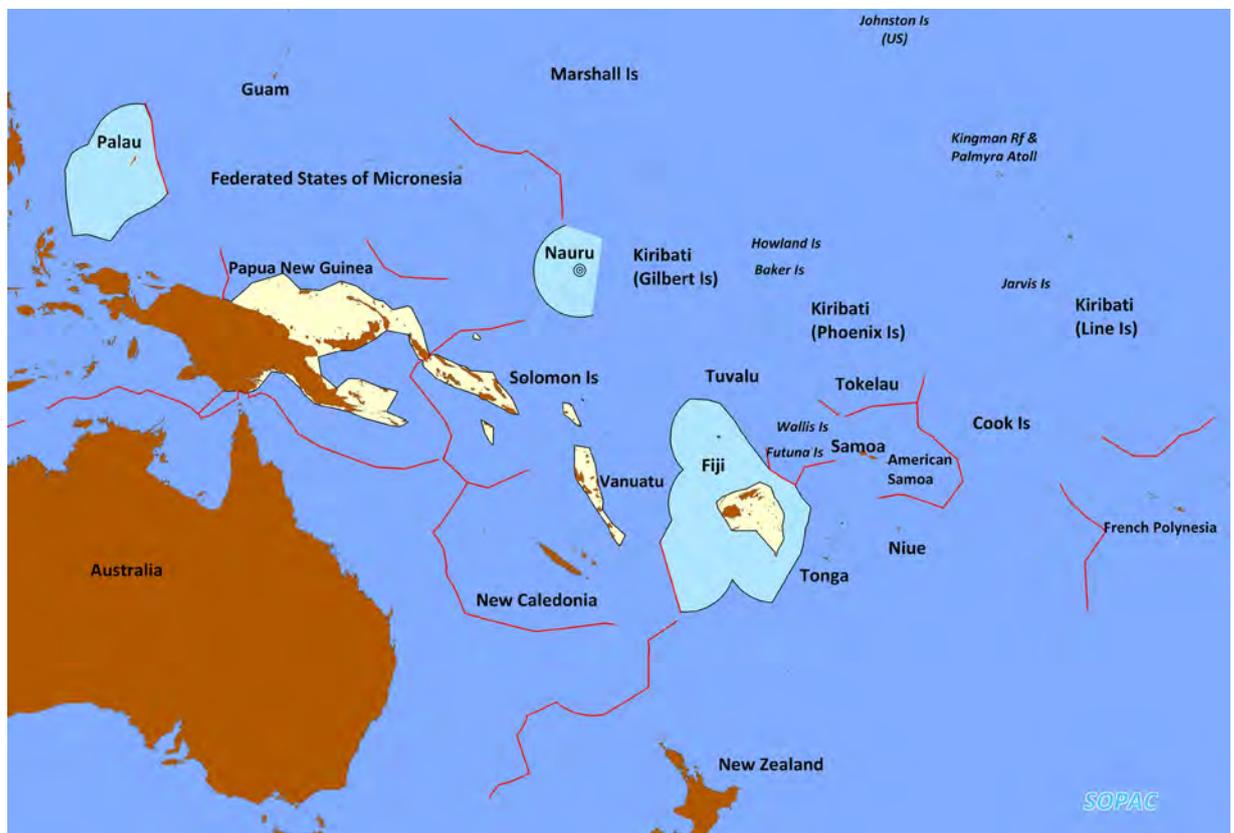


SOPAC

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

hosted by the
Government of Australia, in Nadi, Fiji Islands

16-21 October 2010



The status of PIC maritime zones and boundaries as of the 16th September 2010. Fiji, Nauru and Palau are the only PICs to have declared their marine baselines, zones and outer limits in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS (light blue zones/black outlines). Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have only declared their archipelagic baselines (white zones/black outlines). Of the 48 shared boundaries between PIC only 21 are subject to treaty (red lines). Given all PICs are signatories to UNCLOS and thus have specific obligations in the way they have agreed to define and declare their maritime jurisdictions, this map is an accurate depiction of the current status of maritime boundaries in the Pacific Island region today. (The status of Australia, New Zealand, United States and the French Territories' boundaries are not shown in this map other than from the perspective of shared boundaries with PICs).

The SOPAC Proceedings of the Thirty-Ninth Session (this volume) is the final issue in the series that documents the proceedings of the Governing Council annual meetings of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission.

A limited number of hard copies of this publication is available for Members of SOPAC.

The publication may be accessed online through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) portal www.spc.int



PACIFIC ISLANDS APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOPAC 39th SESSION

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TRIBUTES

SUSPENSION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

This Proceedings volume documents the final meeting of the the Governing Council of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission before the organisation's suspension in 2011; and the beginning of operating the core SOPAC work programmes from the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the SPC, from 1 January 2011.

The volume is also dedicated to the memory of the late Philipp Muller, Dick Willet, Cruz Matos, Sione Tongilava, Stuart Kingan, Jackson Lum and other SOPAC luminaries whose lives contributed to enriching the SOPAC experience for its Members and for the region they all regarded as home.

PHILIPP MULLER OF SAMOA, DIRECTOR OF SOPAC 1992-1998



Philipp Muller passed away in Auckland on 19 December 2009 after a long and distinguished career as both a civil servant in his homeland of Samoa, and as a regional civil servant at the highest level. He became Director of the SOPAC Secretariat from 1992 to 1998 immediately following 10 years of service at the Forum Fisheries Agency.

In the beginning with respect to SOPAC, Philipp was head of the Apia Observatory and represented Samoa at the first meeting of the "Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC)" in 1972, which was the fore-running body to SOPAC.

In his Foreword to the 1996 SOPAC Annual Report Summary Philipp states "... It appears, in fact, that not many people know precisely what applied geoscience is, how its activities benefit the region, or indeed, what SOPAC's team of technical geologists do" More specifically he observed, on the issues of data collection, information management, and knowledge gained, "Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing have become essential technologies that the Secretariat is rapidly adopting ... these development efforts although showing little immediate return will have tremendous benefits in the future".

Philipp's insight left its mark not only on SOPAC, but throughout the region, and touched everyone who knew him. The full tribute to Philipp Muller as delivered by the Director, Russell Howorth, during the opening of the SOPAC 39th Session can be found on page 10.

OTHER LATE LUMINARIES IN THE 1971-2010 METAMORPHISM OF SOPAC

Dick Willet, New Zealand

Assistant Director General of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) New Zealand in 1971, chaired the meeting that drafted a Terms of Reference for the "Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC)". The Committee comprised representatives of member governments of ECAFE (later ESCAP), and had a Technical Advisory Group of experts from within and outside the region, and established a Technical Secretariat to manage



the work programme. The Committee would operate like its sister CCOP/East Asia under the auspices of ECAFE; and Dr Willett was unanimously elected Chair of that preparatory meeting in 1971. Representatives of Australia, Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu attended. These representatives comprising the fledgeling Committee for

SOPAC were to record their "profound sorrow" at Dr Willet's passing in June 1974, in the record of their 1974 meeting.

Sione Tongilava, Tonga

Chair of the Second SOPAC Session (1973), Sione Tongilava, was then Superintendent of the Tonga Department of Lands and Survey. Though given this task with less than one week notice, Sione appeared to be in his element becoming notorious for prefacing eloquent and articulate arguments on just about anything of relevance to SOPAC, with the words "*English is only my second language*". Sione went on to be the longest serving national representative serving until shortly before his death in October 1997.



Cruz Matos, Secretariat

Cruz Matos, a Puerto Rican, arrived in Suva in 1980 to take up the Project Manager position of the UN/ESCAP Project CCOP/SOPAC. He was instrumental in keeping the project alive for an additional ten years after the initial period secured under the ECAFE in 1971. He spent nearly

a decade at the Secretariat, first securing a future for CCOP/SOPAC, then organising the special sessions in the mid-80s that eventually created SOPAC. He was overseer of the appointment of the first SOPAC Director (Jioji Kotobalavu), which took place in Honiara in September 1985. Cruz passed away in August 2006.



Jackson Lum, Secretariat

Exploration geologist, Jackson Lum, was head of the Mineral Resources Unit of the SOPAC Secretariat at the time of his death in May 2001. At that point he had been helping island members and Papua New Guinea in particular to develop guidelines (The Madang Guidelines) that would assist them with developing their offshore mineral potential. Jack had not considered that licenses for seabed exploration would be issued at the turn of the century but was proved wrong when Papua New Guinea granted a license to Nautilus Minerals. He was also advising the Government of Kiribati on the remnant phosphate deposit on Banaba Island, re-assessment of which was finally completed and reported by SOPAC in 2010. Ultimately it was the Melanesian ring of fire countries that preoccupied him in terms of demand on SOPAC for advice on mineral exploration.



Stuart Kingan & Tony Utanga, Cook Islands

New Zealander Stuart Kingan went to the Cook Islands in 1944 as a radio communications engineer and never left. His association with SOPAC stretched from 1975 until his retirement in 1996. Stuart and science were inseparable and his own special giftedness in it served him well in his capacity as the Scientific Research Officer for the Government. The Cook Islands didn't lack sound technical advice based on verified measurables from Stuart. For example, after the discovery of manganese nodules and with the support of his friend Tony Utanga and SOPAC; Stuart mounted a small 14-foot vessel with borrowed freefall equipment to sample the sea bottom between Rarotonga and Pehnryn to carry out preliminary bottom sampling for nodules in what turned to be the most successful and productive survey of its kind ever undertaken in Cook Island waters. It was also the first time freefall equipment was used in the South Pacific, and remarkably against the advice of the 'larger' countries. Stuart was to proudly report that "*Tony Utanga, Charles Landmesser (a geologist from Hawai'i) and two local assistants did all the work ...*". Since that first "small-vessel" cruise, and through other international cruises, Stuart ensured government had verifiable data to prove that the 'best' manganese nodules for their metal content were found in the South Penrhyn Basin. Stuart passed away in January 2000.

Anthony (Tony) Utanga's association with SOPAC began in earnest in 1977, chairing technical meetings and participating in several other cruises exploring for deepsea manganese nodules in Cook Islands and regional waters. He was a keen supporter of sending Cook Islands technicians to the SOPAC Certificate in Earth Science and Marine Geology Course. Between Tony and Stuart, Cook Islands interests were well catered for in SOPAC's portfolio of services. Tony passed away in September 2007.



Rose-Marie Thompson, New Zealand

The New Zealand Government generously undertook the printing and distribution of CCOP/SOPAC's



technical and policy documents in the first ten years of SOPAC through its capacity at the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute (NZOI), Wellington, and the services of the late Rose-Marie Thompson, in particular. Ms Thompson also oversaw the setting up and training of staff of the in-house publication

capacity for the SOPAC Secretariat to take over those tasks. The work of the scientist is not complete until after the publication of results and in this regard, the contribution of Rose-Marie to SOPAC in passing on skills, an attitude to service and attention to detail and quality that became the hallmark of SOPAC publications must be acknowledged. She passed away in June 2002 after a battle with a brain cancer that took away her sight.



Langi Kavaliku, Tonga

Dr Senipisi Langi Kavaliku, former Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga led a SOPAC high-level advocacy team (established in 2001) until his death in a car accident in December 2008. His advocacy obtained highest level national commitment from a number of SOPAC island Members that now have adopted policies for integrated risk management.

Others that have contributed to SOPAC and passed on include Jim Brodie (New Zealand); Filipo Taulima (Tuvalu); Frank Coulson (of BGS on secondment to Solomon Islands); Marae Irata (Kiribati); and Doug Rearic (of USGS on secondment to SOPAC).

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. Searson, 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. Tolia, 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. Tuita, TG	S. Laloni, TU	S.N. Halatuitui, TG	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-SEVENTH	Oct 2008	Funafuti, Tuvalu	T. Finikaso, TU	C. Ioan, VA	E. Sopoanga, TU	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-EIGHTH	Oct 2009	Port Vila, Vanuatu	C. Ioan, VA	R. Kwesius, AU	C. Ioan, VA	L. Bukarau, TS
THIRTY-NINTH	Oct 2010	Nadi, Fiji Islands	R. Kwesius, AU	K. Mataroa, CK	R. Kwesius, AU	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 39th SOPAC Session at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji Islands.

OPENING ADDRESSES

Welcome Remarks and Report of the Outgoing Chair by Honourable Paul Telukluk Vanuatu Minister for Lands, Geology, Mines, Energy and Rural Water Supply at the Opening of the SOPAC 39th Annual Session

Distinguished Guests, Members and Colleagues,

It is with much pleasure that I present to you this morning my Opening Remarks as Outgoing Chair of SOPAC Governing Council. At the same time I would beg your indulgence that these remarks also be considered my Outgoing Chair's Report.

Firstly, however it would be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity to welcome you all here this morning to the Opening of the 39th SOPAC Governing Council Meeting. In particular I extend a welcome to all fellow Council Members, donor partner representatives, representatives of CROP organisations, scientists participating in the Science Technology and Resources Network (STAR), and of course to the Director and staff of our Secretariat.

A year ago, at the end of October 2009, Council met in Port Vila and shortly afterwards I took up responsibility for the Ministry of Lands, Geology, Mines, Energy and Rural Water Supply, the line ministry responsible for SOPAC in Vanuatu.

My staff briefed me on the outcomes of that Council meeting which of course hinged around the Regional Institutional Reform (so called RIF) process. Whilst the Council meeting record shows there was no dissent with the intention to progress the Leaders decision on the RIF, there were differences amongst Members related to timing. Many, including Vanuatu, felt that it was important to get it right and if time was needed so be it. Furthermore, Vanuatu felt that this was not going against the Leaders decision in Niue that, and I quote "implementation was to commence by 1 January 2010" unquote. Other Members I know differed in their view.

Council Members, one of my first tasks was to follow up on instructions you gave to Vanuatu as Chair, and in mid-December I was able to sign a contract with our Interim Director and thus ensure continuity at the executive level into 2010 with the pending departure of both the Director and Deputy Director.

Upon taking up office on 1st February, the Interim Director briefed me on his perceptions of the state of SOPAC in particular in regard to progress with the RIF, the work programme, the budget, and the looming prospect of substantial disruption to service delivery to Members. I was sufficiently concerned and called a special subcommittee

meeting of Council at the Secretariat on 23rd February. I am pleased to report that this gave me first hand an opportunity to visit the Secretariat. I was indeed impressed with the operations despite the very difficult circumstances being experienced. May I take this opportunity to go on record to acknowledge the commitment of the Secretariat staff.

At that February meeting whilst we were not able to resolve the work programme and budget issue I am pleased that Members present agreed to a way forward on the RIF (the Two Track process), presented by the Director which had the support of his CROP colleagues from SPC and SPREP.

As a result three Letters of Agreement were developed, agreed to Out of Session by Members and signed by the respective CEOs on the 31st March. This completed Track One. You have copies of these LOAs before you today.

In early April I was able to attend with the Director the first Subcommittee of SPC/CRGA on the Long Term Sustainable Financing Strategy and we were able to get the agreement of that Subcommittee that the SOPAC core work programme would be acknowledged as a future core function of the SPC.

Shortly afterwards on 12 April May, I was able to suggest to Members a way forward with Track Two in regard to the Core Work Programme that mapped out the development of this key Letter of Agreement in several stages. Each stage subject to Council consideration and comment "Out of Session".

I was pleased to see Members respond positively and this culminated in more than a minimum required consensus by early August. In fact with Vanuatu's support I was aware of 15 out of the 17 supportive responses, two countries had yet to respond. I therefore instructed the Director to proceed with the signing of this Letter of Agreement with his counterpart the Director General of SPC. We all know that was done during the Leaders Plenary Session at the Vanuatu Forum Meeting on 4th August. Track Two was complete.

At that signing ceremony my own Prime Minister Natapei said, " We have just witnessed a rare if not unique moment in the history of Pacific regionalism. In 2007 the Leaders decided that the work of SOPAC be integrated into the SPC and SPREP. Three Letters of Agreement were signed

earlier in the year to transfer energy, ICT and climate related activities to SPC and SPREP. But this Letter of Agreement signed today marks the largest single transfer between two of our regional organisations. It involves some 100 staff and an annual budget of between FJ\$20-30 million.

I wish to commend all those that have been involved in bringing the Leaders decision into effect. I am sure I speak for all of us, Members, development partners and all stakeholders, when I look forward to the SOPAC work programme further improving its service delivery as a result of the new opportunities this move affords.

SOPAC “The Commission” has indeed today crossed the bridge to become SOPAC “The Division” of the SPC. I look forward to the 1st January 2011 when it will become fully operational.

Let me close by appealing to all, that this cannot happen if the support to the SOPAC work programme in its new home is not secured. Having complied with the Leaders decision it is now our collective responsibility to work to ensure that it is successful and sufficiently resourced”

The Leaders went on to echo this final sentiment in regard to resources in their Communique.

This Council Meeting must acknowledge its responsibility to progress with implementation in all its facets. We were briefed yesterday in a Council Subcommittee by the Director and the Director General of the SPC. Of interest to all am sure is the following outcome of that briefing.

An outcome of that Subcommittee Meeting was that Council decided:

- After January 2011 there should be one position to be called “Director of SOPAC” with dual roles and reporting responsibilities.

- The dual roles encompass: (i) the responsibilities of the Director of SOPAC the Commission until such time as the Commission audited accounts are closed and other regulatory requirements met, This role will over time diminish to zero. (ii) the responsibilities of the Director of the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division until the Director General has completed the formal recruitment process to be concluded by the time of the Heads of Applied Geoscience and Technology Meeting in 2011 which will be held prior to the SPC Conference.
- The current SOPAC Director be retained to fulfil this appointment by an extension of the current contract and terms and conditions but reporting to the SPC Director General.
- To facilitate this SOPAC Council delegates the role to oversee the closure of SOPAC to the DG of SPC with the assistance of a troika comprising the past- current- and incoming Chair (the latter in effect the ViceChair of the 2010 Session).

As I draw my Outgoing Chair’s Report to a close I would like to revert to my welcoming remarks and thank you all for your support to the Chair. I would like to thank you all for your unwavering support to SOPAC has it has charted difficult waters. I am confident the tempest is over. But, challenges are ahead and these challenges must be prepared for and addressed in a positive and proactive manner in order to ensure financial security and sustainability of the work programme as it begins its new life as the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division within SPC.

Finally, may I close by wishing Australia as incoming Chair all the best for a successful meeting in the days ahead.

Welcome Remarks by the Director of the SOPAC Secretariat Dr Russell Howorth

Distinguished Members of Council, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of supporting governments, colleagues from CROP organisations and other regional organisations, international organisations, and national organisations, representatives from civil society organisations, the private sector, staff of the Secretariat, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my privilege on behalf of the SOPAC Secretariat and all the staff, to welcome you all here this morning to the Official Opening of this 39th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council.

First may I acknowledge the Chair, Honourable Paul Telukluk, Minister for Lands, Geology, Mines, Energy and Rural Water Supply, Vanuatu. Your presence here today certainly demonstrates the clear commitment by Vanuatu not only to SOPAC at large, but also to your past year as the Chair of Council.

To Council Members welcome, I note with pleasure that all 21 members are represented. You are here to follow up on crucial developments through “Out of Session” decisions you have taken during the past year. Furthermore, there are some equally

important decisions to make to secure the way forward.

To all other stakeholders, whether from amongst SOPAC's donor partners, or the scientific community I know many of you have travelled far to be here with SOPAC Council and over the past several days many of you have had the opportunity to interact through the STAR Meeting. Let me assure all of you that your presence is highly valued. I appreciate that many of you will be departing soon but rest assured your inputs will be brought before Council through the STAR Chairs Report and other interventions. The outcomes of Council's deliberations will be conveyed to you in a timely manner, including through what I hope you will agree is a much improved SOPAC website, media and communication network.

It is not my task or intention in these Welcoming Remarks to pre-empt later agenda items. Suffice it to say that you will all be well aware of substantial developments over the past year not the least of which is the bringing to finality the Forum Leaders decision on the Regional Institutional Framework (so called RIF reform process) in so far as SOPAC is concerned.

SOPAC "The Commission" is as this Council meets, crossing the bridge into "SOPAC "The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division" of the SPC. This Council meeting is indeed a necessary and deliberate step in crossing that bridge, the next and immediate step is the SPC/CRGA Meeting next week in Noumea.

This Council meeting will further chart the path across the bridge and beyond.

I welcome you all once again and wish each and everyone a successful meeting and I look forward to positive and progressive outcomes by the end of the week. Thank you.

A Short Tribute to Philipp Muller

Philipp Muller passed away peacefully in Auckland on the 19th December 2009 after a long and distinguished career as both a civil servant in his homeland of Samoa, and as a regional civil servant at the highest level.

Philipp Muller is well known to many attending this Opening Session of the 39th SOPAC Governing Council Meeting here in Nadi, Fiji. Many of us have had the opportunity to work either alongside or for Philipp over the years. Personally, I have

had the privilege to have know Philipp for over 25 years having first met him in Honiara in 1985 and subsequently worked with him throughout his years as Director of SOPAC from 1992-1998. He was known to many close to him as "Big Phil" and he mentored many of us through the "Philipp Muller School of Diplomacy".

What is perhaps not known to many is his long involvement with SOPAC. History will confirm that Philipp when he was Observer-in-Charge at the Apia Observatory in November 1972 he attended the very First Session of CCOP/SOPAC (the predecessor to this Governing Council).

I am confident that Members will agree at this Council Meeting that the Proceedings Volume of this 39th Session be dedicated to Philipp.

Philipp Muller took over as Director in January 1992. He brought with him skills honed through a distinguished career in the Samoa public service followed by over a decade as Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency. Some will recall he had completed undergraduate geology courses back in his days at Auckland University.

In his Director's Foreword to the 1996 Annual Report Summary written in 1997 the 25th Anniversary year of SOPAC, Philipp states quite categorically "...It appears, in fact, that not many people know precisely what applied geoscience is, how its activities benefit the region, or indeed, what SOPAC's team of technical geologists do...."

More specifically in this context and on the issues of data collection, information management, and knowledge gained, as early as 1994 Philipp observed "Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing have become essential technologies that the Secretariat is rapidly adopting...These development efforts although showing little immediate return will have tremendous benefits in the future".

At the same time Philipp commented that "Of increasing concern to SOPAC is the counter reaction to marine mineral resources development and its implications for funding in this area. Until some priority is returned to it, possibly years of data collection opportunity will be lost, delaying the economic inputs that marine resources in a resource-poor region could provide...."

Without any doubt Philipp's insight left its mark not only on SOPAC, but throughout the region, and touched upon everyone one who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

RECORD OF THE 39TH AND FINAL MEETING OF THE SOPAC GOVERNING COUNCIL

PART A: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Regional Institutional Framework (Considered by Council in Sub-Committee¹)

1. Council decided:
 - i. After January 2011 there should be one position to be called “Director of SOPAC” with dual roles and reporting responsibilities.
 - ii. The dual roles encompass: (i) the responsibilities of the Director of SOPAC² the Commission until such time as the Commission audited accounts are closed and other regulatory requirements met. This role will over time diminish to zero; and (ii) the responsibilities of the Director of the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division until the Director General has completed the formal recruitment process to be concluded by the time of the Heads of Applied Geoscience and Technology Meeting in 2011 which will be held prior to the SPC Conference.
 - iii. The current SOPAC Director be retained to fulfil this appointment by an extension of the current contract and terms and conditions but reporting to the SPC Director General.
 - iv. To facilitate this, SOPAC Council delegates the role to oversee the closure of SOPAC to the Director General of SPC with the assistance of a troika comprising the past- current- and incoming Chair (the latter in effect the Vice-Chair of the 2010 Session).

Future of the Commission (Item 6.2)

2. Council appreciated that there are opportunities for improved service delivery with the transfer and integration of the core SOPAC work programmes into SPC and was enthusiastic about the way forward for the transition as articulated in the Letter of Agreement.
3. Council, having fully considered the issues within the context of the Agreement Establishing SOPAC agreed that:

- i. SOPAC “the Commission” be suspended on or before 30th September 2011 once the Audited accounts for the necessary part of 2011 are received and approved by the troika of past Chair, current Chair and current Vice Chair, acting on behalf of Council.
 - ii. Suspension does not preclude any Member of the Commission from withdrawing from the Commission should they desire, requiring only that Fiji, as depository of the instruments of ratification, be notified.
 - iii. Any Member or Members who at any stage feel the desire to resurrect the Commission, should write to the Troika giving their reasons and seeking the support of Members. The Troika will coordinate Members responses to the proposal to resurrect. The Commission will be resurrected if Members of the Commission agree by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, agreement of at least two-thirds of the full membership will be required.
 - iv. That this was the last meeting of Governing Council.
4. In keeping with the precedence established at SOPAC Council meetings, Council supported the Cook Islands offer to host the first meeting of the Heads of Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC in 2011.

2011-2015 Strategic Plan (Item 13)

5. Council acknowledged the ‘living’ nature of the proposed Strategic Plan 2011-2015 for the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division given the period of transition associated with the integration of the SOPAC work programmes into the SPC. Council expected that the Plan would undergo review and refinement within its lifetime as integration into SPC progresses.
6. Council approved the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for the work programme of the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the SPC, noting the commitment of the Director of SOPAC to make various amendments as directed by Council.
7. Council recommended the Plan to SPC/ CRGA for its consideration and endorsement as the Strategic Plan for the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC from 1 January 2011.

¹ See Report of Outgoing Chair, page 8 of this volume

² A comprehensive list of ACRONYMS is included as Appendix 8 of this Proceedings volume

Summary Report of 2010 Donor Support (Item 7.2)

8. Council accepted the summary report of 2010 donor support and acknowledged with appreciation the strong donor support, essential for delivery of SOPAC's work programmes; and requested the Secretariat to write to all the donors and development partners thanking them for their support provided to the SOPAC work programmes.

9. Council noted with appreciation that some Members were contributing directly to enable additional access to the work programme.

CROP and PPAC Summary Reports (Item 7.3)

10. Council welcomed and supported the recent Forum Leaders' Communiqué highlighting that extra efforts will be required to achieve results in the following areas:

- (i) finalising the delineation of permanent maritime boundaries;
- (ii) sustainably increasing the coverage of safe drinking water and basic sanitation services; and
- (iii) expanding the definition of disaster risk management beyond that posed by climate change to be people focused, covering responses to health disasters as well as factoring in population growth and movement.

11. Council further recognised that while these were covered in the Pacific Plan priorities, they nonetheless required much more effort and necessary dedicated resources as was highlighted in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 for the new SOPAC Division of the SPC. Furthermore, as described in the strategic plan this increased effort requires the input of SOPAC science and technology, GIS and Remote Sensing and natural resource economics.

12. Council remained deeply committed to the need for good science and technical data to better inform decision-making. This was particularly important in the environmental vulnerability context where "normal" or historic natural change must be understood. Thereby with long-term data gathering, monitoring, and analysis island communities at all levels will be better able to build coping strategies that will build resilience to the increasing vulnerability the islands are facing – not the least of which is from the adverse impacts of climate change. In addition, SOPAC's

assessment of the economic costs related to environmental sciences in general were seen by Council as an important baseline for assessing the feasibility of future adaptation strategies.

13. Council encouraged the SPC/CRGA to endorse these sentiments and ensure adequate resources are identified as an outcome of the Long Term Sustainable Financing exercise currently underway.

STAR Chair Report (Item 8.1)

14. Council noted in regard to the upcoming IGC in Brisbane (Australia) in 2012,

- i. Initiatives that were proposed by the Circum-Pacific Council (CPC) during their meeting conducted concurrently with the STAR meeting and recommended SOPAC coordination with CPC, and agreed the Director of SOPAC, working with the Chair of CPC, and the Chair of STAR should be the focal points for Pacific regional participation.
- ii. That those national organisations like Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS – New Zealand), Geoscience Australia (GA – Australia) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM – Australia), as well as representatives from development partners be encouraged to work to ensure financial resources are available to allow participation by Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Report from the Ocean and Islands Programme (Item 9.1)

15. Council considered and accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Ocean and Islands Programme.

Issues and Opportunities for the Ocean and Islands Programme (Item 9.2)

16. Council noted the current OIP/SPC Coastal Fisheries collaborative work as excellent examples of the potential opportunities of the SOPAC/SPC merger, and recommended future adequate resources be secured from donor partners, including through the SPC Long Term Sustainable Financing exercise.

17. Council acknowledged the critically important role SOPAC science plays in technical support to coastal adaptation, development and vulnerability projects and initiatives and recommended that significant improvements

in programmatic funding for regional technical support services such as OIP be made available to facilitate a sustained and adequate response to this growing demand.

18. Council acknowledged the need for legal advice to assist members towards the declaration of their maritime boundaries and the development of shared boundary treaties. Council decided that options should be considered in future in the context of the combined SPC/SOPAC legal services.

19. Council recommended that OIP data and information management efforts receive adequate recurrent resourcing to facilitate the appropriate management of the significant regional data holdings and archived materials.

20. Council reaffirmed its support for adequate resourcing of regional baseline and monitoring efforts to improve the understanding of impacts from climate variability, disasters and to provide empirical guidance for adaptation, response and development.

21. Council noted the potential risk posed by wave climate change and variability to the plans embodied in the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, the Pacific Plan, and the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy in order to ensure the sustainable development, management and conservation of our coastal areas.

22. Council supported the need for a comprehensive assessment of wave climate change and variability in the Pacific as such an assessment will provide the basis for assisting the region in the formulation of adaptation and disaster risk reduction responses needed to sustain coastal areas and their contribution to economic growth, food security and livelihoods in the face of climate change and variability.

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

23. Council agreed that the Director look to address all PMEG cross-cutting issues on human resource management raised at this meeting by the PMEG process and report back to the first divisional meeting.

Report from the Water and Sanitation Programme (Item 10.1)

24. Council accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Water and Sanitation Programme, further noting the measures taken

to address issues arising from the 2009 PMEG Report.

Issues and Opportunities for the Water and Sanitation Programme (Item 10.2)

Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, a Human Right

25. Council noted the recent adoption of the United Nations Resolution 64/292 (July 2010) which declares the access to safe drinking water and sanitation as fundamental human right and the associated responsibilities from governments.

26. Council recognised the fundamental importance of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and acknowledges the region's challenges in achieving the MDG Targets on Water and Sanitation by 2015.

27. Council recommended that the new division seek new and additional resources as a matter of priority to support Member countries with the fulfilment of these obligations including support for institutional arrangements required to fulfil the duties to respect, protect and fulfil in relation to the human right of access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The need for a New Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Strategy

28. Council noted that the Pacific regional strategy for sustainable water management adopted under the Pacific Plan was developed eight years ago and has been guiding implementation of regional support programmes to various degrees of success.

29. Council noted the active participation of several Pacific Leaders at the 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit, which resulted in their high-level commitment to water and sanitation. Council encouraged the new division to provide support to Members in their preparations for and participation in the 2nd Asia Pacific Water Summit to be held in Bangkok 2012, including providing assistance to secure the necessary financial resources.

30. Council noted the active involvement of Member countries in the Asia Pacific Water Forum and associated developments such as the Ministers for Water Security Initiative and the coordinating role of SOPAC for the Oceania sub-region.

31. Council recommended that the new division undertake a consultative process towards the

revision of the regional strategy and action plan to address the urgent issues pertaining to the sustainable management of water resources and delivery of water and sanitation services. Council further recommended the revised framework be considered at a meeting convened at ministerial level and the outcome submitted to the 2012 Forum. Council urged the Secretariat to secure funding for the review process and associated meetings.

Pacific Cooperative Performance Audit on Access to Safe Drinking Water

32. Council recommended that the new division provide support to Supreme Audit Institutions and relevant water sector stakeholders in member countries to improve the effectiveness of management in the provision of access to safe drinking water.

Benchmarking of Water Utilities

33. Council recommended that the new division provide support to Pacific island water and wastewater utilities participating in the benchmarking exercise and actively collaborate with PWWA to help improve the performance of utilities.

Report from the Programme Review Monitoring and Evaluation Group on WSP (Item 10.3)

34. Council thanked PMEG for the comprehensive report and acknowledged the highlights/ achievements, key challenges, recommendations and country feedback and closing comments.

Report from the Disaster Reduction Programme (Item 11.1)

35. Council accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Disaster Reduction (formerly Community Risk) Programme, and noted the measures taken to address issues arising from the 2009 PMEG Report.

Issues and Opportunities for the Disaster Reduction Programme (Item 11.2)

36. Council directed the new division to (i) ensure the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk

Management continued in 2011, and (ii) work closely with SPREP to ensure the need to link DRM more closely with CCA at national level was supported through the closer functioning of the Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for DRM.

37. Council noted that the resource support provided under the existing EU EDF 9 B and C Envelope Projects targeting disaster reduction would conclude in 2011-12, and primarily supports national activities. Council strongly encouraged all Members to secure similar funding modalities in order for sustained long-term support from the SOPAC work programme.

38. Council acknowledged with appreciation the new 3-year extension of the TAF/OFDA support to the DRP; commended the new opportunities identified to enhance current DRM initiatives and encouraged donors and partners to provide resources accordingly. These include opportunities with the World Bank Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), the EU EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and emerging bilateral initiatives between the Secretariat and the UNESCO Apia Office and the World Bank (Sydney Office).

Report from the Programme Review Monitoring and Evaluation Group on DRP (Item 11.3)

39. Council thanked PMEG for the comprehensive report and acknowledged the highlights for 2010, issues and opportunities presented and endorsed the recommendations.

Natural Resource Economics (Item 12.1)

40. Council noted the excellent work of the Natural Resource Economics team reported on under the technical work programmes and encourages the strengthening of the PREEN Network and the work with other divisions of SPC.

GIS and Remote Sensing (Item 12.2)

41. Council acknowledged the highly specialised technical support services provided by the GIS and Remote Sensing team at the Secretariat and urged the Secretariat to continue to work with the donor partners to ensure this work continued as it was vital to supplement the lack of capacity at national level.

42. Council reaffirmed that spatial presentation of data through GIS and Remote Sensing modalities was key to improving information and knowledge for decision making in national planning within government, utility corporations and other organisations.

Data Management (Item 12.4)

43. Council noted the excellent work being done in respect of data management and its critical role to protecting intellectual property of Members and ensuring it became more widely available and used at the national level. In this respect Council urged the Secretariat to secure new funding and re-establish the national MapServers in order to facilitate access to information stored in spatial GIS databases that can be used for national planning purposes.

Publications and Library (Item 12.5)

44. Council acknowledged the significant technical support service role provided by the Publications and Library staff for SOPAC and agreed it be retained in the new Division as a key support service as reflected in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015. It must remain at the Mead Road campus in order to be most supportive and effective.

45. Council strongly supported the Compendium Special Project, and recognised the e-based outcomes for each island Member provides the record of the intellectual property gathered and looked after by SOPAC "The Commission" over the past nearly 40 years for some Members. This Project must be completed recognising that this is a rare opportunity that must be captured.

46. Council recognised that the importance of issues of data security and data copyright linked to the desire to improve data access and awareness to the public at large. Council urged the Director to develop an appropriate policy in consultation with Members and the Director General of SPC, and in developing this policy take into account the current procedure in regard to working with Members for permission and agreement.

Financial Report 2009 (Item 14.1)

47. Council received and accepted the 2009 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Auditor's Management Letter.

48. Council noted and accepted the Report on 2009 Budget Variance and Virement of Funds.

49. Council accepted the report on assets and inventory written off for the year ended 31st December 2009.

Membership Contributions in Arrears (Item 14.2.2)

50. Council received and accepted the report on the status and level of Membership contributions in arrears, noting that a total of F\$550,024.26 represented contributions in arrears for previous years while the contributions owing for the 2010 year, as at 18th October, amounted to F\$172,383.76 with an accumulated total in arrears of F\$722,408.02.

51. Council urged all Members to clear arrears by 31st December 2010, in particular arrears for the past three years amounting to F\$293,348.78.

52. Council recognised the commitment and effort of those Members who settle annual assessed contributions promptly.

53. Council accepted that Membership contributions in arrears cannot transfer to SPC since they constitute "doubtful debts".

54. Council noted the option available within the Financial Regulations which states "A provision for doubtful debts shall only be made against a member country contribution if the debt is outstanding after more than 3 years. A write-off shall only be effected after a resolution of the Council is obtained".

55. Council noted that in accord with the SOPAC/SPC LOA signed on August 4th, Membership contributions for 2011 were to be paid to the SPC, and that they would be quarantined for the use of the SOPAC Division.

56. Council acknowledged the commitment of Niue, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Palau and the Solomon Islands to meet outstanding arrears by 31 December 2010.

57. Noting the suspension of the Commission, the Council forgave the arrears for Guam and Nauru prior to 2010.

58. Council further acknowledged the need to address all and any unforgiven arrears prior to the completion of the SOPAC audits in 2011.

59. Council directed the Secretariat to address shortfalls from the forgiving of arrears from the Reserve Fund.

60. Council has come to this decision in the light of extraordinary circumstances and for the purpose of closing down final SOPAC accounts for integration with SPC.

61. Council agreed that this sets no precedent for the future.

CROP Harmonisation and Remuneration Review (Item 15.1)

62. Council acknowledged that the issues concerning harmonisation and remuneration of the current SOPAC jobs and staff terms and conditions including salary and performance assessment would be the responsibility of the SPC/CRGA after 1 January 2011. As a necessity of the transition:

- i. Council noted the outcome of the recent CROP harmonisation and remuneration work and endorsed the recommendations of the CEOs concerning the 2011 SOPAC salary scales.
- ii. Council further noted that the Secretariat had taken into consideration the outcomes of this work and that the necessary financial implications had been factored into the draft 2011 SOPAC Work Plan and Budget.

Reserve Fund Ceiling (Item 15.2)

63. Council agreed that the Reserve Fund ceiling remain at FJD400, 000 for the SOPAC 2011 Work Plan and Budget.

Consideration of Membership Contribution Increase (15.3)

64. Council did not agree to the proposal to increase membership contributions.

65. Council advised the Secretariat that it would not be possible to consider any such proposal further until a satisfactory sustainable financing strategy had been developed by SPC.

Consideration of 2011 Work Plan and Budget (Item 15.4)

66. Council approved the 2010 Revised Budget of F\$15,756,143 and the 2011 Work Plan and Budget of F\$20,322,338 together with funds dedicated for national projects of F\$14,495,974, which totalled F\$34,818,313.

Confirmation of Auditors for 2010 and 2011 Accounts (Item 15.5)

67. Council accepted that in the process of transferring and integrating the SOPAC work programme into the SPC because of the RIF, there was an extraordinary circumstance in regard to the financial status of SOPAC "The Commission".

68. Council decided to retain the services of Ernst and Young for the 2010 audit and for the closing audit of the Commission to take into consideration that part of 2011 as necessary.

69. Council urged all donors to complete the required approvals of the transfer of contractual responsibility from SOPAC "The Commission" to the SPC as soon as possible, in consultation with the Secretariat and the SPC, in order that closure of the Commission accounts can be achieved in a timely and orderly manner.

Adoption of Agreed Record of Proceedings (Item 17)

70. Council agreed that the Summary Record of Proceedings (Record) be sent out to all Members after the meeting to check the substance of their interventions and thereby clear the Record out of session given that it had progressively reviewed the text of its decisions on each agenda item where required.

71. Council also agreed that the Proceedings volume of the SOPAC 39th and final meeting of the SOPAC the Commission be dedicated to the memory of the late David A Philip Muller, former Director of SOPAC; and other luminaries of the SOPAC community that had passed on.

PART B: SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETING PROCEEDINGS

1. OPENING

1. The Thirty-ninth Annual Session of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) was held in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from 19th October to 22nd October 2010. Its Council Sessions including the joint session with its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the preceding two-day scientific meeting of its Science Technology and Resource Network (STAR) were all held at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi. The STAR Meeting was its 27th with the theme “Pacific Geoscience – Towards 2020 in the Face of Dwindling Global Natural Resources”.

2. The outgoing Chair, Honourable Paul Telukluk of Vanuatu, called the meeting to order and invited Mr Keu Mataroa of the Cook Islands to offer the opening prayer.

3. A tribute to the late Philipp Muller, former Director of the SOPAC Secretariat from 1992 to 1998, was delivered by the Interim Director (Dr Russell Howorth). It specially highlighted the late Director’s insight into the cost to PICs of the lack of appreciation and resourcing of marine mineral resources development; the collection of geoscientific data that must underpin any economic development; and the growing importance of GIS and remote sensing.

4. The Director welcomed Council Members and other representatives to the meeting.

5. The outgoing Chair delivered a report highlighting a number of critical activities he had presided over during his tenure to advance the implementation of the Leaders’ decision to rationalise SOPAC functions into SPC and SPREP. This culminated in the signing in early August of the fourth and final Letter of Agreement covering the transfer of the remaining functions of SOPAC into a new division of the SPC, which was described by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu as the “largest single transfer between two regional organisations”.

6. The outgoing Chair also announced Council’s decision arrived at during a pre-meeting briefing session between Council and the CEOs of SOPAC and SPC on the progress of implementation of the transfer mentioned above – that the current SOPAC Director be retained to undertake the dual roles of Director of SOPAC Commission; and Director of the new SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division to ensure the proper regulatory requirements for closure

of the Commission’s accounts and transfer of contracts were fully met in the transition period. In conjunction with the extension of contract of the current Director; the SOPAC Council also decided to delegate the role to oversee the closure of SOPAC to the Director General of SPC with the assistance of a troika comprising the past- (Vanuatu), current- (Australia) and incoming Chair (Cook Islands).

7. Honourable Telukluk’s statement is tabled in full in the Proceedings volume.

8. Delegates from the following Member countries were in attendance: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A full list of participants is annexed as Appendix 1.

9. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community was the only CROP organisation represented at Council’s plenary session.

10. The following institutions attended as observers: (Australia) Centre for Australia Weather and Climate Research, Australian Volcanological Investigations, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), (Chile) Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, the European Union, Geoscience Australia (GA), (New Zealand) GNS Science, Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR), (Japan) National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), (New Zealand) National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), (Papua New Guinea) Maritime Boundaries Authority, University of Sydney, (US) Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Victoria University of Wellington, Water Authority of Fiji, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

11. The following were represented from the private sector: ASAP, Fugro EarthData Inc, Nautilus Minerals, Sentry Petroleum, Akura Limited, Fiji Gas Limited and Geopacific Resources NL.

2. ELECTIONS

2.1 Chair & Vice Chair of SOPAC

12. In accordance with the rules of procedure Australia assumed the Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council; and the Cook Islands was appointed Vice Chair.

2.2 Chairs of STAR, TAG and PMEG

13. Acting Chair of STAR, Dr Gary Greene announced the re-nomination of Professor John Collen of Victoria University of Wellington as the Chair of STAR with the Cook Islands representative, Mr Keu Mataroa as Vice-Chair.

14. Council accepted that the sitting Chair of Governing Council (Ms Romaine Kwesius of Australia) would also chair the Joint Council/ Technical Advisory Group Session.

15. Council accepted the Director's advice to retain Professor Gary Greene as Chair of PMEG.

2.3 Appointment of Rapporteur

16. Ms Lala Bukarau (SOPAC) was appointed rapporteur and tasked with the Secretariat to prepare a summary record of proceedings of the 39th SOPAC Session, under the supervision of the Drafting Committee.

3. AGENDA & WORKING PROCEDURES

3.1 Adoption of Agenda

17. The adopted agenda is attached as Appendix 2.

3.2 Appointment of Drafting Committee

18. An open-ended drafting committee chaired by the Cook Islands and comprising the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Tonga was tasked with overseeing the production of a summary record of proceedings.

3.3 Appointment of Sub-Committees

19. There appeared to be no need for any sub-committees.

4. REPRESENTATION

4.1 Designation of National Representatives

20. Members were encouraged by the Chair to amend the details for their designated national representatives as presented in paper (AS39/4.1). The list is included in Appendix 3 of the Proceedings.

5. STATEMENTS

21. The Chair proposed that in order to move efficiently through the agenda in the allocated four days that statements be kept as brief as possible, and more substantive issues be considered under the appropriate Agenda items. This suggestion was accepted by Council.

5.1 Statements from Member Countries

22. Members made short interventions mostly commending the Outgoing Chair for exemplary leadership of the Council through some critical and very sensitive stages of the implementation of the RIF decisions of the Leaders; and the Director and staff of the Secretariat for commendable delivery of services during the difficult period. Full statements are tabled in Appendix 4.

5.2 Statements by CROP Organisations

23. The Director General of SPC made special personal commitment to SOPAC staff and to the continuation of STAR under SPC. The Director General also stated his intention to adopt the PMEG as a best-practice process and to expand it to include input from Members.

5.3 Statements from Co-operating Governments & International Agencies

24. The presence of representatives from the Korean Oceanographic Research Development Institute was noted.

5.4 Statements from National Institutions

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

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (PART 1)

6.1 Introduction

26. The Director referred Council to paper AS39/6.1 and established the theme for his report to Council spread throughout the agenda as "the necessity of sustainability; identifying and managing risks; ... and turning risks into opportunities and positive outcomes."

27. While presenting, he noted progress by SOPAC, SPREP and SPC with respect to implementing the Leaders decisions on the RIF – also observing SOPAC's continued service delivery

during this time despite the many uncertainties in the transition period. He reminded Council that 1 January 2011 would not mark the end of the SOPAC transition to SPC since termination activities including auditing would still need to be completed in 2011. Nevertheless he acknowledged the significance of this date as marking the establishment of SOPAC as the applied geoscience and technology division of SPC.

28. The Director reminded Council of the RIF transition activities that had occurred throughout 2010 in parallel with CROP harmonisation and remuneration arrangements, the development of the first strategic plan for SOPAC as a division of the SPC. In so doing, he reaffirmed SOPAC's commitment to working with SPC and urged Council to support the proposed strategic plan and accompanying 2011 Work Plan and Budget as part of the process to develop a long term sustainable financing strategy for the much enlarged SPC.

29. The Director noted a variety of highlights of SOPAC's work from 2010 including assistance to a number of countries in progressing maritime boundaries, the development of a regional risk exposure database and the implementation of water demand management in Niue which was resulting in reduced water losses. He also noted the continuing work of SOPAC is coordinating numerous regional partnerships including the Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, the Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network and GIS PacNET.

30. The Director concluded his report with a plea to Members that it was crucial that the SOPAC work programmes retain the full support of all of its current Members and its partners.

6.2 Future of SOPAC "The Commission"

31. The Director referred Council to paper AS39/6.2 which had been circulated to Council well in advance of the meeting expressly to give Members ample time to consider the weightiest of matters (in capitals) requiring a decision at this Council meeting, on whether to suspend or dissolve the Commission.

32. The Director observed that most Members were on record as preferring suspension and he suggested that Members could reconfirm that preference or otherwise. The Director also proposed the establishment of a troika (Vanuatu, Australia and Cook Islands) to work with the Director General of SPC to oversee SOPAC's progress in these matters over 2011.

33. New Caledonia sought clarification on the 'pragmatic option' as presented in the paper, stating that he was unable to see the argument using intellectual property rights as a reason for preferring suspension over dissolution given that there was a framework present in SPC to protect intellectual property.

34. The Director observed that the numerous records of past meetings citing many and varied reasons for why most island Members preferred to 'retain' SOPAC, or retain an access point into SOPAC services was suggestive of the preference for suspension over dissolution and he thought this could be easily be verified by going round the room and asking members directly.

35. Samoa noted that the instrument for termination of the SPBEA that was adopted by Members at their November 2009 meeting appeared to them to be a simple and effective way of bringing closure of the merger of SPBEA into SPC, and wondered if the same option could also be considered for SOPAC.

36. Fiji expressed his support for suspension of SOPAC the Commission in line with the procedure outlined in paper AS39/6.2. He also noted that dissolution would take around 12 months to take effect whereas suspension might allow the Secretariat get on with work sooner. Suspension also left room for members to reactivate the Commission, should there be a need in the future.

37. Given uncertainty following 2011 and the need to ensure continued service delivery to Members, Cook Islands concurred with Fiji on the matter of suspension and the option for the way forward as suggested in the paper.

38. In response to the suggestion by Samoa for using the SPBEA option on SOPAC, the Director sought clarification from the Director-General of SPC on the process used to manage the closure of SPBEA upon its transition to SPC. SPC observed that the options to close SPBEA had been either to (i) dissolve SPBEA (ii) suspend it or (iii) invite Members who had ratified the SPBEA Agreement to withdraw from that Agreement. SPC observed that the option to withdraw from the Agreement had been adopted by SPBEA. Accordingly, Members that had signed the SPBEA Agreement were now in the process of writing to Fiji as the depositary advising of their intention to withdraw.

39. Cook Islands considered it unfair to compare the work of SOPAC with that of the SPBEA and that just because the withdrawal option had worked for SPBEA did not mean it would equally be appropriate for SOPAC.

40. Samoa acknowledged the comments by the

Cook Islands and the value of the SOPAC work programmes. She clarified that her reference to following the SPC/SPBEA process had merely been a suggestion to progress matters.

41. Fiji added to the sentiments of the Cook Islands, stating that suspension of SOPAC as a Commission would be in the interest of Members, in case it was beneficial to reactivate SOPAC one day in the future.

42. Papua New Guinea, Palau, Vanuatu, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu (in writing) acknowledged the work of SOPAC over recent years and joined the Cook Islands and Fiji in calling for suspension rather than dissolution, expressing the need to 'keep open a window'.

43. French Polynesia observed with pleasure the emerging consensus among Members on the matter of suspension and stated its willingness to go with the consensus outcome.

44. Niue observed the majority support for suspension based on Council's discussion of the previous day on the need to continue service delivery, Niue added its support for suspension as a means to enable the absorption to 'bed down successfully'.

45. Nauru noted that suspension, as a contingency, had its merits so Nauru was willing to go along with the majority of Members and support the suspension of SOPAC rather than its dissolution.

46. Noting that suspension of SOPAC would allow the opportunity for future reactivation of SOPAC, Samoa noted the need for clear guidelines on when and how reactivation might proceed. New Zealand agreed with Samoa that suspension of the Commission raised questions about how reactivation might proceed in the future and the need for clarification on this. She also stated that New Zealand nevertheless accepted the majority decision. She commented that she hoped that the decision on suspension would be taken in the spirit of moving forward as set out in the Letter of Agreement between SOPAC and SPC.

47. Australia while stating the preference for dissolution was nevertheless prepared to accept the consensus for suspension, encouraging Members to actively support the integration of SOPAC functions to SPC in all of its aspects.

48. Samoa expressed concern at hearing members refer to the difficulty associated with "dissolution" in that it would be hard to obtain a two thirds majority for success in the ratification process. She pointed out that a lot of time, resources and effort had been invested in

accomplishing the milestones so far with respect to the RIF and that expressions of doubt that the exercise would not work were counter productive. Samoa concluded that the onus was on Members to make it work and was certain that the Leaders expected no less.

49. Fiji expressed optimism about the implementation of the transition from 2011 onwards and reiterated the selection of suspension over dissolution was 'just in case'. He proposed that it might be best to leave identifying the details of conditions for reactivation of SOPAC for another meeting, suggesting that opening that discussion might stretch the meeting to beyond the available time.

50. Chair observed the consensus among Members to suspend SOPAC rather than dissolve it noting that there had been some queries on the criteria for reactivation, and proposed that this be discussed in Session. The Drafting Committee was to attempt to capture appropriate wording on the suspension decision for Council to consider.

51. Council appreciated that there are opportunities for improved service delivery with the transfer and integration of the core SOPAC work programmes into SPC and was enthusiastic about the way forward for the transition as articulated in the Letter of Agreement.

52. Council, having fully considered the issues within the context of the Agreement Establishing SOPAC agreed that:

- i. SOPAC "the Commission" be suspended on or before 30th September 2011 once the Audited accounts for the necessary part of 2011 are received and approved by the troika of past Chair, current Chair and current Vice Chair, acting on behalf of Council.
- ii. Suspension does not preclude any Member of the Commission from withdrawing from the Commission should they desire, requiring only that Fiji, as depository of the instruments of ratification, be notified.
- iii. Any Member or Members who at any stage feel the desire to resurrect the Commission, should write to the Troika giving their reasons and seeking the support of members. The Troika will coordinate Members responses to the proposal to resurrect. The Commission will be resurrected if Members of the Commission agree by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, agreement of at least two-thirds of the full membership will be required.
- iv. That this was the last meeting of Governing Council.

53. In keeping with the precedence established at SOPAC Council meetings, Council supported the Cook Islands offer to host the first meeting of the Heads of Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC in 2011.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (PART 2)

7.1 2009 Annual Report Summary

54. The Director presented the Annual Report Summary covering the period October 2008 to October 2009. He stated that the Annual Report Summary was targeted at communicating SOPAC's work to non-technical persons and as such should be used as tool by Members and donor representatives to promote SOPAC activities and showcase the benefits that might accrue at national level.

55. Council accepted the 2009 Annual Report Summary.

7.2 Summary Report of 2010 Donor Support

56. The Director presented the summary report of the donor support to SOPAC for the period September 2009 to August 2010 (AS39/7.2).

57. The Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat for providing the Summary Report of 2010 Donor Support and sought further information with regard to current funding levels and also arrangements in place for 2011 and beyond (in the context of the merger with SPC) especially with respect to the European Union funding.

58. The Director advised that the finance section of the final Letter of Agreement with SPC provided for a quarantining of funds for use by the new applied geoscience and technology division (SOPAC) in the SPC system with the appreciation that this being the case some arrangements would not likely get completely resolved by 1 January 2011 as certain contractual arrangements with particular donors (such as the EU) would still be in the process of being worked out.

59. Council accepted the summary report of 2010 donor support and acknowledged with appreciation the strong donor support, essential for delivery of SOPAC's work programmes; and requested the Secretariat to write to all the donors and development partners thanking them for their support provided to the SOPAC work programmes.

60. Council noted with appreciation that some Members were contributing directly to enable additional access to the work programme.

7.3 CROP and PPAC Summary Reports

61. The Director presented paper AS39/7.3 and drew Council's attention to the following three issues from the SOPAC work programme that SOPAC had promoted during the year at the CROP and PPAC meetings:

- i. Expanding the notion of disaster risk management to be people-focused covering responses to health disasters as well as factoring in population growth and movement.
- ii. Reflecting water and sanitation as a key vulnerability requiring support.
- iii. Finalising the delimitation of maritime boundaries especially with respect to developing effective conservation and management mechanisms for national resources within sovereign waters of island members including mineral prospecting and exploration

62. In responding to the Directors detailing of paper AS39/7.3, and particularly with respect to the issue of boundaries delimitation, Samoa noted the differences between the datasets used by FFA and those used by SOPAC and the resulting confusion among countries because of this. She further suggested that SOPAC and FFA work to harmonise and pool resources as such collaboration would benefit Members of both organisations given the spate of illegal fishing being experienced in Members' waters. Samoa was seeking to relook at the status of its boundaries because of the need to deal with the illegal fishing issue.

63. The Cooks Islands confirmed the firming up of its dialogue process through their Foreign Affairs ministry with Niue and Kiribati with respect to treaties for shared boundaries. He supported the call by Samoa for SOPAC to dialogue with FFA, particularly with respect to the Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS's) already being deployed in fishing vessels operated by Members.

64. The Director clarified that the intention of paper AS39/7.3 and its recommendations was not to look into specificities of what was being done or not within the respective work programme areas as these would be covered under the technical work programme agenda items. Council was to note these areas that have been identified and taken up into the Port Vila Leaders Communiqué of 2010. The purpose for highlighting them was to get attention and leverage for raising dedicated resourcing.

65. New Caledonia congratulated the Director and his team for the quality of report and stated

that one of the recommendations in the paper certainly matched a presentation he had made at STAR on the use of a framework to link scientific data to political decisions. He suggested additional text which he would provide to the drafting committee that he advised would give more weight to the recommendation.

66. New Zealand acknowledged the significance of the areas raised and offered appreciation of the Director's proactive efforts in bringing this to the attention of leaders through the CROP and PPAC process. The representative also provided some input to the recommendations to align them more accurately with the language of the Leaders Port Vila Communiqué.

67. Chair noted the particular issues for inclusion in the recommendations which were referred to the drafting committee. The following recommendations were supported by Council.

68. Council welcomed and supported the recent Forum Leaders' Communiqué highlighting that extra efforts will be required to achieve results in the following areas:

- (i) finalising the delineation of permanent maritime boundaries;
- (ii) sustainably increasing the coverage of safe drinking water and basic sanitation services; and
- (iii) expanding the definition of disaster risk management beyond that posed by climate change to be people focused, covering responses to health disasters as well as factoring in population growth and movement.

69. Council further recognised that while these were covered in the Pacific Plan priorities, they nonetheless required much more effort and necessary dedicated resources as was highlighted in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 for the new SOPAC Division of the SPC. Furthermore, as described in the strategic plan this increased effort requires the input of SOPAC science and technology, GIS and Remote Sensing and natural resource economics.

70. Council remained deeply committed to the need for good science and technical data to better inform decision-making. This was particularly important in the environmental vulnerability context where "normal" or historic natural change must be understood. Thereby with long-term data gathering, monitoring, and analysis island communities at all levels will be better able to build coping strategies that will build resilience to the increasing vulnerability the islands are

facing – not the least of which is from the adverse impacts of climate change. In addition, SOPAC's assessment of the economic costs related to environmental sciences in general were seen by Council as an important baseline for assessing the feasibility of future adaptation strategies.

71. Council encouraged the SPC/CRGA to endorse these sentiments and ensure adequate resources are identified as an outcome of the Long Term Sustainable Financing exercise currently underway.

STAR AND PMEG CHAIRS REPORTS

8.1 STAR Chair Report (AS39/8.1)

72. The Acting Chair of STAR, Professor Gary Greene presented the STAR Chair Report to the Council noting that the main theme of the 2010 STAR meeting was: "Pacific Geoscience – Towards 2020 in the Face of Dwindling Global Natural Resources".

73. Apart from hearing presentations by researchers, the STAR Conference allowed researchers to take advantage of the presence of experts. Each year the delegates convened thematic working groups in sub-disciplines in which they discuss aspects of their subjects that are relevant to the region and make recommendations of points that they feel may be of benefit to Council. This year six working groups met, to discuss aspects of tsunamis, marine benthic habitat mapping, deep-sea minerals, water, and the International Geological Congress. Full reports with recommendations to Council and the STAR Chair report are appended to the Proceedings volume (Appendix 5).

74. Australia briefed the SOPAC Governing Council members on the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) to be held in Brisbane in August 2012 and the associated technical workshops. The IGC represents a unique opportunity for regional geoscientists to expand their network of contacts and participate in a state-of-the-art international geoscience forum.

75. Australia further advised that the Organising Committee encouraged initiatives that enable regional geoscientists to attend the 34th IGC. The planned workshops on geohazards and groundwater were an excellent opportunity to enhance technical capacity in regional geoscientists for hazard and risk modelling using free and open-source software and improve regional geoscientist's understanding of groundwater monitoring and management. Funding is currently being sought for participation in these

workshops by regional delegates. Workshops on sustainable mining have in-principle financial support for delegates from African nations, but funding to support regional participants is yet to be secured.

76. New Zealand acknowledged the efforts of the Acting Chair of STAR and wished to express its support for the STAR mechanism to continue with the transition into SPC, and even be enhanced with current fisheries work at SPC. There were several presentations from New Zealand during STAR from the office of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Office, Geoscience New Zealand, and Environment Service and Research. There were some interests expressed that with the involvement of STAR in SPC, there will be an added value of “human” aspects (such as health science) to natural science work that SOPAC undertakes. New Zealand therefore wished to express the strong support for the STAR mechanism and its importance, and to ensure that STAR is protected and enhanced in the transition to SPC.

77. The Director highlighted the IGC Conference paper that was introduced to Council by the representative from Australia and pointed out that there is only one meeting between now and August 2012 in order to discuss the strategy for way forward and preparations for their participation at the IGC. (That meeting being the first heads of geoscience meeting associated with the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC in 2011.)

78. Council noted in regard to the upcoming IGC in Brisbane (Australia) in 2012,

- i. initiatives that were proposed by the Circum-Pacific Council (CPC) during their meeting conducted concurrently with the STAR meeting and recommended SOPAC coordination with CPC, and agreed the Director of SOPAC, working with the Chair of CPC, and the Chair of STAR should be the focal points for Pacific regional participation.
- ii. That those national organisations like Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS – New Zealand), Geoscience Australia (GA – Australia) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM – Australia), as well as representatives from development partners be encouraged to work to ensure financial resources are available to allow participation by Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

79. The STAR Chair’s report is appended in full in Appendix 5.

8.2 PMEG Chair Report on Cross-cutting Issues (AS39/8.2)

80. The PMEG Chair presented the PMEG Chair’s Report on matters and issues relating to SOPAC work programme delivery which are cross-cutting in nature and common to all three technical programmes of SOPAC. The report is tabled in paper AS39/8.2.

81. PMEG Chair wished to point out that the process of PMEG this year was different to previous years by two major factors:- (1) the transition process of moving SOPAC into SPC taking place due to the RIF; and (2) the new Director position at SOPAC. He reported that the past year had been a difficult year with the increased pressure of transition to SPC but the dedication of staff has been very resilient and positive throughout the process. There are existing synergies between SOPAC and SPC, as well as with SPREP and with other organisations that could still be improved upon.

82. New Caledonia acknowledged the efforts of the PMEG Chair for his Report and sought further clarification on the frustration of some staff involved with the preparation of the new strategic plan document, considering that there were no funds allocated to this work. He reassured the Secretariat that (as pointed out in Agenda Item 13 discussed by Council the day before) the strategic plan was a living document and will be reviewed and revised. He expressed concern at the low morale expressed by senior programme managers as reported, and sought clarification from the Director on the matter.

83. Fiji also expressed similar concerns to New Caledonia on the recommendation points as highlighted in the PMEG Chair Report and pointed out that the funding issues at the beginning of the year may have been a contributing factor to the low morale of staff. Fiji repeated ongoing concern for the welfare of the large number of Fiji nationals currently employed at the Secretariat.

84. French Polynesia sought clarification from the PMEG Chair on the methodology used in the compilation of the PMEG Report if there were surveys or personal interviews of individual staff members to assess the credibility of the report.

85. Vanuatu also expressed concern at the point made on staff morale as service delivery would likely be affected by it. On the issue of the heads of national geosciences forming the new technical advisory group (TAG) for the new applied geoscience division of SPC, Vanuatu pointed out that it would be the member countries that would

decide the representation of country delegates to divisional meetings.

86. PMEG Chair emphasised that the PMEG team had two days to evaluate the technical programmes, which included presentation and interviews with SOPAC staff. He explained that PMEG comprised volunteer scientists and not a professional group of evaluators.

87. The Director assured Council that it could rely on its chief executive officer to address the matter of morale at the next executive management meeting. Director also noted that other CROP agencies were going through the process of applying the new job banding system and that if there were difficulties with it these needed to be identified and addressed.

88. Niue was heartened to note the large presence of Secretariat staff at the Council meeting and encouraged the Secretariat to move forward in a positive manner over what remained of the year and estimated that it would take at least six months to bed down the new SOPAC division of SPC.

89. With further expressions of concern about low staff morale by Vanuatu and Fiji, the Director promised to report back to the first meeting of the SOPAC division on what had been done to address the matter.

90. Chair expressed appreciation for the report by the PMEG Chair and noted that the welfare of all staff needed to be maintained and that the Director had undertaken to report back to Members at their next meeting.

91. Council noted the following cross-cutting issues from the PMEG Chair's Report; and referred them to the Director for follow up as necessary:

- i. Job Banding – that the latest information be provided to staff on the process to progress and accelerate the process as urgently if the RIF process is to move ahead.
- ii. Strategic Plan – Council noted that the Strategic Plan had already been endorsed the previous day when discussions on AS39/13 were brought forward.
- iii. Morale – Director to use mechanisms such as the Executive Management Team (EMT) to monitor morale with Secretariat staff, in particular the Senior Programme Manager staff and report to the first SOPAC divisional meeting in 2011.
- iv. Compensation/Professional Development – to consider providing funds through sustainable funding initiative to cover time for staff to

write proposals and attend professional development activities.

- v. Work Environment Considerations – to seek a method and funds to provide a healthy work-life balance for those staff suffering from overwork, in particular with the issue of medical claims by staff.
- vi. Communications – to meet with their counterparts at SPC, pertinent international organisations and internally design an efficient and realistic future work program.
- vii. Website Site/Data Management – allow the Data Management, ITC group to continue without interruption to digitise reports, maps and other library information in the fashion they have developed.
- viii. Open-source Software – to allow for flexibility to use best practices, hardware and software of both SPC and SOPAC.
- ix. Computers/Network Transition – SPC to provide ITC support and equipment.
- x. Travel Requests – to shorten procedures if possible and/or explain rationale for the requirement.
- xi. Heads of Geoscience – consideration to be given to the inclusion of other disciplinary heads in addition to geologists to participate in the new TAG as nominated by member countries.
- xii. Proposal Development/Donor Management – to consider hiring a specialist proposal drafting person who could monitor opportunities for proposals and assist with the preparation of the generic content required for proposals, prior to seeking input from specialists whose input may be needed only for particular aspect.
- xiii. Human Resources – the existing SPC HR unit be expanded to handle the extra load of additional SOPAC staff to provide the much needed services to the staff in relevant areas including staff pay, level advancement, leave and personal development.
- xiv. Performance Agreement – staff performance assessment processes to be adhered to and where needed updated performance assessments produced.
- xv. Change Manager – permanently base the Change Manager in the SOPAC Secretariat for the duration of the transition.

92. The PMEG Chair's report on cross-cutting issues is appended in full in Appendix 6.

9. OCEAN AND ISLANDS PROGRAMME (OIP)

9.1 Report from the Ocean and Islands Programme

93. The Chair invited the Programme Manager of the Oceans and Islands Programme to present on the work undertaken during 2009-2010. The OIP Manager referred Council to paper AS39/9.1 describing the work covered in detail. He introduced the broad thrust of work of the Programme and shared with Council the new organisational structure of the Programme in the context of the new SOPAC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. He then presented on the work of each of the key sections within that structure. In so doing, the OIP Manager stressed the critical need for the Pacific to have access to appropriate scientific data to underpin climate change adaptation solutions. He reminded countries of the need to declare maritime boundaries to underpin economic development, reminding Council that OIP already supported numerous members in this work and invited other countries to liaise with SOPAC on the issue, if they wished. Nevertheless, he also reminded Council that the OIP needed financial resources to continue its maritime boundaries work in the future.

94. The OIP Manager highlighted a variety of activities conducted over 2009-2010 including hydrodynamic modelling; and land and nearshore marine surveys which can be used to model wave impacts and sea-level rise. He explained the implementation of the aggregate dredging company (ESAT) in Kiribati and the potential of such approaches to underpin not only the issue of sustainable construction aggregate supply but also climate change adaptation into the future. He announced the continuation of the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project for the next 5 years (Phase 5), expressing appreciation to donors. He reminded Council of the ongoing need for data over time to assess risks from climate change and, on this matter, advised of data and information management and access improvements efforts through the Programme.

95. Fiji acknowledged that most PICs have not progressed their maritime boundaries claims due to lack of in-country capacity and also acknowledged the dependence of PICs on the OIP to progress maritime boundaries claims. He noted the lack of funds for OIP to continue to deliver this service particularly for eCS work and the negative impact that ceasing this work would have on PICs. He expressed hope that funds would be made available in the future to continue this service.

96. Cook Islands echoed the sentiments of Fiji on the issue of maritime boundaries and commended the OIP for its excellent work

conducted to date. He noted the hydrodynamic and EEZ work conducted by OIP in the Cook Islands and confirmed that the Cook Islands would soon declare its boundaries. He also acknowledged the collaborative work by Niue and the Cook Islands to establish a treaty agreement over their shared boundary. The Cook Islands also noted with pleasure the extension of the South Pacific Sea Level Climate Monitoring Project for the next 5 years and gratefully acknowledged the support of AusAID in enabling this. He noted the issue of climate change and recognised the need for the appropriate technical assessments and data to inform decision making to adapt to it. He advised that Cook Islands intended to liaise with SOPAC to progress work under its Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project. Cook Islands registered his support for all recommendations concerning OIP in papers AS39/9.1 and AS39/9.2.

97. New Caledonia commended the OIP on its work to date and acknowledged that the work was done under difficult RIF circumstances. New Caledonia supported the restructure of the OIP, considering that the new structure better suited the delivery of OIP tasks. He advised Council that New Caledonia's claim for eCS has now been approved by the UN and he conveyed his wishes to the other 8 PICs for similar success in boundary delimitation. He stated that he understood the need for legal expertise by SOPAC to support boundary delimitation but did not support the recruitment of in-house expertise, recommending instead that SOPAC use ad hoc consultants so that OIP could focus entirely on technical matters. In response, the OIP Manager acknowledged the need to avoid OIP being distracted from its technical work on maritime boundaries delimitation but nevertheless reiterated his view that in-house legal advice was needed, observing that the success of Australia and New Zealand to successfully defend their respective eCS claims and develop their boundary solutions and treaties was partly due to these countries having access to in-house legal expertise which was specific to Law of the Sea and UNCLOS needs that was fully integrated into the technical team. He stated that this was what OIP wanted to mirror and considered that integrating legal expertise with its technical work would allow OIP's maritime boundaries work to take the extra necessary step towards assisting countries to declare their boundaries solutions and support their eCS claims.

98. New Caledonia registered disappointment that the PMEG report appeared to focus solely on the staff welfare and work environment of the OIP with little reference to the technical content or quality of the OIP's work, even though he acknowledged that the technical work of the Programme was still sound.

99. Samoa commended OIP for the work conducted and requested further assistance from OIP to: (i) conduct hydrodynamic modelling in Samoa; (ii) continue work under PRISMS to avoid mal-adaptation; and (iii) continue work in the SPSLCMP (Phase 5). She also acknowledged the offer of assistance from the OIP Manager concerning maritime boundaries delimitation and expressed that it was likely that Samoa would come to SOPAC for technical assistance to progress this matter this year. In reply, the OIP Manager acknowledged the request for hydrodynamic modelling and asked for more detail on the sectors under concern to enable planning and better discussion of how this work might be pursued. He noted that any work by the OIP to meet this demand would rely on access to baseline data and that this would incur expenses but that OIP would work with Samoa to establish a budget and secure funds to address the hydrodynamic modelling. Concerning Samoa's request for PRISMS work, he advised that the PRISMS system had not yet been extended to high islands and noted that this activity had no budget. He advised that with SOPAC currently unable to attract any funding to extend the PRISMS activity; a response in that regard to Samoa's request was subject entirely to the availability of resources.

100. Samoa observed the difference in boundary datasets between SOPAC and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) on the matter of maritime boundaries and enquired how this matter was being handled by SOPAC. The OIP Manager advised that SOPAC held no baseline data on maritime boundaries for Samoa. He explained that when the maritime boundaries project was transferred to SOPAC in 2001 the data provided only gave out limit positions (in this case shared boundary position) but that no metadata had been provided by FFA; therefore SOPAC was not in a position to assess the accuracy of existing FFA data relating to Samoa. Nevertheless, he suggested that if Samoa was to engage with SOPAC on maritime boundaries delimitation, SOPAC would be happy to advise further.

101. Marshall Islands commended OIP for its work. He reminded Council of requests from 2008 and 2009 that programme managers include the breakdown in their presentations of the funding used and budgets on various activities (such as maritime boundaries, climate change adaptation etc.) Noting that this information had not been included in the Session papers of any of the technical programmes, he asked whether the information was too much work for managers to generate or whether the issue was not important to SOPAC. He asked PMEG to take note of the request. The OIP Manager advised that it had been previously difficult for managers to divide the

budget in the way Marshall Islands had requested; nevertheless he advised that the new budgeting structure of SOPAC would enable programme managers to provide this information in the future.

102. French Polynesia commended the OIP for its work observing that the maritime boundaries for French Polynesia had been declared by France in 2009. He congratulated SOPAC and IFREMER for their joint work to assist Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna to collect data critical to support these countries' eCS claims. He also extended his thanks to SOPAC for assistance in the preparation of the French Polynesia Country Implementation Planning under the OCT project.

103. Australia commended the work of the OIP and observed that Geoscience Australia valued its relationship with SOPAC. He noted the OIP considerations of how to work better with SPC, noting that more might be achieved in the future, for example by providing baseline data to other SPC Divisions. He endorsed the OIP request for baseline data collection (especially elevation data). He observed that Geoscience Australia had been assisting SOPAC in some of its maritime boundaries issues and confirmed that Geoscience Australia used its own lawyers to underpin its maritime boundaries work, observing that this can work well within a technical organisation so long as specific UNCLOS capacity is brought in. On the issue of information management, he commended OIP for its data rescue activities and asked whether OIP could progress this in the SPC through the use of shared platforms, software and corporate back up as he considered that there might be ways for SOPAC to progress continued data rescue itself.

104. Nauru acknowledged the work of the OIP and observed that the work in maritime boundaries delimitation had been ongoing for many years and expressed that he was happy this sector had been recognised as a priority area by Pacific leaders. He stated that Nauru looked forward to finalising its own boundaries with Kiribati and the Marshall Islands. Nauru advised Council that Nauru's EEZ is relatively small compared to its neighbours and is rich in tuna resources but not deep sea minerals. He stated that Nauru is sponsoring a private company (Nautilus Minerals through its Nauruan subsidiary) to mine in high seas areas. He stated that Nauru had applied to the International Seabed Authority to reserve an area for mining polymetallic minerals in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. They still awaited a ruling from the Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea on their submission for Advisory Opinion on whether they could proceed and, if approved, are likely to commence mining within five years.

105. New Zealand congratulated OIP on its achievements and in relation to the new Strategic Plan, New Zealand suggested that in the more outputs might usefully be articulated in the OIP work planning framework and enquired how OIP would link its work to the outcomes articulated in the Strategic Plan. The OIP Manager noted that this was the first time OIP was reporting using the new Strategic Plan format and suggested a separate discussion on how to improve reporting for the future.

106. Niue echoed the sentiments of previous speakers in commending the OIP for its work and advised that Niue wanted to progress its maritime boundaries, so it would liaise with SOPAC about it. He advised that Niue was aware that OIP had completed the relevant data and information for maritime boundaries for Niue and expressed gratitude for the other data products and support for the country. He also advised that Niue needed assistance with respect to updating the Mining Act of Niue and introducing mining policy in response to recent development in this area. He noted that the Government of Niue would formally seek the assistance of OIP and SOPAC in the work of delimiting the maritime boundaries of Niue and technical support to build Niue's capacity and response in the area of mining. He observed that Niue was absent from the OIP Programme Manager's map on SPSLCMP sea gauges and sought clarification of Niue's status with respect to this. He also noted that the request for a tidal gauge under the auspices of the SPSLCMP had been made two years previously and that to date no formal response has been received on the status of that request. He observed that Niue had completed its work on a coastal development policy with SOPAC support as a response to the severity of the 2004 Cyclone Heta event where wave overtopping had occurred around Niue's cliffs. He consequently acknowledged critical need for work with SOPAC in climate change adaptation since severe weather events might increase. He gave Niue's support for the recommendations made in papers AS39/9.1 and AS39/9.2. The OIP Manager followed up on the Niue enquiry as to its status with respect to the placement of SPSLCMP sea gauges (in the break after the session) and advised Niue that decisions on the placement of the gauges was the responsibility of BoM Australia and that SOPAC had made representations to BoM Australia relaying Niue's desire to re-install the gauge.

107. Council considered and accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Ocean and Islands Programme.

9.2 Issues and Opportunities for the Ocean and Islands Programme

108. The OIP Manager presented emerging issues for the Programme and referred Council to paper AS39/9.2. He acknowledged the opportunity for fuller integration with SPC, noting that OIP was already actively engaged in working with SPC, particularly with its Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. He noted that the OIP already worked at capacity and future engagements within SPC or with other CROP agencies would depend on the provision of new resources. He noted that the same issue of resourcing would apply if OIP was to continue to meet the increasing demands of PICs to provide technical assessments particularly pertaining to climate change adaptation.

109. The OIP Manager advised Council of the need for PICs to officially register their maritime boundaries and emphasised that, while SOPAC is mandated to provide the technical solutions to develop boundaries, it is not mandated to provide the legal expertise needed to progress the resulting negotiations. Since the two sets of expertise are critical for delimitation, he advised Council of the need for OIP to have this expertise in-house to meet PIC needs.

110. Finally, the OIP Manager highlighted to Council the imperative that baseline data underpin adaptation and increase resilience, noting the urgent need for investment in SOPAC to collect or access this data.

111. Council noted the current OIP/SPC Coastal Fisheries collaborative work as excellent examples of the potential opportunities of the SOPAC/SPC merger, and recommended future adequate resources be secured from donor partners, including through the SPC Long Term Sustainable Financing exercise.

112. Council acknowledged the critically important role SOPAC science plays in technical support to coastal adaptation, development and vulnerability projects and initiatives and recommended that significant improvements in programmatic funding for regional technical support services such as OIP be made available to facilitate a sustained and adequate response to this growing demand.

113. Council acknowledged the need for legal advice to assist members towards the declaration of their maritime boundaries and the development of shared boundary treaties. Council decided that options should be considered in future in the context of the combined SPC/SOPAC legal services.

114. Council recommended that OIP data and information management efforts receive adequate recurrent resourcing to facilitate the appropriate management of the significant regional data holdings and archived materials.

115. Council reaffirmed its support for adequate resourcing of regional baseline and monitoring efforts to improve the understanding of impacts from climate variability, disasters and to provide empirical guidance for adaptation, response and development.

116. Council noted the potential risk posed by wave climate change and variability to the plans embodied in the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, the Pacific Plan, and the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy in order to ensure the sustainable development, management and conservation of our coastal areas.

117. Council supported the need for a comprehensive assessment of wave climate change and variability in the Pacific as such an assessment will provide the basis for assisting the region in the formulation of adaptation and disaster risk reduction responses needed to sustain coastal areas and their contribution to economic growth, food security and livelihoods in the face of climate change and variability.

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

118. Chair invited Dr Gary Greene, Chair of PMEG and Acting Chair of the OIP PMEG to present the findings of the OIP PMEG assessment. Dr Greene referred Council to detailed findings which are in the OIP PMEG Report (AS39/9.3). Building on the discussion already undertaken on OIP's maritime boundaries work, he advised that PMEG considered it appropriate that OIP recruit in-house legal expertise. He raised a number of issues on which to commend the OIP, including the increased number of formal publications from the team and congratulated the OIP Manager on his involvement with the AR5 IPCC process as a Lead Author on the Small Islands Chapter. PMEG also commended OIP on its continuing commitment to, and the progress of, the GeoNetWork.

119. In presenting the OIP PMEG report, Dr Greene noted the wide diversity of work in the Programme. He outlined the process for assessing the OIP and acknowledged that the sharing of PMEG assessments with the Programme staff might be improved in the future. He directed Council to the recommendations of the OIP PMEG that included the need for additional personnel and related procedures, the need for a corporate-

level planner to prepare funding proposals and the potential value of purchasing of a dedicated vessel for multibeam work. Concerning Marshall Islands statement about PMEG noting its ongoing request for associated costs to be reported with programme activities, he observed that PMEG had conventionally addressed this in its assessments in the past, although not necessarily broken down programme by programme. He observed that undertaking this detailed level of examination of programmes would take more time. PMEG Chair reminded Council that the PMEG is a voluntary team of technical people who are familiar with SOPAC science but who are not professional assessors. He stated that if Council wants a comprehensive review of the technical programmes in the future, Council would need to pay professional evaluators to do this.

120. New Caledonia restated to Council that the purpose of the decision in 2003 to establish the PMEG was to review the relevance and content of technical work and observed again the predominant focus of the current OIP PMEG on personnel issues.

121. Australia observed that SOPAC had undergone an extraordinary year and that this might explain the number of personnel issues raised by the PMEG report. Recognising that 2011 would involve less disruption for staff, he offered that 2011 might be good time for the PMEG process to be able to return to a focus on technical programme issues.

122. On the same issues, the SOPAC Director advised that he was also surprised at the lack of technical critique in the PMEG report but agreed nevertheless that SOPAC is going through an extraordinary period so it was not altogether surprising that human resource issues would come to the fore. He suggested that the 2-day PMEG process might need to be revisited in the future and also – if Council needed – he would address PMEG cross-cutting issues on human resource management once the findings of all three technical programme PMEG assessments had been delivered to Council.

123. On the matter of expenditure detail in technical programmes reporting raised by Marshall Islands, the SOPAC Director referred Council to Item 15.4 on the 2011 Work Plan and Budget to be discussed by Council later in the meeting.– where each of the programme managers would at that point be invited to present on their expenditure and activities. In the interim, he drew the attention of Council to Table 5 of the proposed 2011 SOPAC Work Plan and Budget which itemized planned expenses for 2011 by programme and by theme. He suggested that if Council still required more detail perhaps

a discussion on what other information was required would assist the Secretariat to embed the necessary information in future presentations.

124. Concerning New Zealand's comment on outputs, the Director noted that there was an intention to make a clearer link to the Strategic Plan, and he promised that following year's reporting would be more specific. He also reminded Council that outputs would be articulated in the annual work plans and budget.

125. The Director drew the attention of Council to the full scope of OIP recommendations, noting that the provision by Council of sufficient financial resources would be critical to deliver on the recommendations. He also referred Council to paper AS39/9.2 Supplementary observing that this paper recommended the implementation of a regional study on the impact of wave climate change in coastal areas and that the generation of this paper had increased the number of recommendations for Council to consider under OIP.

126. Council noted the following recommendations out of the OIP PMEG, and that they were predominantly human resource and/or administration related, and referred them to the Director for follow up action as required:

- i. Given the upheaval caused by the pay harmonisation (banding) process the agency should consider reviewing appointment bands and revising them upwards wherever appropriate.
- ii. The existing SPC human resource unit should be expanded to handle the extra load of additional SOPAC staff to provide much needed services to the staff in relevant areas including staff pay, level advancement, leave, personal development and performance agreements.
- iii. SOPAC should appoint a Safety Officer and should take steps to ensure that adequate first-aid and small boat training was carried out and that essential safety equipment was available. A risk analysis and emergency contact list should be completed prior to every field operation.
- iv. Management should consider explaining to staff why the new arrangements are necessary for obtaining permission to travel (e.g. to avoid embarrassment of countries being unaware of SOPAC staff being in-country).
- v. SOPAC should consider hiring a specialist proposal-drafting person who could monitor opportunities for proposals and assist with preparing the generic content required in

many proposals, prior to seeking input from specialists whose input may be needed only for particular aspects.

- vi. SPC/SOPAC investigate the cost effectiveness of purchasing its own vessel as the combined activities of the new agency may justify such an acquisition.
- vii. PMEG recommends that SOPAC seeks additional funding to support the currently unfunded eCS component of the maritime boundaries work.

127. The OIP PMEG Report is appended in full in Appendix 6.

10. WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME (WSP)

128. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 10 and the Programme Manager presented papers AS39/10.1 and AS39/10.2 to Council.

10.1 Report from the Water and Sanitation Programme

129. The WSP Manager highlighted the key WSP activities including key issues and constraints, reflecting on the Pacific's achievement against the MDG's, the transition of the former Community Lifelines Programme to the WSP with the associated staffing structure. The regional frameworks guiding the WSP work and WSP programme components were also highlighted as due for updating.

130. Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat for the report on the Water Resources Component of WSP noting the funding shortfall for future work on hydrological assessment and monitoring. The representative reminded Council to bear in mind the critical importance of data in the development of national policies and called for an indication of support to this work in the future from partners in light of the fact that the Marshall Islands are in the process of developing their national water and sanitation policies.

131. The Cook Islands also registered their appreciation of the work being done by the WSP which touched on several programmes in the Cook Islands as well as future work already mobilised. He noted the shortfall in funding for future projects and stated their commitment to seeing how this could be bridged in the future. The Cook Islands further thanked the WSP for the lunch hour briefing provided earlier in the week giving a country-by-country account of

progress with the IWRM Planning Programme recognising the importance of policy frameworks. He informed Council that through the IWRM Planning Programme the Cook Islands had been able to secure a policy officer at the national level to move the IWRM accountabilities forward.

132. The WSP Manager responded to the comments by the Marshall Islands recognising that the regional frameworks guiding the work being done by the WSP were outdated with it now being timely to bring partners and donors together to develop a strategy that is nationally owned and driven accounting for sustainable financing mechanisms whilst also linking into a review of these regional frameworks.

133. Following the presentation on the Water Services Component, the Marshall Islands expressed appreciation for the support received in this area particularly on the Water Quality and Water Demand Programmes and emphasised the value of long term on-going support from the WSP. She further illustrated an example of this support contributing towards community-based water quality activities being carried out on Ebeye on their own accord. The Marshall Islands highlighted this for the benefit of the partners with a view to seeking support for up-scaling and further funding in this area.

134. Under Water Governance highlights, the Cook Islands expressed their appreciation to the donors for the support given to the WSP on behalf of the countries in addition to sentiments raised previously on governance related issues themselves.

135. The WSP Manager further elaborated for Council responses of the WSP to the recommendations raised by the 2009 PMEG review over the year which primarily pointed out the need for a better strategic and programmatic approach for water and sanitation.

136. Council accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Water and Sanitation Programme, further noting the measures taken to address issues arising from the 2009 PMEG Report.

10.2 Issues and Opportunities of the Water and Sanitation Programme

137. The WSP Manager presented paper AS39/10.2 highlighting the issues of the declaration of access to water and sanitation as a human right; the need to revise the regional strategy for water and sanitation; the undertaking of a cooperative water audit; and the

benchmarking exercise for water utilities in the Pacific.

138. Niue advised Council of the significant benefits received from the WSP of SOPAC and also from other donor agencies reinforcing their commitment to taking their national water and sanitation programme forward. He advised that in addition to this they have a very dedicated national water and sanitation team and have endeavoured to secure funding through the EU for a sanitation and hygiene initiative whilst also actively seeking other donors and partners to look at other issues such as alternative sources of water including rainwater harvesting.

139. New Caledonia also congratulated the work accomplished through the last reporting period of the WSP despite the difficult circumstances currently being experienced by the Secretariat both financially and institutionally as part of the RIF process. He echoed the sentiments of the WSP Manager on the issue of water and sanitation being recognised as a human right and was pleased with its transition from the previous Community Lifelines Programme structure (that included energy and ICT) to the current WSP structure. He registered keen interest in the HYCOS Project specifically given the complementary issues on hydrological data and its use in managing the issue of mining, given that New Caledonia is the fifth largest nickel producer in the world.

140. New Caledonia referenced the EU C Envelope OCT work and thanked the WSP Manager and the WSP for supporting New Caledonia to secure the regional OCT funds earmarked for water sector interventions. He also thanked Dr Jan Gregor (representing the WSP PMEG) for the 2010 review and commended the report as a good reflection of the work done.

141. The Cook Islands expressed sincere appreciation for the work that the WSP team had undertaken and repeated earlier sentiments on the need for a new Pacific regional water and sanitation strategy and the consultation processes to produce it. He also highlighted the upcoming IWRM Regional Steering Committee meeting to be held in the Cook Islands in 2011 and invited attendance of the IWRM focal points and national project managers of the IWRM demonstration projects. Furthermore, Cook Islands suggested that Council be alerted to the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) review commissioned by the EU on the IWRM Planning Programme and its recent positive outcome with respect to the SOPAC WSP.

142. The WSP Manager responded by informing Council that the positive results of the ROM review (a significant improvement from the 2009 review)

are as follows: Relevance and quality of design – B; Efficiency of implementation to date – B; Effectiveness to date – B; Impact Prospects – B; and Potential Sustainability – C.

143. In light of the plans being presented to Council on the need for a new regional strategy on water and sanitation, the Marshall Islands mentioned the national efforts underway in the Marshall Islands linking in to the region initiative through the national consultation processes. The representative requested the Secretariat for support and assistance in preparing and engaging in the national process.

144. The Director suggested that the Drafting Committee could look at the language of the relevant recommendation on this issue and amend it accordingly to reflect that the WSP would be willing to do so.

145. The WSP Manager further informed Council that whilst attending the ADB Water Week in Manila from 11 to 15 October 2010 along with several other Pacific participants, the regional initiative was discussed with the ADB who advised that at this preliminary stage they were keen to support the process to undertake national consultations and link them to a new regional strategy. He advised Council however, that discussions were preliminary, and that the WSP would need to put effort towards more detailed planning with partners confirming support and Members would be advised in due course. He also advised that support from Council at this meeting for the regional review initiative would assist in moving it forward.

Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, a Human Right

146. Council noted the recent adoption of the United Nations Resolution 64/292 (July 2010) which declares the access to safe drinking water and sanitation as fundamental human right and the associated responsibilities from governments.

147. Council recognised the fundamental importance of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and acknowledges the region's challenges in achieving the MDG Targets on Water and Sanitation by 2015.

148. Council recommended that the new division seek new and additional resources as a matter of priority to support Member countries with the fulfilment of these obligations including support for institutional arrangements required to fulfil the duties to respect, protect and fulfil in relation

to the human right of access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The need for a New Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Strategy

149. Council noted that the Pacific regional strategy for sustainable water management adopted under the Pacific Plan was developed eight years ago and has been guiding implementation of regional support programmes to various degrees of success.

150. Council noted the active participation of several Pacific Leaders at the 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit, which resulted in their high-level commitment to water and sanitation. Council encouraged the new division to provide support to Members in their preparations for and participation in the 2nd Asia Pacific Water Summit to be held in Bangkok 2012, including providing assistance to secure the necessary financial resources.

151. Council noted the active involvement of Member countries in the Asia Pacific Water Forum and associated developments such as the Ministers for Water Security Initiative and the coordinating role of SOPAC for the Oceania sub-region.

152. Council recommended that the new division undertake a consultative process towards the revision of the regional strategy and action plan to address the urgent issues pertaining to the sustainable management of water resources and delivery of water and sanitation services. Council further recommended the revised framework be considered at a meeting convened at ministerial level and the outcome submitted to the 2012 Forum. Council urged the Secretariat to secure funding for the review process and associated meetings.

Pacific Cooperative Performance Audit on Access to Safe Drinking Water

153. Council recommended that the new division provide support to Supreme Audit Institutions and relevant water sector stakeholders in member countries to improve the effectiveness of management in the provision of access to safe drinking water.

Benchmarking of Water Utilities

154. Council recommended that the new division provide support to Pacific island water

and wastewater utilities participating in the benchmarking exercise and actively collaborate with PWWA to help improve the performance of utilities.

10.3 Report from Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group (WSP)

155. The Chair invited Dr Jan Gregor, PMEG reviewer for the WSP to present the outcomes of their review. Council was referred to the review report (AS39/10.3) for a full appreciation of the outcomes of the exercise. WSP PMEG recognised the drive and dedication of WSP staff to deliver support to the region and seeing the difference it makes. She reported that the impacts of projects commenced some years ago were now becoming visible in the WSP along with a maturing of the staff in terms of expertise and inter-connectedness of projects.

156. On the quality and appropriateness of the WSP interventions, she made the following observations:

- i. That Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Drinking Water Safety Planning (DWSP) were internationally acknowledged approaches and considered as the way forward in dealing with complex issues not only related to hard-core science. The approaches had been adapted in ways appropriate for the Pacific, considering small islands, governance systems and ways of working.
- ii. That Water Demand Management (WDM), Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) and HYCOS were tools that support the IWRM and DWSP approaches, at the heart of which was the importance of good quality and adequate quantity of data on which to base decisions.
- iii. The dialogue mode of working with, rather than working for, was absolutely appropriate, and was especially important where ownership of the need for a sustainable solution lies with the country.
- iv. The introduction of new tools like cost-benefit analyses was valuing adding to the work of the WSP.
- v. That at present public health links to water resources management was short on expertise in the WSP but this would potentially be available through SPC in the future.
- vi. The WSP team recognised the need for flexible capacity building approaches, purpose designed, using a mix of consultants, short visits, on-going mentoring and regional training

and support, but within the constraints of project budgets.

- vii. The publications were of high quality, often in the form of a tool kit or practical guides.
- viii. That the Pacific was represented and respected on the international stage was attributed to the dedication of the staff and its leadership.

157. In moving forward, WSP PMEG drew Council's attention to the fact that although project funding for several projects in the WSP was coming to an end, there was still a need to provide these services and the WSP approach was to allow for more demand-driven support to Members, one-on-one, as and when the need arose – to ensure country ownership of the issues, solutions and progress. The end to funding also allowed for a consolidation period following an intense period of introducing new ideas and tools.

158. Dr Gregor further explained that in the short term, in some of the parts of the WSP where funding has ceased, the country-driven demand services may be somewhat reactive, but in the near future this will emerge into a responsive and programmed service if WSP can develop a joint strategy with each country closely linked to an existing or emerging national water strategy. She reinforced the statement previously mentioned under Item 9.2 by the Programme Manager that WSP's regionally-focused priorities had been guided by the three high-level endorsed regional strategies – but that these were aging and in need of review. The review activity was captured in the WSP 2011 work plan and would be important to the emerging WSP strategy.

159. Finally, WSP PMEG drew Council's attention to the last section of the WSP PMEG Report (AS39/10.3), and in particular to one of the responses to a questionnaire sent out to WSP country contacts which reflected the general sentiment of the responses received:

“This area will continue to be a very important area of need for [...], we thank SOPAC for the many years of assistance and look forward to continuing the partnership and improving water and sanitation at the country level.”

160. Council thanked WSP PMEG for the comprehensive report and acknowledged the highlights, achievements, key challenges, recommendations with respect to addressing the WSP needs of island Members and the country feedback. A copy of the PMEG report for WSP is part of the Proceedings Volume in Appendix 6.

11. DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME (DRP)

161. The Manager thanked Council for the opportunity to report on the work the Disaster Reduction Programme (DRP) undertook since the 38th Session and expressed his appreciation to the DRP staff for the implementation of the work programme. He referred to the papers before Council on the DRP annual report (AS39/11.1), DRP Issues and Opportunities (AS39/11.2) and PMEG Report for the Disaster Reduction Programme (AS39/11.3).

11.1 Report from the Disaster Reduction Programme

162. The DRP Manager presented a summary of highlights in terms of the activities of each of the functional 'teams' in DRP. Activities highlighted included the following:

- i. Ongoing implementation of the EU EDF 9 C Envelope Project supporting disaster risk reduction in three French Pacific territories and Pitcairn.
- ii. Development of the first Joint Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation National Action Plan in the Pacific by the Tongan Government.
- iii. The disaster risk reduction projects portal for the Asia-Pacific region launched in August 2010.
- iv. The 3-year extension to The Asia Foundation (TAF)/Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme.
- v. The new disaster risk management (DRM) governance arrangements being developed for Tuvalu and Kiribati.
- vi. The mid-term review of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action.

163. The DRP Manager took the opportunity to mention that there had been a side event earlier in the day for the benefit of the eight-country beneficiaries of the Disaster Risk Reduction in Eight Pacific ACP States (B-Envelope) Project. The countries represented at the side event – Papua New Guinea, Palau, Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands – had expressed gratitude for the support under the Project and reaffirmed the importance of the interventions in providing access to safe drinking water and in building resilience in the area of emergency communications and

emergency operation centres. They also indicated the need to address the issue of sustainability and emphasised that assistance was required to help build capacity and to advocate for increased resources from the relevant governments.

164. The representatives of the eight target countries of the B-Envelope Project expressed their appreciation to the European Union for making resources available to address priorities under the Project. In relation to the issue of sustainability the European Union and the Secretariat had assured target countries that implementation would not be affected by the shift of contractual responsibilities to the SPC from 2011.

165. The Project Manager for the EU-funded EDF 9 C Envelope Project (also known as the OCT Project) was invited to present a progress report to Council and stated specific examples of country engagements in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and Pitcairn Islands. The OCT Project Manager also stated that the goal of the Project was to reduce risk of natural disaster and water-borne epidemics/diseases. National interventions coupled with regional action was advocated to promote exchange and the integration of OCTs into regional networks and coordination mechanisms in the Pacific. She noted that by the end of the OCT Project (December 2012) target communities would have more understanding of hazards and risks; strengthened measures in place to reduce risk; besides an improvement of OCT collaboration with other Pacific island countries.

166. French Polynesia thanked the DRP for the presentation and acknowledged the work undertaken in PICTs and thanked the EU for providing funding to realise the EDF 9 C Envelope Project.

167. New Caledonia also thanked the EU for the financial support to the EDF 9 C Envelope Project besides paying tribute to the work of the Project Manager.

168. Australia congratulated DRP and in particular the Project Manager of the OCT Project for the work undertaken and noted that there was further interest in data selection and risk modelling in the PICTs and enquired as to the extent to which SOPAC staff were involved in the activities.

169. The OCT Project Manager stated that staff of SOPAC OIP would be involved in the acquisition of topographic and bathymetric data and were leading the modelling and development of maps. Staff of the WSP would also be involved.

170. Council accepted the report on the 2010 Work Plan for the Disaster Reduction (formerly Community Risk) Programme, and noted the measures taken to address issues arising from the 2009 PMEG Report.

11.2 Issues and Opportunities for the Disaster Reduction Programme

171. The DRP Manager raised the issue of the sustainability of support for the EU EDF 9 B and C Envelope projects. The extent and depth of support to the countries and territories in the areas under the coverage of these projects needed to be maintained beyond the life of the projects.

172. The DRP Manager briefed Council on the following emerging opportunities for 2011:

- i. Integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) mainstreaming initiatives. With the need for improved coordination and more joint programming, the potential was emerging for the integration of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Climate Change Round Table.
- ii. The Pacific Regional Desinventar Project could be used as a mechanism to progress 'pilots' undertaken for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in the last two years.
- iii. TAF/OFDA support for the SOPAC leadership role of for DRM training.
- iv. Early Warning System support from UNESCO/IOC in terms of a two-year specialist position based in DRP to support the Pacific Tsunami Warning System.
- v. Ongoing World Bank (WB) support for risk exposure databases.
- vi. WB capacity support for the DRP in terms of an in-house position at the DRP.
- vii. WB Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) support under the EU EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility with a focus on regional and sub-regional support; national disaster risk reduction investments; and rapid response to disasters in capacity building e.g. through post-disaster needs assessments.
- viii. The EU EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility for which a 5-year preliminary plan was due by 12 November 2010 for submission to the ACP Secretariat in Brussels.

173. Samoa thanked the DRP Manager for the excellent presentation that generally reflected the extent of what had been carried out at the national level. For the record, Samoa had undertaken a lot of work in raising the profile and mainstreaming of DRM in national development planning processes. This was partly attributed to the high-level support and range of advocacy activities already undertaken at national level. The advocacy has translated into Samoa getting disaster risk management integrated into the National Development Plan, certain sector plans and the corporate plans of line ministries. There had also been allocations of national funding to budgets of line ministries, evidence of ownership and the importance the Samoan Government places on disaster risk reduction and disaster management.

174. Samoa wished to provide a few amendments to the list of activities funded by SOPAC to the Samoa Disaster Management Office through DRP under Phase 1 "Implementation Letter of Agreement". Samoa also had amendments to the "Results to date" section of Annex 2 of paper AS39/11.1.

175. Samoa registered interest on being part of the Pacific Regional Desinventar Project and stressed the importance of exploring the possibility of the formulation of a group of seismologists and geophysicists from member countries for the exchange of valuable information and sharing data. This would allow dialogue on experiences, best practices and lessons learnt on seismic related initiatives and issues.

176. Australia thanked the DRP Manager for the comprehensive report on the Programme and expressed an interest in seeing emphasis increased on disaster risk modelling with respect to the socio-economic impacts of disaster risk.

177. Tonga expressed their appreciation for DRP and SOPAC support and highlighted that the development of the Tonga joint Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan was made possible through political level commitment and the Tongan Government's decision to mainstream climate change.

178. Council directed the new division to (i) ensure the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management continued in 2011, and (ii) work closely with SPREP to ensure the need to link DRM more closely with CCA at national level was supported through the closer functioning of the Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for DRM.

179. Council noted that the resource support provided under the existing EU EDF 9 B and C Envelope Projects targeting disaster reduction would conclude in 2011-12, and primarily supports national activities. Council strongly encouraged all Members to secure similar funding modalities in order for sustained long-term support from the SOPAC work programme.

180. Council acknowledged with appreciation the new 3-year extension of the TAF/OFDA support to the DRP; commended the new opportunities identified to enhance current DRM initiatives and encouraged donors and partners to provide resources accordingly. These include opportunities with the World Bank Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), the EU EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and emerging bilateral initiatives between the Secretariat and the UNESCO Apia Office and the World Bank (Sydney Office).

11.3 Report of the Programme Review Monitoring and Evaluation Group on DRP

181. The Chair of DRP PMEG, Doug Ramsay, presented the report on behalf of the team. He noted that the review focused on four issues: (i) key achievements and highlights; (ii) programme recommendations; (iii) challenges and opportunities; and (iv) new initiatives, with special focus on the perspective of programme staff on the integration with SPC and the associated opportunities and challenges.

182. The DRP PMEG Chair noted the following key achievements of the programme:

- i. Continued strong leadership and effective management by DRP Manager.
- ii. The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management for policy guidance, partnership building and monitoring had benefitted from having a staff member dedicated to coordinate and develop platform activities.
- iii. Mainstreaming DRM into national planning and developing of national action plans (NAPs).
- iv. PMEG recognised the considerable and effective contribution made in a very short space of time, by the new Project Manager of the OCT Project to support disaster risk reduction in Pacific EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).
- v. Economic analyses of disaster impacts and mitigation measures for evidence-based

decision making has been further strengthened by the recruitment of an economic adviser to boost the policy and planning function of the DRP.

- vi. The efforts of the Risk Reduction Team (of the DRP) at ensuring that the building and infrastructure data collection exercise in fourteen Pacific Island Countries as part of the development of the ADB-funded risk exposure database remained on track. Data collection has resulted in detailed building information collected for almost 100,000 buildings across the region and represents the largest datasets of its type in the Pacific region.
- vii. The TAF/OFDA Regional Training Programme established linkages with other regional training providers, specifically on the development of a new graduate certificate programme in DRM with the College of Medicine of the Fiji National University to commence in 2011.
- viii. The Training and Capacity Building Team provided substantial support to improve disaster response coordination during the past year through developing standard operating procedures to support national and district emergency operation centres, a tsunami response plan, and in conjunction with other Pacific Platform partners, an inter-agency disaster simulation exercise which involved participants from nine Pacific island countries.
- ix. The DRP team's recognition of a gap in services provided to island Members, and accordingly establishing a new position to coordinate community-level DRM activities in response to country-driven demand. Requests from countries for support at the community level, in particular for coordination of actors and overall guidelines, validate the relevance of this new position.
- x. DRP improved dissemination of information on both DRP and Pacific Platform activities through the relaunch of the Snapshots and Footprints newsletters as well as being represented in the newly established media/communications team to provide timely press releases.
- xi. The Pacific Disaster Net representing an extensive repository of Pacific-related disaster risk management information.

183. PMEG made recommendations for the DRP relating to: a) the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management; b) the integration of Disaster Risk

Management and Climate Change Adaptation; c) NAP implementation; d) the EU EDF B-Envelope Multi-Country Project; e) the TAF/OFDA Regional Training Programme; f) the Pacific Disaster Net; g) the ADB/World Bank Risk Exposure Database; and h) monitoring progress and reporting results.

184. PMEG invited Council to note the following special challenges and opportunities:

- i. Realising opportunities associated with the integration with SPC.
- ii. Donor coordination/proposal writing/contract negotiation support placed substantial demands and pressures on programme management and key senior staff, and consumed a considerable amount of time at the expense of project delivery and programme management.
- iii. Recent experiences around the initiation of new projects, including the critical recruitment and staffing dimension, needed to be reviewed within the Executive Management Team.
- iv. Managing staff workload raised as an issue for SOPAC on an annual basis with policies not being in place or not being applied proactively enough organisation-wide to ensure the well-being of staff before problems do occur.
- v. The expansion of the DRP team over the last year had placed considerable additional burden on the current level of administrative support.
- vi. Staff professional development.

185. Council thanked PMEG for the comprehensive report and acknowledged the highlights for 2010, issues and opportunities presented and endorsed the recommendations. A copy of the DRP PMEG report is part of the Proceedings volume in Appendix 6.

12. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

186. The Director presented the Agenda Item 12 on behalf of the staff involved in these programmes highlighting that they were cross cutting all of the technical work programmes and supporting executive management.

12.1 Natural Resource Economics

187. Director presented paper AS39/12.1 and advised Council about work by the group that was not specific to any one of the technical programme areas.

188. The Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network (PREEN) was co-founded with the SPC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). He mentioned an upcoming workshop related to the PREEN to be convened in New Caledonia the following month. Whilst the energy accountabilities of SOPAC had shifted to the SPC, NRE continue to work closely with the SPC energy team on initiatives such as training on renewable energy and energy labelling.

189. New Caledonia was supportive of Technical Support Services and said that the resource economics group in particular would come in very useful and the number of issues that they would have to deal with would become numerous. He called for the best possible synergy in the merge with SPC as he expected work load to expand greatly.

190. Council noted the excellent work of the Natural Resource Economics team reported on under the technical work programmes and encouraged the strengthening of the PREEN Network and the work with other divisions of SPC.

12.2 GIS and Remote Sensing

191. Director presented paper AS39/12.2 and recalled that in his opening comments and tribute to the late, Phillip Muller, that the former Director of SOPAC had singled out the GIS and Remote Sensing utility to be one that would undergo dramatic growth over the years. The service has grown within the Secretariat to where SOPAC was now possibly one of the leading organisations in the region to use, develop, promote and train in the area of GIS and Remote Sensing.

192. The strength of SOPAC in GIS and Remote Sensing is evident in the continued and frequent requests to SOPAC for assistance in using, as well as training in basic GIS skills.

193. In other CROP agencies and at the national level, GIS and Remote Sensing has become a versatile tool in decision making. Nonetheless in the context of staying at the cutting edge of technology, the SOPAC unit is also involved in method development work to support countries as well as Secretariat work.

194. Key areas of work were highlighted included the following:

- i. Data Service (in terms of image data purchase, image data pre-processing, Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM) generation and shallow water bathymetry, vegetation mapping)

and monitoring and the establishment of Reference Image Points (RIP))

- ii. Method Development and Adaptation
- iii. System Installation and Maintenance
- iv. GIS and Remote Sensing and GPS Training
- v. Information and Networking

195. In the area of vegetation mapping and monitoring, the Secretariat was already working with the SPC and the Fiji Forestry Division.

196. For Reference Image Points, SOPAC was involved with the GPS surveys for the rectification of satellite images for up to a metre accuracy, sometimes even sub-metre accuracy.

197. Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat for assistance in the past to build the GIS and Remote Sensing capacity in the region. The representative recognised that the GIS and Remote Sensing tool was under utilised and could potentially be used to visualise for policy makers areas of interest. Marshall Islands sought synergies with its own Sustainable Land Management Project, with particular interest in vegetation mapping, as well as the Micronesia Challenge. The representative said that a request would be forthcoming to the Secretariat for further assistance in the areas mentioned.

198. Cook Islands relayed their ongoing support for the GIS and Remote Sensing work undertaken by the Secretariat supported all the recommendations of the paper. Cook Islands welcomed the vegetation mapping work as it would support Members in their bid to adapt to climate change. Being part of the ministry responsible for implementing the Pacific Action on Climate Change, Integrated Water Resource Management and Sustainable Land Management, the representative relied on GIS to creatively present information to the higher levels of authority and was expecting to request assistance along those lines soon.

199. Niue echoed the support expressed for the GIS and Remote Sensing work and was in the process of completing the cabling of the telecom optical system in the country. Niue noted that its MapServer was not operational and requested SOPAC assistance for reviving the MapServer and other IT infrastructure.

200. Council acknowledged the highly specialised technical support services provided by the GIS and Remote Sensing team at the Secretariat and urged the Secretariat to continue to work with the donor partners to ensure this work continued as it was vital to supplement the lack of capacity at national level.

201. Council reaffirmed that spatial presentation of data through GIS and Remote Sensing modalities was key to improving information and knowledge for decision-making in national planning within government, utility corporations and other organisations.

12.3 Technical Equipment and Services

202. The Director presented Paper AS 39/12.3 and clarified that whilst this was a cross-cutting service, the major portion of its work was in supporting the marine survey related elements of the work of the Ocean and Islands Programme; and the unit was managed within the OIP. Nevertheless, he explained that outside of the OIP work, the unit supported a lot of GIS work such as surveys for Reference Image Points and GPS surveys to correctly reference positions of islands with respect to their locations on the surface of the earth.

203. New Caledonia thanked the Director for the presentation on this area and acknowledged that the strength of the organisation was in the strength in this particular team in working with countries in the field. He sought clarification on where the work undertaken by Robert Smith was reported as the paper tabled did not include any of it.

204. The Director responded that the paper in this Item highlighted the work undertaken outside of the OIP by the Technical Equipment and Services; and Robert Smith's work had been reported by the OIP Manager the previous day.

205. Fiji also wished to register appreciation for the work done for Fiji during the year.

206. French Polynesia recognised and valued the work being done in this area and enquired as to the number of staff working in the unit. The OIP Manager responded that the technical support workshop had five staff; and the Director mentioned in closing that the GIS and Remote Sensing section also had five staff but there were also other staff involved in GIS projects working directly in each of the technical programmes.

207. Council noted the work carried out by the Technical Equipment and Services.

12.4 Data Management

208. Director presented paper AS39/12.4, referring to the programme of work across the Secretariat with respect to data management in general. He made specific reference to the compilation of images, maps and charts currently

being carried out at the Secretariat with a view to making them more accessible.

209. The Director explained that there was recognition at corporate level that the collection of images, charts and maps produced over nearly 40 years of the organisation needed to be categorised and captured for better security and accessibility. To this end a central Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) had been established to register all documents and images captured from across the programmes of work of the Secretariat to collate a SOPAC compendium of work for each Member. The Director assured Council that the central EDMS was designed to 'interrogate' all other existing databases and did not interfere with the integrity of the original datasets or other data management systems, for example, Geonetwork, that is maintained by the Ocean and Islands Programme.

210. The Director further assured Council that the Secretariat recognised certain confidentiality clauses assigned to various datasets such as the licensing of satellite images from various companies. The Secretariat recognised the need to collate all the information and converting from various historical forms to digital form to ensure better accessibility and security. The exercise was time consuming due to the volume of material to process, quite apart from the due care because of the levels of confidentiality assigned to different items in the collection.

211. The Director introduced the web portal that was launched in July 2010 that was an indication of the success of, and advances in, the exercise to date. He reported that between June and September the number of hits on the SOPAC website in Fiji alone increased from 53,000 to 104,000 indicating the increase in interest both internally and externally to access the SOPAC portal. Kiribati hits on the web portal for the same period, the Director noted, increased from 900 to 3600. This was taken to mean that the website was working in a more user-friendly manner. A part of the new website deals with the latest press releases from the Secretariat as well as press clippings from other media around the region on SOPAC work. In the period August to September 2010, the increase of external media coverage of SOPAC probably indicated the greater level of awareness of the work of the Secretariat shown through the web portal.

212. The Director highlighted the mixed success of the work related to the MapServers in the region, and acknowledged that a lot of countries were not using their MapServers but at the same time, there were some that had operational MapServers and were using them successfully.

213. Papua New Guinea informed Council that its MapServer was operational.

214. Samoa fully supported the compendium project and looked forward to receiving the datasets for the last 30 plus years, and also welcomed the new-look SOPAC website.

215. Vanuatu stated that its MapServer was not operational and requested the Secretariat to assist them in reviving it.

216. Chair informed Council that the SOPAC Compendium Project was going to be presented to Members in greater detail at the lunch break.

217. Council noted the excellent work being done in respect of data management and its critical role to protecting intellectual property of Members and ensuring it became more widely available and used at the national level. In this respect Council urged the Secretariat to secure new funding and re-establish the national MapServers in order to facilitate access to information stored in spatial GIS databases that can be used for national planning purposes.

12.5 Publications and Library

218. The SOPAC Compendium Project being undertaken by the Data Management and the Publications and Library teams was introduced to Members at the lunch break and the ensuing discussion with Members is summarised under Item 12.5.

219. The Director mentioned that with the Compendium, the key was to make sure that information was readily available through a secure and easily accessible database for all.

220. Tonga and the Cook Islands acknowledged and appreciated the immense effort required to pull together the SOPAC Compendium.

221. Niue thanked the Secretariat for the work carried out on the Compendium, which he stated contributed to the safekeeping of data and information for years to come and acknowledged that some of this data may not be in the countries themselves. He also requested that the MapServer project be resurrected.

222. Fiji and Papua New Guinea echoed the sentiments of other Members on the Compendium and registered appreciation for the immense amount of work involved. Both enquired after the question of confidentiality and security of information with respect to who made the decision on who was able to access the data now and going forward into SPC.

223. The Director stated that the Secretariat recognised that in making the information more widely available that there were issues of confidentiality and licensing. He also noted for Council that most SOPAC documents are public as can be seen in the Virtual Library; however, on the issue of satellite imagery specifically, as soon as imagery was purchased and there was value added to it through work of the Secretariat, it became Member country and SOPAC data. He further added that it was the area of expertise of the SOPAC GIS and Remote Sensing section to take the raw products and value add to it in various ways.

224. In response to the enquiry on access to restricted information, the Director assured Council that it was he (as Director) that would be responsible for handling such issues by taking a precautionary approach and barring any access if there was uncertainty as to the confidentiality of the information or data. The current procedure was that the Director would discuss the matter with the Member country concerned before responding to those applying for access. He noted that the intention was to inform people of the type of work SOPAC did whilst allowing better access by Member countries to their own datasets. The Director advised Council that he was currently working with the Director General of the SPC to outline a policy on the way forward in this area.

225. Australia commended the Secretariat on the initiative particularly in the time of transitioning into SPC and that it was a step toward addressing intellectual property issues. The representative added that the completed exercise would be the envy of similar technical organisations.

226. SPREP congratulated SOPAC on the undertaking particularly noting that this was done with existing resources. She noted ongoing commentary on the lack of data from countries however this project illustrated that there was in fact data in some areas spanning forty years. She stated that Member countries would not be the only beneficiaries, but CROP would also benefit. With respect to the restricted access material, she suggested that a list of what was actually in the collections for information only would be useful; but recognising that access to some of the sensitive data would be subject to the approval of the Director of SOPAC (in conjunction with Members).

227. The Director closed discussions on the issue of data security – stating that it was very much on the radar and work was in progress to address that aspect. He also stated that the exercise may take several more months to complete and thanked the Compendium team for their presentation to Council.

228. Council acknowledged the significant technical support service role provided by the Publications and Library staff for SOPAC and agreed it be retained in the new Division as a key support service as reflected in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015. It must remain at the Mead Road campus in order to be most supportive and effective.

229. Council strongly supported the Compendium Special Project, and recognised the e-based outcomes for each island Member provides the record of the intellectual property gathered and looked after by SOPAC “The Commission” over the past nearly 40 years for some Members. This Project must be completed recognising that this is a rare opportunity that must be captured.

230. Council recognised that the importance of issues of data security and data copyright linked to the desire to improve data access and awareness to the public at large. Council urged the Director to develop an appropriate policy in consultation with Members and the Director General of SPC, and in developing this policy take into account the current procedure in regard to working with Members for permission and agreement.

13. 2011- 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN³

231. Chair invited SOPAC to present the proposed 2011-2015 SOPAC Strategic Plan. The Director referred Council to paper AS39/13 which outlined the Plan, noting that it had been developed in response to a request from Council in 2009 and also because the last SOPAC strategic plan expired in December 2009.

232. The Director indicated to Council that the proposed plan was designed with the intent of guiding the progression across the bridge from SOPAC ‘the Commission’ to SOPAC the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC. He drew the attention of Council to the proposed three main technical programmes of the new division (Oceans and Islands, Water and Sanitation and Disaster Reduction) as well as the technical support services. He flagged that while the Corporate Services of SOPAC had been included in the Strategic Plan, it was possible that this team might ultimately be incorporated into the broader Corporate Services of SPC-Suva. He also mentioned the higher-order key results areas (KRAs) approach that provided for linkages to the work of various other stakeholders including other divisions within the SPC. Council was invited to consider the Strategic Plan; identify

³ Agenda Item 13 was taken after Agenda Item 6 on day one of the Council meeting

any necessary changes and support it to enable its implementation from 1 January 2011.

233. Cook Islands expressed his support for the content of the proposed 2011-2015 SOPAC Strategic Plan, noting that he had been involved in developing it. He also noted that Members had already contributed some language to the Plan prior to the meeting and he endorsed it as it stood.

234. New Caledonia commended SOPAC for the Plan and thanked the SPC for its assistance in developing it. He welcomed the introduction of KRAs into the Plan, noting that KRAs 1 to 3 related to the technical service delivery but noted the different nature of KRA4. He suggested that KRA4 might be better couched as an overarching one over KRAs 1 to 3.

235. The Director confirmed that KRAs 1 to 3 of the Plan were technical in nature, interlinking and cutting across the work of the technical programmes. He acknowledged the different nature of KRA4 but highlighted that its presence in the Plan in its current format was consistent with that of other divisional plans of SPC. Nevertheless, he advised that SOPAC was prepared to re-describe that particular KRA provided that SPC was supportive (since the divisional plans of SPC needed to be consistent). On this matter, the Director General of SPC advised that SPC tends to express technical outcomes as a priority in its strategic plans while setting the KRA on institutional organisation and delivery behind these.

236. Papua New Guinea observed that they had been part of the team that had created the Plan and stated that he was happy to endorse it. Palau also lent its support for the Plan.

237. New Zealand enquired whether the Secretariat intended to collect baseline information from which to measure outcomes.

238. Australia noted New Caledonia's reference to KRA4 and preferred greater emphasis on the integration with SPC, including incorporating Corporate Services fully into it. He advised that the document should be a living one as he envisaged it would need further refinement given that SOPAC is presently in transition. He sought further advice on tracking of progress in reference to the New Zealand enquiry with respect to baseline information upon which to measure outcomes.

239. The Director confirmed that the detail to inform a baseline for tracking the progress of the Strategic Plan would be collected through implementation of annual work plans and budgets; and advised that the necessary link

between the annual Work Plan and Budget and the Strategic Plan would be further clarified in the final document. The Director also advised that a mid- and end-term review of progress against the Strategic Plan would be conducted; further advising that the SOPAC Division would ensure that its integration with SPC was articulated better in the plan.

240. Marshall Islands acknowledged the work that had already been undertaken to generate the plan and expressed support of it. The delegate sought clarification on the process for the Plan from this point. The Director noted that the Plan would be revised in light of comments provided by Council and then be passed on to the SPC CRGA for consideration. Beyond the CRGA the Plan would be reviewed and edited for final production.

241. Nauru endorsed the plan and pointed out that the data regarding the size of the Nauru EEZ needed to be corrected from 310,000 km² to 320,000 km². The Director noted the request and also the fact that the SPC statistics on Members' exclusive economic zones would consequently need correction.

242. Niue commended the Secretariat for the Plan and supported it. He enquired whether the document could include anticipated donor funding to support the work programmes in the future and to also clearly identify projects underway. The Director advised that it was not possible to capture reporting on donor funding in a forward looking document like the Strategic Plan, but that this could be undertaken on an annual basis in the context of the reporting on the annual work plan and budget.

243. Fiji, Tonga, French Polynesia and Vanuatu all expressed support for the Strategic Plan with French Polynesia and Tonga echoing the sentiments of other members with respect to the 'living' nature of the document.

244. French Polynesia further stated that the Plan did not sufficiently reflect new developments that might occur over time, particularly in relation to Corporate Services and the economies of scale that would emerge from SOPAC's absorption into the SPC.

245. The SOPAC Director agreed that the plan was indeed a 'living' document and that the Secretariat would ensure that text was provided in the plan to accommodate the potential economies of scale that would arise from SOPAC's transition into SPC.

246. Solomon Islands commended the Secretariat for including the probable revival of the Earth Science and Marine Geology training course,

which had produced some of the best Solomon Islands technical officers. He enquired where onshore mineral resources and energy were addressed in the plan. The Director advised that the revival of the earth sciences training courses would depend on access to financial resources and that the explicit support expressed for the earth science course by beneficiary Members like the Solomon Islands would be helpful in seeking this financial support. On the matter of onshore minerals, the Director advised that SOPAC would revisit the text to ensure that the issue of onshore minerals was sufficiently covered. Council was reminded that the energy component of the SOPAC functions had already been transferred to the Economic Development Division of the SPC early in March 2010. On the other hand, resource assessment activities associated with geothermal and hydrocarbon resources logically remain with SOPAC.

247. Chair noted widespread support for the proposed strategic plan and the recognition that it was a 'living' document and invited the Director General of SPC to comment on it.

248. The Director General of SPC confirmed that SPC staff had participated in some meetings during the development of the plan – reminding Council that the Strategic Plan had been developed in response to a request from the SOPAC Council in 2009 and that Council needed to be mindful that the Plan had to not only make links to SOPAC's past activities but also to its future activities over time as a division of SPC. To this end, he noted the need to review and amend the plan over time. On the matter of linking SOPAC activities to those of SPC, he mentioned that page 6 of the Plan made links with SPC in relation to sustainable financing. He also reiterated that the Secretariat comments that the Plan was a strategic-level document which would be translated each year through the annual work plans and budgets. Given the dynamic nature of the document, he also observed that reviews of the document would happen after SOPAC becomes a division of SPC. The Director General also noted that SOPAC functions would then be servicing existing SOPAC clientele and future SPC clientele; and expressed satisfaction with the level of SPC involvement in the development of the plan to date and that he considered the plan to be a good way forward.

249. The Secretariat acknowledged the positive feedback by Council on the proposed Plan. The Director confirmed that the SOPAC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 document was 'living' and would be revised in its lifetime. He reminded Council that the Plan was intended to guide the transition of SOPAC from a Commission to a Division and that it was, by necessity, flexible. In relation to integrating with SPC, he added that when the

plan was being reviewed in one or two year's time, Members would be in a position to consider repackaging SOPAC and SPC programmes.

250. Vanuatu requested an update on the long-term financing strategy of SPC and how it linked to the divisional Strategic Plan. The Director General of SPC advised that Part 1 of the Sustainable Financing Strategy to distinguish SPC's most critical from its less critical functions had been completed. Council was advised that all of SOPAC's functions had been classified as most critical and that an in-depth analysis may now be needed in the next phase to determine what to do with the less critical functions of SPC. There would then need to be an assessment of the cost of delivering the remaining functions. On this matter, SPC acknowledged that activities covered by recurrent budgets were fairly sustainable while those covered by project funding were not. SPC aimed to finalise the Long-Term Sustainable Financing Strategy document in 2011 and this would describe the most critical functions, their costs, how they would be resourced in addition to how to fund any gaps. He repeated the reference on page 6 of the new SOPAC divisional Strategic Plan which linked itself to SPC's sustainable financing strategy and suggested that text could be inserted in the same vicinity on the high priority placed on SOPAC's functions by the SPC.

251. Council acknowledged the 'living' nature of the proposed Strategic Plan 2011-2015 for the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division given the period of transition associated with the integration of the SOPAC work programmes into the SPC. Council expected that the Plan would undergo review and refinement within its lifetime as integration into SPC progresses.

252. Council approved the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for the work programme of the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the SPC, noting the commitment of the Director of SOPAC to make various amendments as directed by Council.

253. Council recommended the Plan to SPC/CRGA for its consideration and endorsement as the Strategic Plan for the new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPC from 1 January 2011.

14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

14.1 Financial Report 2009

14.1.1 2009 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report

254. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS39/14.1.1 and presented the 2009 Audited

Financial Statements, Auditors Report and Auditors Management Letter. The Secretariat noted two key issues highlighted in the audit being the inflation in revenue in 2009 and the issue of recoverability of Membership fees which have been explained in detail in the paper.

255. The Director and Chair asked that the recommendation be revised to remove reference to the issue of recoverability of Membership contributions which was to be discussed under Agenda Item 4.2.2.

256. Council received and accepted the 2009 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Auditor's Management Letter.

14.1.2 Report on 2009 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds

257. The Secretariat presented paper AS39/14.1.2 on the 2009 Budget Variance and Virement of Funds noting the Regular Budget (RB) Expenditure Variance Report (Annex 1), Explanations Report (Annex 2), the Savings Achieved (Annex 3) and an overall Variance Summary Report (Annex 4).

258. The Secretariat clarified for Council that the savings highlighted in the paper were against the budgetted items and were not real savings.

259. Vanuatu queried the expenditure variances specifically the issue with respect to leave accruals as per Annex 2 Component 2 of the paper enquiring whether SOPAC staff were paid for leave not taken. The Secretariat responded that staff were not paid for un-utilised leave.

260. The Director commented further on the issue of accrued leave – that the SOPAC policy as part of the budget process was that SOPAC did accrue leave entitlements to staff. Nevertheless staff were not paid for accrued leave which was not taken. In the context of the transition into the SPC in January 2011, the Director further clarified that an agreement had been reached with the Director General of SPC that an acceptable level of accrued leave entitlements for transfer to SPC was one year's worth of leave. SOPAC staff would transfer from SOPAC to SPC contracts on 1 January 2011 and their accrued leave entitlements would also transfer; therefore staff were currently being encouraged to keep leave balances within the agreed acceptable amount.

261. Vanuatu sought further clarification that in instances where leave exceeded the annual leave allowance, would it then fall under the consideration of the Corporate Manager. The Secretariat responded in the affirmative.

262. Council noted and accepted the Report on 2009 Budget Variance and Virement of Funds.

14.1.3 Report on Assets and Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2009

263. The Secretariat introduced paper AS39/14.1.3 and reported to Council on the Assets and Inventory written off for the Year ended 31 December 2009.

264. Vanuatu noted that two items being written off were because they were stolen and enquired as to the security situation at the Secretariat.

265. The Secretariat responded that the SOPAC compound which is hosted within the Fiji Government Mineral Resources Department compound has a security system in place as well as security guards; however, there were four access points which were sometimes difficult to manage. Council was further advised that as part of the transition process into SPC, security will be reinforced at the Secretariat which it is hoped will contribute to minimising assets losses due to theft.

266. Council accepted the report on assets and inventory written off for the year ended 31st December 2009.

14.2 Report on 2010 Accounts to 30th June

14.2.1 Report on Financial on Accounts for the 6 Month Period to June 2010

267. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS39/14.2.1 and reported on the Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2010.

268. Australia suggested that given that the report presented by the Secretariat was an unaudited report that the recommendation in the paper be changed to reflect Council "noting" the report without a need to accept it.

269. Council noted the Report on the 2010 Accounts to 30 June.

14.2.2 Membership Contributions and Arrears

270. Director introduced the revised version of paper for the Item (AS39/14.2.2 revised) that had just been circulated at that point. It was highlighted that a Member of Council had just paid their Membership contribution so the paper reflected additional funds just received by the Secretariat.

271. The Director highlighted the issue that was raised in the 2009 Auditors report referring to the arrears in Membership contributions, noting that while the report provided some guidelines for addressing the issue, it stopped short of offering any solutions as to how to get out of the arrears situation. The last paragraph referred to in AS 39/14.2.2 revised recorded the following:

“A provision for doubtful debts shall only be made against a member country contribution if the debt is outstanding after more than 3 years. A write-off shall only be effected after a resolution of the Council is obtained.”

272. Council was requested not only to consider the Auditor’s Report, but also to arrive at a decision at this meeting regarding this matter to ensure that no bad debts transferred with the transition to SPC. This requirement was in line with international auditing best practice.

273. The Director informed Council that the total amount owed to the Secretariat was FJD730,000, which was 5% of the proposed 2011 budget.

274. The Director acknowledged the voluntary contributions of French Polynesia and New Caledonia, who were Associate Members of the Commission. The Director presented the draft decision text from the paper for the consideration of full Council.

275. Fiji noted that its contribution would be made before the end of the year and offered that those Member Countries that were unable to pay their contributions to have their debts written off and that the Secretariat use the Reserve Funds to balance shortfalls.

276. Palau sought clarification as to why its contribution paid to the Secretariat at this meeting was not reflected in the paper. Palau also noted that there were still some outstanding issues with their contribution due to the exchange rates and he assured that they would be paid upon his return to Palau. The Secretariat responded that the revised table just circulated did show Palau’s paid contribution.

277. Papua New Guinea sought further information from the Secretariat on the transition into SPC and how the accounts would be handled and noting that the accounts were made available to Council.

278. The Director responded that he would be writing to the Membership with information on the process of the transfer of funds to SPC early in the new year. The Director re-emphasised that the funds to be transferred to the SPC would be quarantined for use by the SOPAC Division only.

279. New Zealand expressed concerns that some Members endeavored to clear their debts while others did not. Within the SPC, it was important that a precedent was not set for the future. He offered to give some text for inclusion into the decision by Council.

280. Samoa highlighted that Guam had not been attending many annual sessions and was a large contributor to the debts owing. Samoa was also concerned that those Members that faithfully paid their dues were not adequately acknowledged in the paper and suggested that text to that effect be included in the final recommendations. Samoa also sought clarification from Secretariat if any past issues of Membership arrears had been handled with invoking the Financial Regulation. Samoa highlighted that in spite of the global financial crisis and the natural disasters that affected the country last year, it was able to meet its assessed contributions because Samoa recognised the importance of regional organisations.

281. The Secretariat responded that there were attempts to engage with Guam on how to resolve their outstanding debts after their reappearance at the 2009 Session in Port Vila but no response was forthcoming from Guam.

282. Solomon Islands apologised for not paying its contributions over the past three years and asked for some leeway that would allow them to clear the debt early in the new year. The Secretariat responded that the Auditor would be clearing the audit report in the early part of 2011 and therefore the Solomon Islands was assured of a window in the first quarter (2011) to pay its debts.

283. Tonga made a strong commitment to clear its contribution debts by the end of the year.

284. Nauru submitted that it would be difficult for Nauru to clear the debt by the end of the year and requested Council for its debt to be forgiven and the Secretariat use savings to clear the debt, as suggested by Fiji. Nauru emphasised that the work of SOPAC was valued by Nauru, hence their payment of their 2010 assessed contribution. Nevertheless Nauru did not want to be penalised in the future for not clearing its debts.

285. Niue made the commitment to pay its contribution before the end of the year.

286. New Zealand welcomed the commitments made by Members around the table to pay up what was owed to the Secretariat as it demonstrated the Membership’s full ownership of the organisation; as well as ensured that Members were not deprived of essential services due to unpaid subscriptions. He posed the question on whether the CEOs of SOPAC and SPC might

consider a more innovative approach to resolving the unpaid Member contributions matter beyond the technical issue of simply closing the accounts of the Commission.

287. Australia echoed the sentiments expressed by New Zealand as well as Australia's ongoing commitment to the work of SOPAC particularly as it transitioned into SPC. Australia encouraged those Members of Council that had arrears to clear them as Australia was not supportive of forgiving arrears at this point expressing an interest to work with Members instead on options for managing the process. He viewed that the forgiving of arrears disproportionately forced the burden onto Members that had paid their contributions; even though he was appreciative of the certain circumstances when write offs were necessary. Australia preferred that the Membership work together as a collective to try to resolve the doubtful debts issues as best as possible.

288. Further, Australia tabled that it considered it peculiar that the Secretariat proposed on the one hand to forgive arrears in Membership contributions while on the other hand proposed a very significant increase to Membership contributions of 25%. The representative sought clarification from the Secretariat on the thinking behind the peculiar disparity.

289. Fiji reminded Council of the Pacific way in that Member countries should look after each other and Nauru should be given some consideration for not being able to meet financial obligations to SOPAC. He assessed that for Nauru it was not a matter of not wanting to pay but of not being able to pay. Fiji did not want to force other Member countries to pay when it was clear that they could/will not pay and therefore it was realistic to leave the option and avenue open for Council Members to pay given that this was the last SOPAC meeting and that the accounts had to be transferred to SPC clean. Fiji recognised that SOPAC was an essential agency for technical development and therefore it was costly to maintain.

290. Kiribati expressed disappointment at the reasons given by some Members for the delay in paying assessed contributions or clearing debts, in spite of the many reminders by the Secretariat to Council Members. Kiribati noted the concerns raised by Nauru because of their inability to pay a large debt, and out of sympathy for his colleague he was prepared to accept the Nauru request to be forgiven the debt. Kiribati strongly challenged other Member countries that had debts and assuredly more natural resources than Kiribati to ensure that those debts were paid by the end of the year. He stated that it was only fair to all Members of Council that the Members that

can pay to make their contributions and hence demonstrate their commitment to SOPAC.

291. Vanuatu expressed appreciation for SOPAC's work and stated that they would be clearing their debts before the end of the year.

292. Marshall Islands viewed that all Members were responsible owners of SOPAC that enjoy the services of the Secretariat and noting that it was clear to Members that certain countries just could not make a commitment to meet their financial obligations and Marshall Islands wanted to leave the option open for write off of debts to those countries that were genuinely in trouble.

293. The SPC commented that it also had to deal with some arrears in payments from Member countries and they had approached the member countries directly, particularly Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Subsequent to that direct approach, the Director General of SPC wrote to Member countries stating that prevailing financial crises situations were causing problems with Members meeting membership obligations.

294. SPC also highlighted that it was currently engaged with Guam and suggested that the Division could also work with Guam on clearing their debts, if needed. The SPC representative reminded the meeting that the Director General of SPC had made the commitment to Member countries that there would be no diminution of service delivery to Members. SPC stressed that the regional service to Members was crucial when the national services was absent.

295. French Polynesia noted that Guam had made a submission at the 2009 SOPAC Session for the write off of its arrears in Membership contributions. The delegate sought clarification from SOPAC on the result of that request. He pointed out that any decision to write off debts should clearly articulate the specifics of the amounts in figures and that the countries whose debts were being forgiven named.

296. Chair assessed that there would need to be further discussion on this matter because there was no clear consensus emerging on the way forward. She had heard suggestions from SPC and New Zealand on finding innovative ways for resolving the dilemma with Members that were unable to pay up arrears without penalising anyone in the process. She requested the Secretariat to respond to the suggestion for 'innovative' ways of debt recovery.

297. The Director responded that he was not against innovation in trying to recover Membership contributions in arrears up to the point when a line had to be drawn and the books

closed. The fact remained that the Commission could get to that point with doubtful debts still remaining in its books. The Director reminded Council about the Auditor's advice that under this extraordinary circumstance and in the interests of transparency and in keeping with international best practice that the arrears have to be dealt with by the Commission. This was to ensure that the SOPAC work programme and all its assets transferred clear of debt to SPC. The Director clarified further that this being the final meeting of the Commission's Governing Council, it was incumbent on this meeting to put in place the necessary instructions for that point when the final partial audit of the SOPAC accounts was completed in 2011. His concern was for clear instructions about write off was related to the fact that the biggest defaulter Guam, was not represented at this meeting to participate in the discussions and had not responded to any correspondence from the Secretariat since the last annual session – hence the reality was highly likely to be that doubtful debts pertaining to Guam's unpaid subscription would be in the SOPAC books when the Commission closed its books. The commitments to pay had been noted by the Secretariat and the Director urged those that had made commitments to follow through with them to reduce the amount of arrears owing. The Director sought instructions from Council at this meeting, its final Governing Council meeting on what to do with doubtful debts at the point of transfer. If there was to be a write off, the Director was seeking very clear instructions on how to execute it; to enable the work programme of the Commission to transfer to the SPC, bearing in mind that the unpaid arrears would affect work programme service delivery to Members.

298. Chair suggested that the SPC and New Zealand proposition for a way forward was not enough instruction for the Director to complete what he had to do in terms of the final transfer of work programmes and finances into SPC. She also summarised her hearing of the various promises from the around the table from Members to pay what they owed; and the one instance where a Member stated their inability to pay. Chair assessed that it was not the intent of Council to penalise any Member that clearly could not pay and in closing her summation proposed that there would need to be a write off of any debt that remained unpaid at an end date to be stipulated and that Council in addition noted that the Secretariat would explore every available avenue to clear all debts in line with the commitments made by Members at this meeting. Whatever the protocol, Chair stressed that barring the case of the certain absent Member with substantial arrears and another that was represented and made a request to be forgiven its outstanding

debts, it was important that Members made good their commitments to the organisation. The recommendation text in the paper was reviewed along the lines of the Chair's summation above with appropriate dates to be added and Members named where appropriate; as well as where the shortfall would be recovered from.

299. Fiji agreed with the general sentiments of the Chair's proposal for the way forward and tabled that instead of only Nauru having gained acceptance to its request this year for write off of its debt; he proposed that Guam also be forgiven its debt based on their submission in 2009 in Port Vila that they were unable to meet their financial obligations to SOPAC.

300. Papua New Guinea recommended that Members that had the ability to clear debts to do so; but that the Membership should consider the plight of those certain Member countries that just don't have the ability to pay and that these should be forgiven.

301. Chair stated that this seemed to be the predominant view in the room; and this was to be coupled with the hard ending due to the closure of the accounts – further noting that this was on the assumption that all other Members with the ability to pay would have paid up by the end of 2010. Her further reading of the situation was that Council did not want to penalise those Members in distress of payment nor the Members that were up to date with their payments; and the Secretariat still had to be fully engaged and creative in terms of trying to recover arrears. Council needed to weave all this into a final resolution and instruction to the Secretariat.

302. The Niue representative articulated that services to Member countries must continue and they should not be penalised without being fully cognisant of the situation in each country. Niue sought clarification from the Director as to the bottom line situation that was before Council at this point given that the audited accounts for 2009 showed savings of some 300K plus and he was aware of the existence of Reserve Funds. Niue was comfortable that arrears accumulated by both Guam and Nauru was more than adequately covered by the savings and reserve and have funds leftover.

303. Nauru deeply appreciated the support from Members of the Council and explained the reasons for their unfortunate financial problems which began 10 years ago and acknowledged the assistance provided since from the Forum Secretariat through PRAN (Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru) and through its bilateral partners including Australia and Taiwan. The assistance to Nauru has enabled the country to

improve in terms of its economic development and the payment of its 2010 Membership contribution as a sign of its commitment to its future obligations to SOPAC. Nauru's leadership recognised the importance of SOPAC and other regional institutions and are committed to meeting its future obligations to these institutions. Nauru also pointed out to other Council Members that this request for debt write off was a "one-off" request only.

304. Tonga assured that it was part of those that created SOPAC and that it had given its commitment to clear all of its outstanding obligations by the end of the year. Tonga preferred that the Council resolution articulate specifics, for example the specifics of the commitments made by countries at this table to pay; and also that those that had paid to be acknowledged for doing so, which left the two countries that requested write offs of outstanding debts – Guam in 2009; and Nauru in 2010.

305. The Director clarified that the text of the recommendation from the paper was several weeks old providing Council with a broad picture for discussion toward an outcome on the matter at hand. He listed the countries that made commitments to pay outstanding levies by year end as Fiji, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands (to be paid early in 2011), Tonga and Vanuatu. Two countries were not represented at this point, being Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia but they were fully paid up Members. The countries with the significant debts were Guam at 255K and Nauru at 96K that were unlikely to be met at the time the accounts finally closed. The sum of the two numbers would give the bottom line figure (reality check) on outstanding arrears that would be recovered firstly from any savings in 2010 and then from the reserve funds.

306. Several Members then made suggestions for amendments to the text of the resolution and it was agreed that the draft text be sent to the Drafting Committee for further refinement before Council reviewed it for adoption.

307. Council received and accepted the report on the status and level of Membership contributions in arrears, noting that a total of F\$550,024.26 represented contributions in arrears for previous years while the contributions owing for the 2010 year, as at 18th October, amounted to F\$172,383.76 with an accumulated total in arrears of F\$722,408.02.

308. Council urged all Members to clear arrears by 31st December 2010, in particular arrears for the past three years amounting to F\$293,348.78.

309. Council recognised the commitment and effort of those Members who settle annual assessed contributions promptly.

310. Council accepted that Membership contributions in arrears cannot transfer to SPC since they constitute "doubtful debts".

311. Council noted the option available within the Financial Regulations which states "A provision for doubtful debts shall only be made against a member country contribution if the debt is outstanding after more than 3 years. A write-off shall only be effected after a resolution of the Council is obtained".

312. Council noted that in accord with the SOPAC/SPC LOA signed on August 4th, Membership contributions for 2011 were to be paid to the SPC, and that they would be quarantined for the use of the SOPAC Division.

313. Council acknowledged the commitment of Niue, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Palau and the Solomon Islands to meet outstanding arrears by 31 December 2010.

314. Noting the suspension of the Commission, the Council forgave the arrears for Guam and Nauru prior to 2010.

315. Council further acknowledged the need to address all and any unforgiven arrears prior to the completion of the SOPAC audits in 2011.

316. Council directed the Secretariat to address shortfalls from the forgiving of arrears from the Reserve Fund.

317. Council has come to this decision in the light of extraordinary circumstances and for the purpose of closing down final SOPAC accounts for integration with SPC.

318. Council agreed that this sets no precedent for the future.

319. Nauru wished to go on record to register its appreciation to Council for considering its request for debt write-off.

15. 2011 WORKPLAN & BUDGET

15.1 CROP Harmonisation and Remuneration Review

320. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS39/15.1, noting the challenges faced by SOPAC in implementing the harmonisation arrangements, given that they happen to fall at the same time as the absorption of SOPAC to SPC and thus affected the issuance of SPC contracts

to staff. The Director referred Council to the new banding structure for SOPAC, emphasising that this structure was the same as that to be tabled at the forthcoming CRGA meeting.

321. Samoa endorsed the new arrangements but, together with French Polynesia, asked for clarification on the impact of the new banding structure on the 2011 budget. The Secretariat advised that the new arrangements would increase the regular SOPAC budget by around F\$85,000 and the XB budget by around F\$185,000.

322. Vanuatu observed that the CROP harmonisation exercise had also been raised before SOPAC Council in 2009, resulting in a number of recommendations, including some affecting the remuneration of support staff. He enquired whether the new harmonisation arrangements tabled in paper AS39/15.1 addressed those recommendations. The Director advised that the CEOs of the harmonising CROP agencies had agreed that a full review of recruitment of all local staff would be undertaken in 2011.

323. Council acknowledged that the issues concerning harmonisation and remuneration of the current SOPAC jobs and staff terms and conditions including salary and performance assessment would be the responsibility of the SPC/CRGA after 1 January 2011. As a necessity of the transition:

- i. Council noted the outcome of the recent CROP harmonisation and remuneration work and endorsed the recommendations of the CEOs concerning the 2011 SOPAC salary scales.
- ii. Council further noted that the Secretariat had taken into consideration the outcomes of this work and that the necessary financial implications had been factored into the draft 2011 SOPAC Work Plan and Budget.

15.2 Reserve Fund Ceiling

324. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS39/15.2 reporting to Council, as required, the annual ceiling on the Reserve Fund. The Director reminded Council of the matter of arrears in Membership contribution and the need to retain a Reserve Fund for at least one more year to cover the eventuality discussed under Item 14.2.2. He nevertheless noted that there might be a need to review the appropriateness of a SOPAC Reserve Fund after this time since SPC divisions did not normally manage divisional reserve funds.

325. Vanuatu enquired whether the SOPAC Reserve Fund would remain reserved for SOPAC activities following absorption into SPC or whether

the funds would be available for use by other SPC divisions. The Director confirmed that, under the Letter of Agreement signed between SPC and SOPAC, all SOPAC funds were to be quarantined for SOPAC use only.

326. Council agreed that the Reserve Fund ceiling remain at FJD400, 000 for the SOPAC 2011 Work Plan and Budget.

15.3 CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION INCREASE

327. The Secretariat referred Council to paper AS39/15.3. The Director acknowledged an earlier request for clarification from Australia under Item 14.2.2 about how an increase in Member contributions would relate to the write off of Membership contribution arrears for Nauru and Guam. He clarified that any write off of arrears was intended to clear the books for the smooth transfer of SOPAC to SPC, whereas the proposed increase in Membership contributions was intended to provide a strategy to minimise the gap between the future resources available for work and those needed to deliver it. In justifying the proposal to increase contributions, the Director drew the attention of Council to the substantial gap between SOPAC's regular budget and the resources needed for minimum service delivery. He reminded Council that the Forum Officials Committee recently had to grapple with the issue of contribution fees, and had agreed to an increase of Membership contributions for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) for 2011. Acknowledging the difficulty some Member countries might face in meeting higher contributions, he nevertheless stressed that even a minimum work programme was presently beyond the means of present contributions. He drew the attention of Council to the fact that ninety per cent of SOPAC's income presently came from projects and noted the continued need to develop proposals for such funds diverted the valuable staff time away from their technical duties. Finally, he reminded Council that, even with the increase in Membership contributions recommended, there would still be a gap in income needed for minimum SOPAC service delivery of around F\$400,000.

328. Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Niue acknowledged the justification for an increase in Membership contributions but observed that, given their existing arrears, they reserved support for higher fees until their arrears had been cleared.

329. Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Cook Islands also reserved support, noting that their national

budgets for 2011 had already been developed so the request could not be accommodated within 2011 allocations.

330. Papua New Guinea and Niue further advised that any increase in contributions to SOPAC would need to be discussed in capitals.

331. Samoa, New Zealand and Australia noted the Long-Term Sustainable Financing exercise underway at SPC and suggested that Council await the completion of this exercise before considering the issue of Membership contributions in any detail.

332. New Zealand also noted that while the PIFS had received an increase in membership contributions, this had been developed and discussed over a much longer period.

333. Fiji drew the attention of Council to the fact that the status of its annual grant to SOPAC would likely change after 2011 given that SOPAC would cease to operate as a Commission, terminating Fiji's agreement with it. He noted that, until arrangements with SPC were finalised, Fiji would be unable to guarantee a SOPAC grant for 2011.

334. Council did not agree to the proposal to increase Membership contributions.

335. Council advised the Secretariat that it would not be possible to consider any such proposal further until a satisfactory sustainable financing strategy had been developed by SPC.

15.4 CONSIDERATION OF 2011 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

336. The Secretariat referred to paper AS39/15.4 and the attached 2011 Proposed Work Plan and Budget narratives, the list of summary tables and details of the three technical programmes: Ocean and Islands, Water and Sanitation and Disaster Reduction; together with Directorate which included Corporate Services and Technical Support Services. The Director noted that the presentation would be in two parts, firstly the presentation of the work plan and secondly the briefing on the budget.

337. The Director referred to the comments made by the Marshall Islands the day before requesting a transparent articulation of resources available and allocated against tasks. The programme managers would highlight this while presenting the plans and budgets for 2011 for each of the programmes. Certain amendments to some tables needed to be made to reflect missing or new information.

338. The OIP Manager acknowledged the opportunity to present on the work plan and budget of the OIP and shared basic figures and key interventions planned for 2011. He referred to the budget and mentioned the allocation for implementation by the OIP under the OCT Project in French Polynesia.

339. The OIP Manager highlighted the Maritime Boundaries Project especially baselines (Lowest Astronomical Tide) as extremely important in determining Maritime boundaries. With Climate Change affecting sea level rise, these baselines would shift sometimes inland therefore it was essential that baselines be established.

340. The WSP Manager presented an overview of the budget and stated that the total budget for the three components (Water Resource Management, Water Services and Water Governance) was \$8,934,667 million and briefed Council on the respective activities under the three components particularly highlighting the IWRM Planning seeking an extension for 18 months otherwise countries needed to commit those funds by the end of the year.

341. The DRP Manager presented an overview of the budget for 2011 and noted that the largest amount of funds were dedicated to the EU funded EDF9 C and EDF10 B Envelopes Projects. The next highest amount of funds was allocated to disaster risk management policy and planning and went on to present the activities to be carried out under the respective 'functional teams' in DRP (DRM Policy and Planning, Risk Reduction, Information Management/Pacific Disaster Net and DRM Training and Capacity Building)

342. Cook Islands thanked the programme managers for the presentation on the Work Plan and Budget for 2011 noting that most of the comments were made during the programme presentations. He emphasised the importance of the upcoming work through the Adaption to Climate Change Project for Mangaia because the outcome of the project would be assessments and technical reports to be replicated in other islands of the Cook Islands.

343. Papua New Guinea thanked the programme managers for the update and informed the meeting his country had ventured into offshore mineral exploration and in the future an offshore mineral license would be issued to Nautilus. In the absence of a dedicated offshore mineral policy, Papua New Guinea was currently using the onland Mining Act. Papua New Guinea therefore was further developing a policy and requested assistance through the OIP EU-funded deep sea mineral project to support them in the mineral policy work.

344. Niue thanked the programme managers for a comprehensive layout for the programmes. Niue would resubmit a request to be included in the tide monitoring project and maritime boundaries and deep sea minerals projects. Niue asked if disaster risk management capacity building could still be requested for Niue.

345. In response to the Cook Islands, the OIP Manager expressed enthusiasm to start the work. He also noted that OIP would like to work with Papua New Guinea on their request and mentioned that a geologist has had several trips to Papua New Guinea and have kept up contacts there. In response to Niue, the OIP Manager said that there had been plans earlier to put a tide gauge in Niue, however an assessment was undertaken that did not support the implementation of the gauge; however this could be further discussed with Niue and BoM if required.

346. The DRP Manager responded to Papua New Guinea in relation to the Melanesian Volcanological Network (MVN) by providing history to the initiative. He stated that the implementation of the MVN had not proceeded as anticipated however he recognised that there was still interest to pursue the initiative. He further stated that in relation to disaster risk management training and capacity building support the requests needed to come from countries to be involved in the training and in particular that offered through the TAF/OFDA programme.

347. French Polynesia requested clarification on the amount of the approved budget for 2009 and what the trends were in terms of the revised budget in comparison to previous years.

348. Marshall Islands expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the clarification of the funding associated with each programme.

349. Australia noted that reference made to savings and asked the Secretariat to please advise where the savings came from. In response the Director explained that savings were against the 2010 allocations for Australia and New Zealand. Given the availability of savings from 2009 these were used to implement the 2010 Work Programme until such time the 2010 funding from Australia and New Zealand had been received.

350. Papua New Guinea thanked the DRP for the disaster risk management mainstreaming programme in Papua New Guinea and the Director for signing the necessary documents facilitating that process. He further commented on the EDF 9 B Envelope Project and its national seismic network. He expressed appreciation for the work with the Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management to commence in 2011.

351. New Zealand thanked the programme managers and wanted to note for the record that its funding for 2011 could not be confirmed as governmental approval processes are not yet completed.

352. The Director responded to French Polynesia and referred to the Work Plan and Budget Introductory pages (1-15) which presented the Work Plan and Budget in summary form for the whole of Secretariat operation. The Director referred specifically to Table 1 where costs were stated against Programmes, Corporate Services and the Directorate apart from other funds received for substantial national activities. The latter included funds which the Secretariat handled only as a conduit for channelling national funds to Members, e.g. the European Union Envelopes B and C. Those resources were not available for running the Secretariat. Savings were also shown in the summary budget. Costs to run the Secretariat in 2011 on what was considered to be the level of required financial resources to run the Secretariat was FJ\$20.3M, which in addition to the EU Envelopes B and C funds provided total cash flow.

353. The Director also noted that in the FJ\$30 million approved budget for 2009 the Secretariat did not separate out the EDF B and C Envelope funds. He stressed that if these funds had been taken out the figure would come down to \$19 million – hence \$19 million from 2009 versus the 2010 revised figure of \$16 million.

354. French Polynesia understood the rationale behind the presentation by Director. He further enquired as to whether the decrease of 42.7% of the 2010 approved budget and an increase of 23.7% over the 2010 revised budget was based on the SOPAC component of the budget and or on the grand total. The Director stated that in the 2010 approved budget this was a grand total that included Envelope C and B Projects and that in 2011 the budget was split up into SOPAC associated funding and funding that was being administered for Member countries through SOPAC.

355. Australia advised Council that pending formal approval from Canberra Australia could commit funding levels for 2011 similar to 2010.

356. Solomon Islands acknowledged the work planned for 2011 and the support and assistance being rendered to countries and enquired if the Secretariat charged administration fees against project budgets. The Manager Corporate Services indicated that administration fees were charged as follows: EU projects 5-7%, GEF 13% and other donors 13%.

357. Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat for the presentations and supported the Chair's recommendation to approve the budget as presented.

358. Council approved the 2010 Revised Budget of F\$15,756,143 and the 2011 Work Plan and Budget of F\$20,322,338 together with funds dedicated for national projects of F\$14,495,974, which totalled F\$34,818,313.

15.5 CONFIRMATION OF AUDITORS FOR 2010 AND 2011 ACCOUNTS

359. The Director noted that as a consequence of the RIF, and as described in the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between SOPAC and SPC, (signed 4th August 2010) for the transfer and integration of the core SOPAC work programme into the SPC effective from 1 January 2011 there was a need to close the financial operations of SOPAC "The Commission" in an orderly manner and in compliance with best international financing procedures. This is an extraordinary circumstance. (AS39/15.5)

360. The Director stated that for the 2008 and 2009 financial accounts of SOPAC, Council following an open tender process retained the services of Ernst & Young.

361. Fiji acknowledged the service provided by Ernst & Young and supported the recommendations proposed in the paper.

362. Council accepted that in the process of transferring and integrating the SOPAC work programme into the SPC because of the RIF, there was an extraordinary circumstance in regard to the financial status of SOPAC "The Commission".

363. Council decided to retain the services of Ernst and Young for the 2010 audit and for the closing audit of the Commission to take into consideration that part of 2011 as necessary.

364. Council urged all donors to complete the required approvals of the transfer of contractual responsibility from SOPAC "The Commission" to the SPC as soon as possible, in consultation with the Secretariat and the SPC, in order that closure of the Commission accounts can be achieved in a timely and orderly manner.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

365. The Director requested Council to endorse his suggestion at the opening of the meeting to

dedicate the Proceedings of the last Governing Council Session to the memory of Philipp Muller. The Director added that there would need to be a consultation with the wife and family of Philipp Muller before placing a photo of Philipp Muller and words of tribute on the cover of the Proceedings Volume.

366. The Solomon Islands representative requested that the Secretariat update the CD provided to Members as papers had been revised during the course of the proceedings.

367. Niue raised a number observations made over the course of the meeting. He stressed the importance of addressing the issue of staff morale. Furthermore, he noted from the black Book of LOAs provided to Members at the beginning of the Council meeting; that there was a substantial gap between the top and 3rd tier of SOPAC staff banding structures and wished to see this addressed. Niue closed by saying that on the occasion of the final meeting of the SOPAC Governing Council that he wished to acknowledge the contributions and support of SOPAC over the years of the organisations' operations and in particular acknowledged the contributions of Niue's own SOPAC representative, Deve Talagi.

368. The Deputy Secretary General of the PIFS expressed that the Secretary General had wished to attend the historical occasion of the final SOPAC Governing Council Meeting to personally convey his thanks to the SOPAC Council for the hard work done through difficult and trying times due to the RIF process. The Deputy Secretary General acknowledged the continued support to Members during the trying times by the Director SOPAC and staff and delivered the PIFS Secretary General's wish to see no diminishing in the delivery of services to Member countries as SOPAC transitioned into SPC.

369. The SPREP representative assured Council that SPREP would continue to step up its collaboration and partnership with the SOPAC division in the area of climate change adaptation. SPREP was pleased to note that the Secretariat's Accounts had been audited and approved by Council and looked forward to the final transfer of the Pacific Island - Global Ocean Observing System finances to allow SPREP to recruit the coordinator position. The full statement is appended in Appendix 4.

370. Tonga congratulated the Chair for her able leadership and commended the Director and staff of the SOPAC Secretariat as well as his fellow Council Members for their valuable contributions. He highlighted the importance of the SOPAC Work Programme and paid particular tribute to each of the technical programmes stating that:

371. Ocean and Islands was to Pacific Islands Countries their homes and identity; Water and Sanitation related to life and survival of the Pacific islands; and Disaster Reduction related to the existence of Pacific islands people.

372. The representative of Tonga further expressed that Tonga was adamant in working to ensure that the SOPAC core functions remained intact wherever they went, comparing it to a love story about a parting of ways but that in letting go of the object of one's affections to be prepared for future developments without regretting the past.

17. ADOPTION OF AGREED RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

373. The Vice-Chair and Chair of the Drafting Committee confirmed that all recommendations had been viewed and endorsed by the Council. He proposed that the full summary record be settled out of session with Members receiving an opportunity to review their own comments with suggested amendments relayed directly to the Rapporteur based on a final draft of the summary record to be sent out in the days ahead by the Secretariat. The Drafting Committee Chair recommended this procedure for arriving at an acceptable summary record of the final meeting of SOPAC "the Commission" to Council.

374. Chair commended the recommendation to Council Members who approved of the proposed tribute to the late SOPAC Director Philipp Muller and other luminaries of the SOPAC community that had passed on. The Chair proposed that a date for reception of edits and comments from Council Members for the summary record be set to ensure that the summary record was completed in a timely manner.

18. CLOSING

375. The Vice Chair (Cook Islands) commended the Director's efforts in the duration of the meeting proceedings and concurred with the proposal to dedicate the Proceedings of the final SOPAC Governing Council Meeting to Philipp Muller. The Vice Chair wished to include tributes and acknowledgements for members of the SOPAC family and SOPAC Council Members who had

passed away as part of the dedication of the Proceedings Volume. The Vice Chair also wished to convey his sincere gratitude to the Drafting Committee for their wisdom and commendable work for ensuring that an excellent record of proceedings was produced.

376. The Director thanked the Council for their confidence in bringing him back to serve as Director over the past nine months and assured that he would work as best he could to complete the final arrangements in the months ahead for the integration of SOPAC into SPC. He also extended his thanks to the STAR scientists for their continued support of SOPAC and wished to highlight their commitment in providing their service at no cost. He expressed that he was personally pleased that Council was also pleased with the work of STAR and the opportunity was at hand to build a better STAR and maximise its benefits to the Pacific Region.

377. The Director wished to acknowledge the staff of SOPAC for their unwavering commitment through the difficult year that has passed and ensured that he would work together with the executive management team and the SPC Director General to ensure that staff morale issues were addressed. The Director noted that SOPAC staff comprised a particularly young group of professionals and their products had been clearly demonstrated over the course of the Council meeting particularly through the presentation of the SOPAC Compendium. The Director spoke on the way forward adding that there was an important year ahead with the appointing of the first Head of Division for SOPAC in Rarotonga a year from now. The Director wished all participants a safe journey home and a safe journey onwards for those attending the CRGA the following week in Noumea.

378. The Chair expressed a desire to see that the services and programme delivery of SOPAC would continue and be improved upon through the transition period and beyond. The Chair added that she looked forward to meeting with the Troika to confirm the final arrangements for the closure of SOPAC, the Commission. The Chair extended thanks to the Council Members, SOPAC Director and staff, rapporteurs and translators and all those who had been involved in the meeting proceedings for their valuable contributions and formally declared the meeting closed.

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APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

ADOPTED AGENDA

16-18 October

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES NETWORK (STAR) SESSION

Theme: Pacific Geoscience – Towards 2020 in the Face of Dwindling Global Natural Resources

18 October

JOINT STAR-CIRCUM PACIFIC COUNCIL SESSION

Theme: Map Once – Use Many Ways

18 October

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH SOPAC/SPC LOA

Agenda to follow the section headings in the SOPAC/SPC Letter of Agreement (LOA)

19-21 October

SOPAC GOVERNING COUNCIL

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

1. OPENING
 - 1.1 Opening Prayer
 - 1.2 Director's Welcome
 - 1.3 Chair's Welcome and Outgoing Chair's Report
2. ELECTIONS
 - 2.1 Chair and Vice-Chair of SOPAC
 - 2.2 Chairs of STAR and TAG
 - 2.3 Appointment of Rapporteur
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
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
6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Part 1)
 - 6.1 Introduction
 - 6.2 Future of SOPAC "The Commission"

JOINT COUNCIL – TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) SESSION

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

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Part 2)
 - 7.1 2009 Annual Report Summary

- 7.2 Summary Report of 2010 Donor Support
- 7.3 CROP and PPAC Summary Reports
- 8. STAR AND PMEG CHAIRS REPORTS
 - 8.1 STAR Chair Report
 - 8.2 PMEG Chair Report on Cross-cutting Issues
- 9. OCEAN AND ISLANDS PROGRAMME
 - 9.1 Report
 - 9.2 Issues and Opportunities
 - 9.3 Report from the Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Group
- 10. WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME
 - 10.1 Report
 - 10.2 Issues and Opportunities
 - 10.3 Report from the Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Group
- 11. DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME
 - 11.1 Report
 - 11.2 Issues and Opportunities
 - 11.3 Report from the Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Group
- 12. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES
 - 12.1 Natural Resource Economics
 - 12.2 GIS and Remote Sensing
 - 12.3 Technical Equipment and Services
 - 12.4 Data Management
 - 12.5 Publications and Library

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)

- 13. 2011-2015 STRATEGIC PLAN
- 14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Part 3)
 - 14.1 Financial Report 2009
 - 14.1.1 2009 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report
 - 14.1.2 Report on 2009 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds
 - 14.1.3 Report on Assets & Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2009
 - 14.2 Report on 2010 Accounts to 30 June
 - 14.2.1 Report and Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2010
 - 14.2.2 Membership Contributions in Arrears
- 15. 2011 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET
 - 15.1 CROP Harmonisation and Annual Remuneration Review
 - 15.2 Reserve Fund Ceiling
 - 15.3 Consideration of Membership Contribution Increase
 - 15.4 Consideration of 2011 Work Plan and Budget
 - 15.5 Confirmation of Auditors for 2010 and 2011 Accounts
- 16. OTHER BUSINESS
- 17. ADOPTION OF AGREED RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
- 18. CLOSING

APPENDIX 3

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APPENDIX 4

STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

PART I: STATEMENTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

COOK ISLANDS



Madam Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished National Representatives, Donor Governments, Partners and Agencies, The CROP Agencies and your Representatives, The SOPAC STAR Community, Ladies & Gentlemen ...

The Cook Islands is once more pleased to be represented here in Nadi, to participate in this 39th Esteemed Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council and wishes to affirm its strong support and continued support for SOPAC and highly values the work of SOPAC in relation to the 3 Intervention Areas;

- Oceans and Islands Program
- Disaster Reduction Program
- Water And Sanitation Program

The Cook Islands notes the achievements established to date by the SOPAC Secretariat in particular the delivery of services in response to it's Country's Needs.

The strategic focus and direction of the organization is in alignment with the aspirations of our people in the Cook Islands, in ensuring that their quality of life is sustained through the consistent engagement of the relevant scientific data, technology and information from the STAR Community as engaged by SOPAC.

The Cook Islands recognizes and appreciates the many valuable contributions that SOPAC was able to undertake over the past year, and we express our sincere gratitude.

The Cook Islands wishes to also acknowledge with sincere appreciation the continued support of the Donor Governments and Agencies, The STAR Group with the Scientists and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in supporting the work of SOPAC, assisting the Cook Islands.

A. Ocean and Islands Program

Marine, Coastal Science and Survey

Major HD modelling tasks over the last reporting period, include work in Aitutaki Island, Cook Islands, which was started in 2007 under the EDF Reducing Vulnerability Project (this project ended in December 2008).

This work has been ongoing and reflects the flexible and sustained commitment OIP can bring to

its work as and where possible, and if significant benefits can be obtained, OIP seeks to continually value add and improve outputs for members. The Aitutaki HD and Arutanga Channel circulation model was completed last year and recent work has concentrated on developing "weather scenarios".

A weather scenario means we can test changes on impacts to shoreline systems or infrastructure (in this case Arutanga Channel) under different wind/wave and design conditions.

South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project

The South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project (SPSLCMP) is an AusAID-funded project which has been ongoing since 1991. It initiated the establishment of the SEAFRAME array (Sea Level Fine Resolution Acoustic Measuring Equipment) or sea-level monitoring stations in Cook Islands.

The Cook Islands is being supported in this program through SOPAC and it's counterparts in BOM Australia.

The Cook Islands again wishes to extend it's gratitude to the Government of Australia (BoMET in partnership with the NTF and Geoscience Australia for it's support and assistance, in the past phase of the Project and sincerely appreciates the continued support and assistance come January 2011.

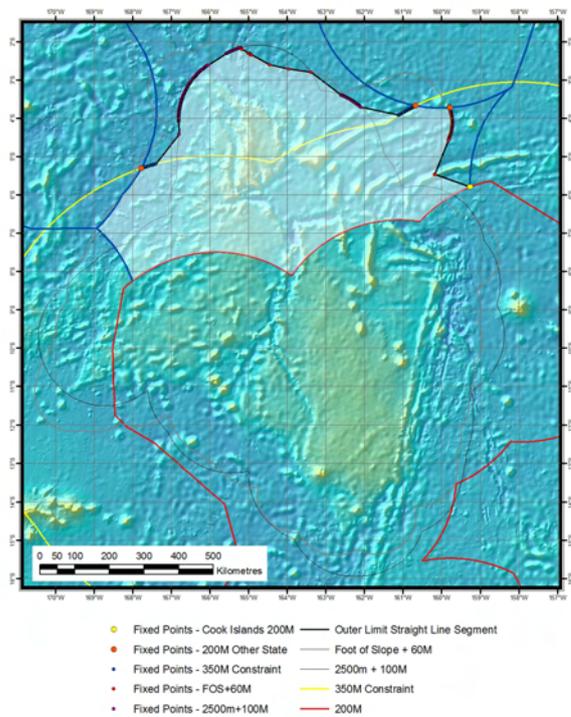
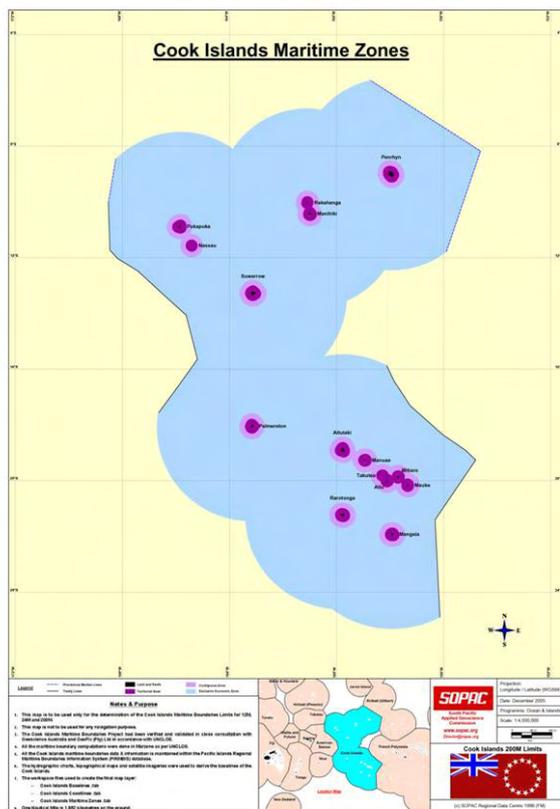
Amongst it's delivery of routine maintenance and calibration continues and the Cook Islands

was visited by the OIP Team in collaboration with Geoscience Australia in December 2009. Our Technical Staff members aligned with the project has been in contact with the OIP Team in partnership with Geoscience Australia with a view to ensuring that the sea-level gauge and it's related sensors and the CGPS stations are in excellent condition and that any failures of the equipments has been attended to by SOPAC and Geoscience Australia.

Regional Maritime Boundaries Sector

Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) development – The Cook Islands Maritime boundaries, baselines, zones and outer limits have not been declared in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS and are not yet public. The Cook Islands has it's data reports developed and will endeavour to declare it's Boundaries with UNCLOS. It is also engaging with Tokelau and Niue on Boundary Treaties.

been working with it's partners in carefully verifying details and have requested new data to be acquired to strengthen it's claims and this was possible through the assistance and support by SOPAC in conjunction with the Government of the Cook Islands seeking approval with the JAMSTEC Vessel that is currently doing a research in the Manihiki Plateau. It is anticipated that the raw data will be available by the 29th October 2010. The Cook Islands extends it's gratitude to it's partners, SOPAC, UNEP GRID Shelf Program Arendal, Geoscience Australia, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNTF, Geolimits and the support of other Institutes supporting the institutes mentioned.



B. Water and Sanitation

Pacific HYCOS (EU Water Facility)

The Cook Islands has received tremendous support from this project in view of training and support in it's Water Sector. This support evolved around surface water assessment, the installation of technologies and hydrological to support the assessments. The Cook Islands have success stories with the installation of rain gauges and stream flow meters for water resources assessments.

UNCLOS Article 76 – Extended Continental Shelf

The Cook Islands has lodged it's ECS submission to the CLCS in New York 16 April 2009 and again was invited back by the Commission to present it's claims in August 2009. It has since

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

The Cook Islands has embarked on this project with support from SOPAC and its Funding Partner, the GEF and UNDP as Implementation partner alongside SOPAC, as the Executing Partner.

The Cook Islands has signed MOU with SOPAC and the Project and has its Pilot Site Demonstration Project on the Island of Rarotonga in its intervention area in Integrated Freshwater Assessment and Monitoring (Drought Relief) and Coastal Management.

The Cook Islands has in its structure an APEX Body formalized to manage the project in Country.

The Cook Islands attended the Regional Steering Committee (RSC2) in Palau and submitted full financial reporting and feedbacks. Of interest was the Clinics held which proved to be an efficient process in articulating progressive reporting for Countries. It was also at this meeting that the Cook Islands Focal Point Keu Mataroa was elected Chairman and in its deliberations concluded with the latter again unanimously elected as the Chairman of the RSC's Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) which will meet in Nadi 25-27 October 2010.

The Project is undergoing some realignments in Country and the lessons learnt process has highlighted some issues which will improve the structure in country.

Amongst its programs dealing with water,

- the Water Demand Management (WDM), with its focus area being Capacity Building in the Water Utilities and to improve Water demand Management Practices,
- the Water Quality Monitoring (WQM), with Building sustainable capacity of the National Laboratory for testing water quality (Drinking and Coastal)
- Drinking Water Safety Planning (DWSP), a risk assessment and risk management approach to ensuring the safe quality of drinking water from the catchment
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in supporting members in advise on technologies, domestic water supply and sanitation issues through awareness raising and which supports World Water Day activities

- Wastewater Training addressing activities in preventing pollution (marine) on land based sources and consultancy with in country training applications, undertaken by technicians in the Public and Private Sectors, respectively

The Cook Island have been proactive in these areas effectively however seeking further support and assistance for verifications.

Water Governance

The Cook Islands has also engaged the services of an In Country Policy Analyst to assist the National Focal Point Keu Mataroa and Program Manager Paul Maoate in view of the Planning area and this initiative has been concluded and the Policy Analyst has commenced work as of now. This was possible through the great assistance of the RPMO of the IWRM Project and staff member Subhasni Raj, with her In Country visit recently. This will look at developing Policies for the purpose of integrating water resources and its management and is poised to ensure we have all the aspects of IWRM with a Climate Change and Variability mainstreamed into national plans and sectoral plans.

C. Disaster Reduction Program

AusAID NAP Facility – Support for National Action Plans

An implementation action was conducted for the Cook Islands with a review of the CI-NAP and this was conducted by the Program Manager Mosese Sikivou et al and also looked at the budget allocations for DRM in Country. The preliminary analysis for the Cook Islands is available.

Australian Tsunami Warning System – National Capacity Assessment: Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems

A capacity assessment had been conducted for the following Cooks Islands, in developing a holistic Tsunami Response Plan, to include mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and providing technical support for key agencies to develop and test Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the developing and testing of the Tsunami Response Plan templates for national agencies and organisations and communities.

World Bank – Catastrophe Risk Financing Initiative for the Pacific

The Cook Islands was also included in the World Bank Catastrophe Risk Financing Initiative for the first of two phases of the project in developing a country specific risk models looking at risk profiles and to assess the feasibility of catastrophe risk financing and insurance options.

ADB/WB – Risk Exposure Databases and Risk Models

In October 2009, the Cook Islands and PICs met at an informal session in Vanuatu to address the Project and with the support of the Secretariat secured support funding provided jointly by the ADB and the World Bank and in collaboration with GNS New Zealand, Pacific Disaster Center (Hawaii) and AIR Worldwide, a risk modeling consulting firm, contributed to the development of national and regional risk exposure databases which will be used to develop risk models that will inform the on-going feasibility study of a catastrophe risk financing mechanism for the Cook Islands and the Pacific.

The exposure databases also have a wider range of uses such as to guide investments in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Through the information made available relevant Government departments and other stakeholders can collaborate much more effectively in for example the zoning of hazardous areas and on the development and design of engineering standards to inform building codes.

The risk exposure databases essentially provide data and information of potential losses that countries can face. This is done by first capturing building and infrastructure 'footprints' using satellite imagery followed by on-the-ground surveys to record the attributes of as many of the footprints as possible. The attributes of each building for example, such as roof type, construction type and material, foundation types can then be used to determine vulnerability to certain hazards e.g floor height etc...

Through the Secretariat, this was possible for the Cook Islands and was carried out jointly by SOPAC and GNS for Rarotonga and the Island of Aitutaki as Tourism Destinations.

A total of 7535 houses were mapped, Rarotonga (5256) and Aitutaki (1279), respectively.

Pacific Disaster Risk Management (Training) Programme (PDRMP)

Training opportunities under this program has accorded very high achievements in the Cook Islands Public and Private Sectors in developing it's response initiatives to Hazards and a classic example of that is the on going support of the Secretariat through it's partners in contributing to the development of Capacity in the Cook islands and in recent developments, a TAF/OFDA Training for Instructors was convened and enhanced the capacity of Nationals to be advocates in the area of Disaster Management.

We are indeed grateful to learn that the USAID's TAF/OFDA Program to support disaster risk management training and capacity building for the PICs has been successfully extended for another three years of which we are all grateful for.

This will ensure further strengthening and enhancement of the PICs capacity for national disaster risk management capacity in preparedness and responsive systems.

Post Graduate Qualifications in DRM and Emergency Health

The Cook Islands welcomes the collaborated initiative by the Secretariat and TAF/OFDA in partnering with the Fiji National University in furthering the training components of National who have completed pre requisites to the Graduate Certificate in Disaster Risk Management through the TAF/OFDA Program and will ensure participation in due course.

Mid Term Review of the Pacific DRR & DM Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015

The Cook Islands wishes to express it's gratitude to the Secretariat for the support and assistance in the reviews as stipulated above. This review will assist to facilitate greater harmonisation efforts between member countries to include the Cook Islands as well as partner organisation in mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk into planning and budgeting systems at national levels of which the Cook Islands is embarking on doing with it's current projects e.g the PACC Project and others

D. Technical Services

The Cook Islands wishes to express its support to the Technical Services of the Secretariat and commends the efforts of the Secretariat in providing to the Cook Islands support and assistance in this area, to include ICT Requirements and GIS-RS assistance as it is of paramount importance that the tools have and will continue to support activities in all Project Implementation Phases.

Appreciation

This said, Chair, the Cook Islands would like to join with the other delegations in congratulating you as Chair of Governing Council, and to thank you and your Government for hosting the SOPAC Annual Session, here in Nadi and that under your able guidance and leadership, we will be able to accomplish our aims set out in our Working Agenda Items for 2010/11.

May I also, on behalf of the Government of the Cook Islands, acknowledge the valuable contribution and guidance that we have had from the outgoing Chair, that of the Government of Vanuatu.

With those remarks Chair, the Cook Islands looks forward to working with you and the Secretariat in achieving the best for the Cook Islands and the Pacific Islands as a whole, and extends a warm welcome to All to the next Session in the Cook Islands

Meitaki Maata

Kia Orana e Kia Manuia



A canoe without a Paddle cannot reach its destination.

FIJI ISLANDS

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Bula vinaka and welcome to Fiji, I hope your short stay in our country will be an enjoyable one.

Before I proceed I would like to congratulate you Madame Chair on ascending to the position and convey to you our confidence in your capable leadership and guidance during this 39th Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council.

Madame Chair we will be submitting a written country statement later to the Secretariat however at this point we would like to make a few quick comments.

Firstly we would like to express our appreciation to the secretariat staff for the work done through the year under very trying conditions.

In spite of the lack of funding and uncertainty hanging over the secretariat right up to this point in time they still managed to do their work both according to their normal job description and the extra work required under the RIF process.

We commend the Director of SOPAC and the Director General of SPC for the LOA that we were briefed on yesterday. This is a great improvement from what was presented in Vanuatu last year and the endorsement by member countries of the LOA now indicate confidence in progressing the RIF process towards its proper conclusion next year.

Madame Chair, Fiji in the spirit of consensus is always prepared to work with member countries to reach an outcome that is acceptable to all members. Granted there are always issues that require further clarifications and discussions during the progress of the meeting, Fiji remains committed to working with member countries to achieve the best outcomes for PICs.

However it would be remiss of us if we did not highlight the following issues.

The RIF process was or is based on the premise that it would bring about cost savings and efficiency without diminishing SOPAC services to member countries specifically Pacific Island countries who have no capacity of their own in terms of scientific or geo-science expertise. In Vanuatu during AS38 the PICs were concerned at the lack of information on the implementation of the RIF exercise and thus requested the provision in 2010 what is now the

LOA to assure of a transition into SPC with no or minimal diminution in services to PICs.

Unfortunately resistance to the above by Australia and New Zealand led to their withholding their membership and project fundings earlier in the year thus affecting services much against the leaders' decision. Morale within the secretariat was also drastically affected because of the resultant job insecurity this funding situation created. It is a tribute to the versatility and resilience of the staff that much success was accomplished during the year.

It also highlights the unfortunate practice of some members to put on their donor's hat and hold other members to ransom. We hope that the real Pacific way of respecting the aspirations of others can be reflected in future.

Fiji for its part would like to register its appreciation for the assistance it received from SOPAC during 2010 under the three programmes of

1. Ocean and Islands
2. Water and Sanitation
3. Disaster Reduction

and not forgetting the cooperation from the Corporate Services division.

We would like to again commend the hard work of the Secretariat staff and thank SOPAC for their assistance to Fiji during the year and Fiji looks forward to the same assistance from the SOPAC Division of SPC and also within the context of the Joint Country Strategy with SPC.

Once again welcome to all member countries and we wish for and look forward to a very fruitful meeting.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

Madam Chair, Vice Chair, Fellow Council Members; Heads and Representatives of CROP Agencies; Development Partners; Director and Staff of SOPAC; Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Kam na bane ni mauri!

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kiribati, I take this opportunity to congratulate the new Chair for taking up this challenging and imperative role as Chairman of the 39th Session of SOPAC Governing Council.

I take this opportunity also to applaud the people and the government of Fiji, for the wonderful hospitality and excellent arrangements that had been put in place to make this meeting a success. On the same note, I wish also to acknowledge with appreciation the work of our former Chair for his dedication and commitments in taking us through the last twelve months.

Madam Chair, let me also acknowledge and comment the Director and his committed staff for their continuing support and hard work. With their efforts and professional approaches they have risen to the diverse challenges of the region and ensured that excellent service delivery to members is achieved as we move forward towards these trying times.

Kiribati acknowledges with appreciation the invaluable assistance that SOPAC has rendered to Kiribati in terms of providing continuous technical support and advice to us on the many activities implemented through its core programmes. I would like also to acknowledge with appreciation the tremendous support that the donor partners including the scientific communities has rendered through their respective roles in realizing the various projects in Kiribati implemented under SOPAC's work programme and for the donor partners whose supports had allowed these projects and activities to be achieved through their funding supports.

Throughout the STAR Meeting last week, we have heard presentations that highlighted critical issues that will bear detrimental outcome to our fragile Islands. Whilst few of these disasters are caused naturally, many are unfortunately, believed to be caused by human-beings themselves with their exploitative attitude and activities. Climate change, offshore erosion, tsunami and depleted resources are amongst some of the threats facing our region. Kiribati fully concurs with the Expert's conclusion that, the most effective way of reducing, if not, totally preventing the impacts of such threats is through well coordinated approaches and efforts.

SOPAC has indeed played an outstanding role in assisting Pacific island member countries in providing the much needed technical advice and support to them through the many programs and project activities implemented throughout the region. In this way, therefore, there is no doubt that SOPAC's relevance to us and for the future of the region cannot be understated. Kiribati is fully committed to supporting SOPAC programs for the region and shall continue to

work closely with them on matters of common interest.

Madam Chair, allow me at this juncture to briefly make mention of some of the activities that SOPAC has been involved in, in Kiribati, for which we are indeed very much grateful.

Kiribati acknowledges SOPAC support to the maritime boundary delimitation project and also on the Extended Continental Shelf claim for Kiribati. Kiribati commenced this project in August this year with its GPS surveys to collect baseline information on all its islands that would be involved in the determination of our maritime boundary. The Project was kicked start with a field work training offered to the Kiribati GPS survey team and was conducted by two SOPAC staff. The training was conducted on the two northern islands of the Gilbert Group and has now allowed the team to continue surveying the rest of the islands. Kiribati will again seek assistance from SOPAC on data processing training and the actual delimitation of the Kiribati Maritime boundaries.

Kiribati has also been receiving series of technical assistance from SOPAC in the development of maps related to the Kiribati extended continental shelf claim. The Extended Continental Shelf training to be organized in November by SOPAC will focus on the finalization of data sets and maps to allow Kiribati to be able to finalise its submission papers for its claim to the UN. Kiribati would like to stress the urgency of this project given the deadline is in 2013 and therefore would like to request SOPAC continuing technical assistance and supports in this connection.

For the Banaba Phosphate Project, the Kiribati Government is indeed very grateful to receive a draft feasibility study report on the remnant of phosphate on Banaba Island. The Government of Kiribati is currently looking at the potential of aggregate on Banaba Island and this report is therefore very timely to assist the Government in providing very useful information that will assist in the planning process for the crushing of coral pinnacles project on the Island. The Kiribati Government will continue to require technical advice and technical supports from SOPAC on this project and would highly appreciate therefore if SOPAC could take note of this commitment.

One of our projects that may also require SOPAC assistance, is the Bathymetry Project, which has now become a Benthic habitat mapping project. With the Benthic Habitat Mapping, this will allow the project to cover a broader range of datasets which includes

oceanography, habitat mapping, bathymetric and geomorphology. With this project, Kiribati will be requiring SOPAC to provide technical training with the view to building our local capacity in this area so as to ensure smooth implementation of the exercise in the future by local counterparts involved.

Another project where SOPAC has also been very instrumental in its implementation in Kiribati is the Environmentally Sustainable Aggregates for Tarawa Project also known as ESAT project. This is a multi million euro projects that was commenced in late 2009. The Manager for this project recruited under SOPAC has started working in Tarawa and the project is now rolling. Additional funds of 1.1 million dollars will soon be received to meet the shortfall cost of a dredging Barge. With SOPAC assistance, a contractor for the ship builder will soon be settled once the 1.1 million was received. Looking at the different component of the ESAT project, SOPAC as an implementing agency, through the ESAT project manager and the Project Coordinating Committee, has been working as one team, in addressing some of the key issues that require urgent attention, ever since the project commenced. With this project rolling on, we are hopeful that the ESAT project would establish effective national measures that would address most of the issues, mentioned in last week's STAR presentations, in particular, the issues of coastal erosion, marine life conservation and other related activities.

The Government of Kiribati would also like to register its interest in the development of mineral resources within the Pacific region to be covered by the Deep Sea Mineral Resources Project. Having heard from the STAR presentation last week that Kiribati potential manganese nodules total up to 4,461 million tonnes viable to generate future economic growth for Kiribati, the Government of Kiribati would like to grasp any opportunity required to enhance the development of both its sea bed and terrestrial mineral resources and to ensure safeguarding its national interest. Currently, Kiribati have received interests in the exploration of its marine mineral resources, however considerations of these applications are on pending due to a need to improve and update related legislations and policies required with technical capacities on Mineral Resources.

Nonetheless, our national efforts in realizing the many programmes that are anticipated to be achieved are often constrained by our limited professional and technical capacities.

In this regard, Kiribati will continue to seek the support of the Secretariat, particularly in critical areas that were unfortunately not achieved in the previous work plan. Kiribati wishes to register its continued interest in achieving these and would welcome any update that the Secretariat can offer in regard to our various projects as follows:

- Training on Coastal GIS, aerial photography and multi-temporal analysis as a coastal monitoring tool;
- Developing legal frame work for Marine Scientific Survey in Kiribati Waters;
- Technical necessities required in the upgrading and improvement of the map-server.
- RTK GPS – use in coastal mapping and monitoring
- Benthic habitat survey, mapping and reporting
- Training on installation of scanner (aerial photos), scanning process, cataloguing and storing of digital data on network and establishing a national geonetwork system within the ministry.
- Climate change and risk management trainings.

These are some of the requests that Kiribati has sought consideration for inclusion in previous work programmes and therefore wishes to register once again the critical need for the above mentioned projects.

While we applaud and acknowledge SOPAC for its tremendous support and technical assistance that has benefited member countries over many years, we continue to share our great concern on the merging of SOPAC into SPC. Given that SPC has a wider and broader range of areas of responsibility, we fear that this might impact on SOPAC ability to efficiently and effectively deliver its services to all member countries in a way that they have been enjoying in the past. We are, nonetheless, confident that due considerations must have been taken to avoid fragmentation or attenuation of SOPAC's core activities that are currently cherished by member countries, in achieving and maintaining their economic and social prospective.

Madam Chair, please allow me to once again emphasize that Kiribati would be very much concerned if the decision to have SOPAC programmes and services rationalised into SPC and SPREP, will adversely impact on ongoing SOPAC programmes currently implemented in Kiribati. Kiribati looks forward to deliberating on the issues that would help us move forward

in light of the new institutional arrangements without any substantive diminution in SOPAC's core functions.

While we note the intense of work required of us and in particular to all at SOPAC including those who would be part of the RIF process, we will continue to work collaboratively with the organisation in moving forward towards the realisation of our leaders' decisions to ensure a smooth transition that will also at the same time not affect the level of service delivery but rather enhance it.

We shall look forward to the deliberations of this meeting for the next few days and we wish you all Kiribati's traditional blessing of Te Mauri, Te Raoi ao Te Tabomoa.

Kam rabwa, Vinaka Vakalevu

NEW CALEDONIA

Mr Chair, distinguished Representatives of Member Governments of SOPAC, Representatives of regional and international organisations, Director of SOPAC and Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of New Caledonia, we are very pleased to be part of this 39th SOPAC Annual Session and thank you for this opportunity to make a statement.

New Caledonia has always viewed SOPAC as a strong and reliable scientific and technical organisation. For this reason we decided to apply for Associate membership in 1991.

Since its admission as the first Associate member of SOPAC at the XXth Annual Session in Port-Vila, spearheaded by the late Jacques Iekawe, our former Kanak Deputy High Commissioner for Regional Cooperation, New Caledonia has drafted its own Work Programme and secured funding in order to avoid overloading the Secretariat and diminishing the resources of other member countries.

Furthermore, New Caledonia has been assisting the Secretariat in strengthening its technical capacity in the following sectors:

▪ *National Capacity Development*

The 4 following workshops were held in New Caledonia:

- the Coastal Mapping Training Workshop in 1993,
- the International Seafloor Mapping Seminar in 1994,

- the Marine Benthic Habitats Conference in 1997, and;
- the GeoHAB International Conference, co-organised by New Caledonia, the Circum Pacific Council and SOPAC, held in May 2007. Attended by 120 participants from 23 countries, GeoHAB 2007 has enabled to update both actions and ideas regarding marine habitats and environments that have arisen over the last 10 years, since the Habitat meeting held in 1997.

▪ *Offshore resources assessment of the Pacific region, through:*

- the EU-funded SOPACMAPS programme that enabled 4 Swath Mapping and geophysical surveys within the EEZs of Fiji, Solomon Island, Vanuatu and Tuvalu in 1994;
- our own resources assessment programme, the ZoNéCo programme, launched in 1993 and still ongoing. The programme aims at assessing living and non-living resources of New Caledonia's EEZ and Lagoons. New Caledonia was very pleased to have a SOPAC representative on the first ZoNéCo cruise that was carried out aboard L'Atalante in 1993.

▪ *Nearshore environment and associated resources*

As an Associate Member of SOPAC, New Caledonia could secure funding in 1999 for a shallow water seismic survey to assess our lagoon sand resources.

A second Multibeam bathymetric survey was conducted the same year for the purpose of evaluating the feasibility of a deep sea tailing placement in the Northern Province.

▪ *Continental Shelf extension under UNCLOS*

Expertise in the field of "Continental Shelf extension" was shared with the Secretariat and its member countries during the "High Level Colloquium of Pacific coastal States on Potential Claims to an Extended Continental Shelf" meeting that was convened in Brisbane in February 2007.

As France's claim pertaining to the New Caledonian Continental Shelf was lodged with the CLCS in May, 2007, New Caledonia became the 3rd member of SOPAC to have its submission accepted by the UN CLCS, after Australia in 2004 and New Zealand in 2006.

▪ *Geohazards*

In 1999, New Caledonia was part of the

SOPAC's expert team that was involved in the two JAMSTEC-SOPAC cruises that were carried out offshore Papua New Guinea in order to understand the causes of the July 1998 devastating tsunami that occurred offshore the Aitape-Sissano region.

More recently, through a Contribution Agreement signed with the European Community under the EDF 9 C Envelope for Pacific OCTs, the project "Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific Overseas Countries and Territories". The European Union has provided 5.6 M€ over 4 years to assist New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and Pitcairn for the implementation of actions that will reduce the vulnerability of these OCTs to losses from natural and anthropogenic disasters including climate and weather extremes.

▪ *Water resources*

Regarding the Water issue, New Caledonia has always shown a strong interest in the HYCOS initiative, especially regarding Water Resources Assessment and Water Quality, as we have been working on the identification of Bio-indicators for Water quality since 2000.

Since 2009, under the SOPAC/EU EDF 9 Global C-Envelope, a project that encompasses the following 3 main goals has been implemented by SOPAC in New Caledonia :

- i) building capacity and technical assistance to local authorities for implementation of water safety planning;
- ii) providing assistance to local authorities for developing their strategy and planning tools for waste water treatment;
- iii) developing and/or strengthening public-private partnership for improvement of water management and reduction of erosion on mining sites in New Caledonia.

▪ *Renewable Energy*

Regarding the Energy issue, as New Caledonia strongly depends on imports of fossil fuel, New Caledonia, together with French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna, has secured UE-OCT funding under the "TEP Vertes" regional Renewable Energy programme. One of the expected outcomes of this regional programme will be to share our return of experience in Solar Energy with our SOPAC member colleagues.

Last but not least, on a less technical note, New Caledonia was involved into the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), stressing that any change to the regional institutions should improve efficiencies and enable better use

of resources. Following the Forum Leader's decision in Cairns last year, New Caledonia would like to associate itself with this decision as we think that there are clear opportunities for improved service delivery with the transfer and integration of the core SOPAC work programme into SPC. New Caledonia will ensure that its 19 year-long cooperation with SOPAC is maintained under the agreed rationalisation process.

We are aware of the SPC's reputation as an effective regional organisation and therefore look forward to continuing to actively work with the "Applied Geoscience and Technical" Division to be created early next year within the SPC.

New Caledonia would like to contribute to the success of the future Division by sharing its expertise in the main following fields:

- environmental research programmes on marine, terrestrial and mining ecosystems that were set up following with the registration of "The lagoons of New Caledonia: reef diversity and associated ecosystems" as a World Heritage List in July, 2008;
- 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 expertise in that field benefits from the creation in 2007 of the National Research and Technology Centre for Nickel and its Environment (CNRT). This centre will 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;
- expertise in developing regional projects which can benefit from European Union funding.

Finally, Mr Chair, my delegation congratulates you for your appointment as Chairman of the 39th Annual Session and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the Government of Australia and the people of Fiji for their hospitality during this 39th SOPAC Meeting.

Thank you Mr Chair.

NIUE

Greetings from The Rock ...

Chair, first let me congratulate your appointment as Chair of SOPAC and would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chair for the leadership in taking SOPAC through a very uncertain, disturbing and difficult period this past year. I would like to thank the Secretary General of SPC and the current Director of SOPAC for assisting with charting a way forward for the organization. This is indeed the end of an era, 40 years of SOPAC existence has now come to its final closure, as a Commission. However, Niue is satisfied that SOPAC will still continue to exist and function as a new division within SPC's organization and will endeavour to present and highlighting success stories of the past year and issues of pressing concerns to Niue.

Niue, has over the years, been directly benefited from programs under and run by the SOPAC Secretariat, however, without the financial assistance from the many donor partners we would not have reach this stage and Niue would like to sincerely thank all those countries and organizations, which some have bilateral arrangements with Niue.

Chair, Niue very much recognised and would like to make special mention of a very special and specialized group of very dedicated people from the scientific community for all their invaluable contributions to SOPAC and member countries. These scientific research and information gathered over more than 20 years were of tremendous valuable to the pacific island countries and the region. This has resulted in island countries understanding more about the many elements which affected them and can plan better to be more resilient to hazards and natural disasters.

Chair, Niue very much recognised the work and commitment of the staff of the Secretariat and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the past and current staff of the SOPAC Secretariat for their dedication in serving SOPAC secretariat and member countries all these years. I'm glad indeed that the positions of staff members have not been affected, only under a different organization and perhaps better opportunities.

Chair, I'm glad to report on the success of the different programs under the water and sanitation sector in Niue, it has given the people and the government confidence in supporting the water sector in driving water and sanitation programs forward. One very positive outcome of this was the establishment of the National

Water Steering Council which was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2009 and is mandated to oversee water related issues in Niue.

I would like to make mention of the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) program which is progressing very well and other programs running parallel, Water Demand, Water Quality, HYCOS, Water Safety Plan, Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) and the review of the 2008 Water Bill. We give thanks to all the assistance, however, we must do our part to ensure that the Niue groundwater source remains clean and remain so for generations to come. We must also continue to invest and tap into other sources of water as back up which will indirectly contribute to the reduction of fossil fuel importation.

Chair, one of the area of importance to Niue is disaster which has somehow not progressing well as we would have hoped in recent years. However, government has renewed its commitment to ensure that Niue initiated programs that will enhance the resilient of the people to hazards and natural disasters. Niue however, cannot achieve this by herself and will continue to request for the assistance of the expertise through and from the SOPAC Secretariat.

Niue is currently undergoing major development in the tourism sector and also vested an interest in deep seabed minerals and the possibility of mining exploration and activities. All these will have significant impacts on our fragile eco-system and environment, more so on our groundwater reservoir, if not done with extreme caution. We will be looking and requesting the assistance of SOPAC secretariat and the scientific community expertise.

One of the outstanding issues that Niue would like see come to a closure is the Maritime Delimitation Maritime Boundaries negotiations with neighbouring countries, especially Cook Island and Tonga.

Mapping and the use of high resolution images is important for Niue as we embarked on the development and enhancing of the IT system which is important for disaster issues and other infrastructure improvements. In this context, Niue request the assistance of the Secretariat in resurrecting the map server which has been down for some time now.

Chair, we will be discussing more in the individual work programs of SOPAC as the session progresses.

Wishing everyone a successful 39th Annual Session. Fakaue Lahi moe Monuina.

PALAU

Honorable Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I bring warm greetings from His Excellency, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau and the Honorable Victor M. Yano, Minister of State, and who is the official representative of Palau to SOPAC. And let me also add my country's word of thanks to our gracious host for excellent meeting arrangements and Government and people of Fiji who have graciously welcomed us to their mists.

Before proceeding, allow me as well to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing SOPAC Director Dr. Russell Howorth and his collaborators for producing comprehensive five-year strategic plan that when put into action by SPC's new Applied Geoscience and Technology Division will perpetuate SOPAC's legacy-to consistently provide invaluable technical services to the Small Pacific Developing States and their people.

We are meeting this week for the last time as SOPAC's Governing Council and to set things in motion for formal transfer and integration of our nearly 40-year old technical, inter-governmental regional organization's core programmes to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). We take comfort in Dr. Howorth's assurance that the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan we have approved " ... provides clear links with the work of the former SOPAC while also mapping a way forward to achieve national and regional outcomes". The theme of placing the unique and different needs and requirements of each island nation over regional goals and objectives is emphasized in the Plan.

Like other SOPAC members, Palau is glad to see retention of majority of existing personnel, both professional and local support staff, including and the new Division will continue to occupy SOPAC's old compound on Mead Road. Moreover, Palau suggests for the Council seriously considers extending Director Howorth's employment beyond February 2011 for two years more at the same level of remuneration and with the same fringes benefits. We think this is imperative to ensure continuity of leadership and oversight of the programmes.

Mr. Chairman, Palau is pleased with continuation of services and activities available under Ocean and Islands Programme, especially in the areas of maritime boundary and continental shelf. We note assistance will be forthcoming

in tapping non-traditional resources such as hydrocarbons and deep sea mineral deposits.

Although Palau became a formal SOPAC member only in the last decade, the benefits we have received from this Program far outweigh the cost of our annual country contributions. To cite an example, SOPAC played lead role in completing the December 2006 “Desktop Study for the Government of Palau; Potential for Claim to Continental Shelf Territory Beyond 200 Nautical Miles under Article 76 of UNCLOS”. This

professional work laid to rest allegations of some “experts” that Palau had no continental shelves to claim. As well SOPAC’s six jointly sponsored technical trainings and workshops relating to Article 76 of UNCLOS enabled Palau to complete and to present the Executive Summary and Main Body of its Continental Shelf Claims Submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) on May 8, 2009. And on the 20th of August this year Palau again made a Presentation before the 26th Plenary Session of UNCLCS and is currently number 41 in the queue of submissions.

In the field of maritime boundaries, Mr. Chairman, Palau ratified the June 2006 maritime boundary treaty with the Federated States of Micronesia. We need to make a minor technical change in the agreement and we look forward to engaging FSM soon. Last April Palau and Indonesia commenced a technical-level consultation where we were able to exchange with each other maritime coordinates, relevant maps and charts for review by the other. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for 22-24 November in Koror.

We have pending request for a bilateral dialogue with the Republic of the Philippines, the third neighbor Palau shares a common 200-nm EEZ with and are anxious to hear from them. SOPAC is in possession of Palau’s request for assistance to verify accuracy of our maritime boundary coordinates. We are confident that SPC’s new Division Applied Geoscience will in due course take up our request and provide us the technical help we need.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, Palau is taking steps to becoming a member of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). We urge our fellow small Pacific island states to join ranks with Fiji Island and Papua New Guinea in this important global body. We will likewise look up to SPC’s new Division for guidance in pursuing this initiate further.

In the field of petroleum industry, we also please to advise, Mr. Chairman, the Palau’s Task Force on Oil and Gas presented to President Toribiong comprehensive draft Petroleum Act and its companion bill, the Fiscal Management and Revenue Sharing Act for review and submission to the 8th Olbiil Era Kelulau for enactment. The Task Force had completed a set of implementing regulations on (a) Protection of the Environment, (b) Petroleum Revenue Fiscal Regulations, (c) Petroleum Operations Regulations, and (d) Petroleum Licensing Regulations. And we trust as well SPC’s Geoscience and Technology Division will also come to Palau’s rescue in the structuring institutional mechanism needed to oversee the petroleum industry if and when oil and/or gas are struck in our territory.

We take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to pay tribute to the country representatives who took active part in the 38th Session (21-30 October 2009) of SOPAC Governing Council. They debated long and hard merits and demerits of the then proposed integration of SOPAC’s 40-year old core programmes and produced a workable solution. Furthermore, their concerted efforts also guaranteed retention of the vital role the Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR) play post transfer and integration.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, ensure the Council Palau’s unqualified endorsement for the execution of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) - (Final Draft, 16 July 2010) by Interim SOPAC Director Dr. Russell Howorth and by SPC Director-General Dr. Jimmy Rodgers in the behest of the members and their secretariats of their respective organizations. We have full confidence that by employing the MOA’s terms and stipulations as guidelines for implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and under the joint leadership, supervision and watchful eyes of both Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Howorth, the traditional beneficiaries of being phased-out SOPAC, will be receiving same quality service delivery that had characterized SOPAC up to now.

Thank you for your attention!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Dr. Russell Howorth, Director SOPAC ... Let me at the outset apologise on behalf of my National Representative, Ms Nellie James, Secretary, Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management (DMPGM). Ms

James sends her regrets and well wishes for the meeting.

Distinguished Council Members, In my brief intervention I will provide highlights on the country report which is available from the Secretariat on developments to date in PNG in terms of the mineral and petroleum sector, including potential projects that are coming up and an overview of the Geohazards programme which comes under the ambit of the Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management.

I also intend to provide some added information on PNG's views regarding the future of SOPAC, without dueling too much on it. Activities have incidentally progressed through the RIF process and we're especially appreciative of the continued constructive engagement with STAR.

But, at the outset let me on behalf of the PNG delegation express our deep appreciation to both the Australian and Fijian Governments for their warm hospitality and courtesies extended to my delegation since our arrival and the superb arrangements for the meeting. I sincerely believe this has set the tone for a very fruitful, constructive and successful outcome for the council meeting and also the recently concluded STAR Conference. STAR has provided the basis for the discussions of achievements in science within our organization, and is facilitating future work regardless of recent events involving the RIF process.

Council Members, Again, we are meeting at a crucial juncture of SOPAC's and the future of its affiliate's, especially STAR. We are also carrying out the final implementation of the decision that was taken three years ago by our leaders, the demerits and merits of which has been thoroughly debated and discussed. Rather than commenting if and I'm hoping we didn't leave no stones unturned, I encourage the Council for a continued concerted approach for all to work together purposefully for better outcomes in the future. PNG also hopes the future of SOPAC "The Commission" to "The Division" of SPC is no indication of down playing SOPAC's standing in the region and around the globe. It must come with the view the move is the way forward to meet the future and the challenges it comes with, and not otherwise.

Critical to all of this is the continued usefulness of the engagement of SOPAC in its new form with the vitally important STAR whose Chair Professor John Collen aptly described as the most voluntary and free engagement of government and academia from around the world dealing with cutting edge science which

would not have been available in a similar manner anywhere around the world.

This is a unique collaboration between the region and STAR through SOPAC whose usefulness we must retain in one form or another. There are views to the contrary that it would be non-feasible to continue with this independent collaboration as the "new SOPAC" will be a division within the larger SPC bureaucracy. Notwithstanding, I believe it is up to members of this Council and SPC Council to ensure that we do construct an arrangement that would capture and retain an engagement of such import.

Members of the Council, STAR has been with us for the last twenty five years, only last week they celebrated this with us at what in most peoples minds was the final time such a collaboration between us and them took place.

The question for all of us is whether we as body that have benefited for the twenty five years intend to expunge from our memories, the momentous, constructive, next to free advice and support we have received from our engagement. I know Professor Collen will agree that the response time for any collaboration to take place on issues from Geohazards support to disaster risk management to policy development was quick, informal and effective, why because STAR made it possible.

I need not run through the whole works of assistance and benefits that have accrued to our mutual benefit but appeal to SPC and its transition team to search high and low on how we will maintain, retain and secure for the long term, the STAR collaboration with our national Geohazards organizations.

Could Members, may I at this juncture, offer on behalf of PNG our sincere appreciation the benefits we have derived from our collaboration with STAR, Especially, Professor Collen, Professor Greene and others who have volunteered their time, resources and lives to assistance to improve the livelihoods of our people.

Council members, let me turn to my countries Geohazards programme and also offer some words of gratitude to SOPAC.

The department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management (DMPGM) is new and emanated from the Former Department of Mining and is responsible for (1) formulating policies related to mining/exploration and (2) monitoring of geohazard activities in PNG and the region. The latter responsibility of DMPGM will be discussed further here.

Within DMPGM a Division called Geohazards Management was created with the role to monitor and assess geological hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, landslides and mass erosion events, in PNG and the region. The Division provides advice on the mitigation measures to relevant authorities and communities and where possible it provides warnings of the effects of these hazards. Through applied research the Division aims to improve the capabilities to monitor, assess and where possible mitigate geological hazards in the region. The Division comprises three Branches; the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory, Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory and the Engineering Geology Branch and they are responsible for the monitoring of volcanoes, earthquakes/tsunamis and landslides/mass erosions respectively in PNG.

We are ever so grateful to SOPAC for the great work you have done in assisting PNG, FSM and Solomon Islands in meeting the deadline for submission on the Extended Continental Shelf Claims to the UN Commission on the limited of Continental Shelf. We know that this is just the beginning and that our defense of these claims as a joint team is 72nd in the queue and we are to do this work during the next three years. Legal and policy review on this is also under.

At this juncture we are most grateful for the assistance we have received also from EU to the replacement national seismic network, and AusAid, SOPAC and the Commonwealth Secretariat for other projects. PNG would also like to thank most sincerely FSM and Solomon Islands for their resolute and steadfast partnership on all this and remain confident that we will remain committed for the task that lay ahead of us.

Council Members, PNG welcomes new observers especially non-SOPAC members of SPC, and are excited for possible bilingual during the meeting. No matter how trivial they may be the issues are meant to encourage reflection of proactive and innovation, and therefore SOPAC "The Commission" being in a transition period to become SOPAC "The Division", the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of SPAC from 1 January 2011.

Finally, as I alluded to earlier a full report is available for you to read at your leisure, however I would like to reiterate to you that as members of this Council and SPC we are the ones who can make a difference by rally together to ensure that new arrangements are in place for our long-term collaboration with STAR. I commend them to you and offer

PNG's interest to keep this issue under active reviews.

Thank you, Council Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SAMOA

1. May I extend our congratulations on your assumption of Chair for this 39th Governing Council meeting. Samoa notes that as previous Chair of the last SPC CRGA meeting in Noumea, you had undertaken an exceptional job. No doubt you will repeat this again thru your able guidance and experience.

2. Samoa would also like to thank the outgoing Chair the Hon Minister from Vanuatu. I recognise that with your wisdom and guidance we have been able to achieve some key milestones this year especially with regards to the RIF process.

Samoa would further like to thank the Director of SOPAC for the kind words & tribute to Philip Muller. As a national of Samoa, he has made us proud with his contribution to the region and especially in his work as Director of SOPAC and later as FFA Director.

For Samoa, we have clearly been able to identify with SOPAC as an effective organization, which time and again has been able to deliver quality services in all its technical work programmes, (whether it be in the area of technical support, advisory services, capacity building) towards addressing member country needs at the national level.

3. For this we thank SOPAC Director Generals, both current and past. We commend the hard working staff of SOPAC and similarly thank STAR in light of the importance of its scientific & advisory role including all those individuals who have contributed towards the recognition of SOPAC both in the region and international arena, those who have helped build its excellent reputation which it can certainly boast about. It will be remiss of me not to thank SOPAC's development partners without whom SOPAC will not be able to deliver its technical work programmes.

4. SOPAC will now embark under a different umbrella but it should not operate any differently and should not deliver any differently than it does now, other than to continue improving. For Samoa SOPAC has always delivered to the needs of member countries and we see no reason why this should not continue into the future.

PART II: STATEMENTS BY CROP ORGANISATIONS

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

Firstly Madam Chair I would like to commend your exceptional chairing of the 39th and the last SOPAC Governing Council Meeting as an independent Commission. Secondly, I bring greetings and best wishes from SPREP Director David Sheppard and his Staff to you chair, to the SOPAC council here in this meeting and to the Director of SOPAC and his staff on this landmark 39th Annual Session. David Sheppard also send apology for not being here due to the Biodiversity COP in Nagoaya, Japan.

SPREP will continue to step up its collaboration and partnership with SOPAC the division under SPC in the area of climate change adaptation underpin by SPREP's new strategic plan recently approved by the 2010 SPREP meeting and Environment Ministers meeting.

SPREP is also seeking resources to implement the climate related functions transferred from SOPAC to SPREP such as the PI-GOOS, Climate Updates and Climate Monitoring. I noted that your accounts have been audited and approved by the Council – SPREP looks forward to the final transfer of the PI-GOOS finances to allow SPREP to recruit this position.

Pacific leaders, SPREP Officials Meetings and Environment Ministers Meeting have consistently identified Climate Change as the greatest challenge facing Pacific Island Countries, underlining the vulnerability of Pacific Islands and the need for urgent action. They have given many clear directions; for example:

The 2010 SIS leaders meeting asked the Forum Secretariat and SPREP to facilitate the development of a regional financing modality to administer manage and monitor the expected influx of funding for climate change. The 2010 Leaders Meeting tasked Forum Economic and Environment Ministers to advice on options to improve access to, and management of climate change resources.

To this effect SPREP is coordinating a feasibility study for options for a sustainable climate finance mechanisms on behalf of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. This study is expected to be tabled at the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting.

Equally important when the climate change \$\$\$ sign is looming large – is the continued collaboration and partnership in regional approaches in support of pacific islands countries and territories climate change priorities. The SOPAC presentation on the Compendium at lunch time provided an exceptional wealth of baseline knowledge and more that should guide sustainable climate change adaptation and reducing the risks of climate change impacts.

SPREP with its limited resources and capacity has been supporting PICTS in the area of climate change since 1992 UNCED and preparations prior to UNCED. SPREP delivery in the area of climate change is as good as the resources given to the secretariat. Since UNCED environment and development issues were brought together as re-enforcing, closely linked/dependent on each other. Climate change is a development issue/cross cutting and that's the broad 'environment' that SPREP has been operating under since climate change became one of its core functions.

It is also very pleasing to note the 'pacific way – and the notion of Pacific Family is still very much alive – and in this context SPREP believes that SPC and the SOPAC division like big brothers and sisters will tow true collaboration and partnership and to ensure that its smaller sister organisation is strengthened to deliver its core lead coordination role in climate change, biodiversity, waste management, environmental monitoring and governance in true partnership and collaborations with SOPAC the SPC division and SPC.

Malo

Netatua Pelesikoti
SPREP

PART III: STATEMENTS FROM NATIONAL AGENCIES

(NZ) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WATER & ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH LTD (NIWA)

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Director of SOPAC and Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

On behalf of New Zealand's National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) we are very pleased to be part of this 39th Annual Session of SOPAC Governing Council and thank you for this opportunity to contribute.

NIWA has a long and enduring relationship with SOPAC across all three programmes. It is a relationship that we strongly value and are committed to developing to assist SOPAC where we can in providing scientific and technical services to Pacific Island countries.

We have also been active this year in further supporting the EU funded Pacific Hycos project, for example installing equipment and carrying out capacity building activities in Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, and have recently completed the implementation,

training and hand-over of the Rewa river flood forecasting system to Water Authority of Fiji.

We look forward to continuing this relationship as SOPAC transitions in to a division of SPC, and particularly look forward to potential upcoming opportunities to work with all three Programmes including assessing climate change impacts on coastal inundation in the Cook Islands with the Oceans and Island's team, developing the Nadi Flood warning System within the Integrated Water Resource Management Project, and tsunami inundation modelling to assist evacuation planning in Wallis and Futuna as part of the EU C-Envelope Project for the Overseas Countries and Territories.

We very much value the collaborative benefits such linkages can bring and look forward to building on and developing further such relationships.

Once again on behalf of NIWA we thank you for this opportunity we wish you all the very best with your deliberations over the next few days.

APPENDIX 5

STAR CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 2010

Honourable Chair of SOPAC, Excellencies, Distinguished National representatives and Delegation members, representatives of Institutions and Organisations, Director of SOPAC, Directors of SPREP and SPC, my TAG colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I. Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity to formally address this Council on the activities of the Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR).

Before I begin, Honourable Chairman, speaking as Chair of STAR on behalf of all the scientists, may I thank our hosts, the Government of Australia, and the people of Fiji for their gracious hospitality and support.

As usual, STAR is indebted to staff of the SOPAC Secretariat for their cheerful and untiring efforts that make the meeting possible in the very short time frame. Vinaka. Thanks too to my scientific colleagues for their presentations, chairing of sessions, support to the Chair work on PMEGs and working groups and, in advance, contributions to the TAG sessions.

The STAR Chair, John Collen, sends his apologies for not being able to make the meeting due to a medical problem on the home front. However, we have recently heard that is all well and John using his usual organizational skill has assured that a virtual Chair of SOPAC was created.

Now please let me talk about STAR. For those of you new to the STAR meetings, on behalf of STAR I would like to brief you on the nature of the group. The STAR network is an informal and entirely voluntary 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. STAR members also correspond and tender advice in the periods between the annual meetings, and this is a major though less visible part of our work. And I would like to stress here that STAR scientists are a resource

freely available to you and staff of your national organisations at any time, either directly from the relevant scientist or through the Chair.

Most obviously of all our work, 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 27th meeting of STAR was held at this venue starting last week and continued through yesterday.

II. STAR Presentations

As the Honorable Telukluk of Vanuatu and the Director of SOPAC mentioned in their opening addresses this morning, the main theme of this year's STAR meeting was: "Pacific Geoscience in the Face of Dwindling Natural Resources"

Perhaps I could expand here on the rationale behind the themes of STAR. The theme has been selected each year after discussion between the host nation, the Director of SOPAC and the Chair of STAR. As the theme has the effect of attracting extra scientists working in that particular area, it is an excellent 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. Therefore, the interests of the host nation are paramount.

Presentations on any theme related to Pacific geoscience are always welcomed, though, and these expand the breadth, interest and relevance of the meeting. And sometimes it is the unexpected and unsolicited presentations that lead to important new research partnerships.

The STAR meeting occupied two days, with one day of concurrent sessions. Approximately 65 people attended and heard some 44 scientific papers presented orally. Abstracts of these, and of the poster presentations, are published in SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 717. 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. This information includes contact details for the presenters, should anyone wish to learn more about a particular item.

The Director and members of Council have discussed STAR in their presentations yesterday 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 meeting began with sessions devoted to hazards including reporting upon the Samoan tsunami, earthquakes in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, and volcanic activity in Tonga and Vanuatu. This was followed by a session on Ocean and Climate Change where surface wave climate and sea level monitoring studies were discussed.

Other sessions included Coastal Sediments, Water, and Energy and Minerals. A special session on "Map Once – Use Many Ways" co-sponsored by STAR and the Circum-Pacific Council (CPC). STAR invited CPC to host such a session where investigators from around the Pacific including from Fiji, US, Chile, Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia would be encouraged to present the latest technologies and methodologies in mapping.

Overall, STAR topics ranged from the general, covering principles and issues of a regional, even global nature through to specific discussion of problem solving in individual countries. The papers also ranged from the theoretical to the practical, illustrating the strength of STAR that allows people researching problems from all sides to come together.

III. Working Groups and Associated Meetings

Apart from hearing presentations by researchers, the STAR Conference allows us to take advantage of the presence of experts in several other ways. Each year we have convened thematic working groups in sub-disciplines where we have a critical mass of delegates. These groups, who may not often have an opportunity to meet in person, discuss those aspects of their subjects that are relevant to the region and make recommendations of points that they feel may be of benefit to Council, and this year the Directors of SPC and SPREP, for consideration in future work programmes. This year five working groups met, to discuss aspects of tsunamis, marine benthic habitat mapping, deep-sea minerals, water, and the International Geological Congress. Below is a summary of key recommendations from each:

Habitat Mapping Working Group:

- Benthic habitat mapping efforts within SOPAC be expanded to include the fisheries sector of SPC.
- A unique and distinct marine benthic habitat project be established and initiated with the review of in-house data.
- Specifics of the vulnerable fisheries be determined and a synergy be establish between SOP AC and the fisheries sector of SPC.

Ocean Surface Wave Climate Working Group:

- SOPAC to become active in collating existing wave climate data that can augment and strengthen the existing datasets of sea levels rise and coastal shoreline change. This is to be built upon our knowledge base on drivers of coastal change.
- SOPAC to take a pro-active role in coordinating applied research on wave impact on the coastal zone that is currently taking place around the Region, in order to ensure that existing research is focused toward filling critical knowledge gaps.
- SOPAC to actively seek funding to undertake work that takes existing information on historical wave information, as well as projected wave climate under greenhouse gas emission scenarios, and ensure that it is applicable at island-scales. This downscaling will ensure that information is available for decision making at national governments.

Deep Sea Minerals Working Group:

- A long-term regional program for the management of marine minerals in the Pacific Islands region should be devised starting with the DSM Project. This initiative should also encompass coastal and terrestrial minerals (i.e. industrial and metalliferous minerals).
- A marine minerals stakeholder network should be established in the region. Following this, an ad hoc STAR Advisory Group that can be consulted on a regular basis should be set up.
- A regional mineral database should be establish within SOPAC and regularly backed up elsewhere to ensure the safety of the data/information.

Tsunami Working Group:

- Encourage and support the conduct of hazard and risk assessments to identify the most tsunami vulnerable communities.
- Organize and assist countries to develop tsunami warning and response capacities through training, twinning, and other means of skills building.
- Facilitate a coordinated approach for Post-Tsunami Science Surveys that are conducted immediately after destructive tsunamis to assemble lessons learned and capture data to validate risk assessment models following the guidance of the revised IOC Post-Tsunami Field Survey Guide and organise a Special Session at the International Geological Congress in Brisbane in August 2012 on the Samoan Islands tsunami and other recent and historical events effecting Pacific Island Countries.

IGC Working Group:

- Endorsed initiatives that were proposed by the Circum-Pacific Council (CPC) during their meeting conducted concurrently with the STAR meeting and recommended SOPAC coordination with CPC.
- Chair of CPC, the Director of SOPAC, and the Chair of STAR should be the focal point for Pacific regional participation.
- Ensure that those regional organizations like Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS-New Zealand), Geoscience Australia (GA-Australia) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM-Australia), as well as representatives from regional funding agencies (e.g. NZAID and AusAID) are positively involved in the process to ensure financial resources are available to allow regional participation.

Water Working Group:

- Provide support to the development of national strategies, priorities or positions on water, in technical areas and also with critical skills in cost benefit analysis, communication and indicators
- Prepare and implement a roadmap for presenting a revision of the Pacific position on water to the Pacific Forum Leaders, Asia Pacific Water Summit and World Water Forum, and facilitate a process of consultations to develop the Pacific position.

Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups

I should also mention that 2005 saw the introduction of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups (PMEG) as the result of a STAR initiative. These groups of scientists again met with SOPAC Programme Managers in Suva immediately prior to this STAR meeting. As PMEG Chair, I will report on this process to Council later in the meeting.

IV. STAR Business Meeting

The STAR Business Meeting was well attended and the future of STAR was discussed. All present were supportive of the continuation of STAR and expressed a desire to improve and expand upon the group. The offer by Cook Islands to host the next STAR meeting in 2011 was enthusiastically endorsed. In addition, much support was shown for the participation of SOPAC in the upcoming IGC meeting to take place in Brisbane, Australia in 2012 and it was decided that points of contacts, including the CPC, and efforts be made to prepare sessions under the Oceania theme. Appreciation for the involvement of the CPC was expressed at the meeting and all were hopefully that a good synergetic relationship between CPC and the SOPAC Division of SPC would continue. John Collen was elected as the Chair of Star for the coming year and Keu Mataroa of the Cook Islands was elected Vice Chair.

V. Concluding Remarks

I would like to thank the host of this years SOPAC meeting, Australia, for their generosity in supporting STAR and look forward to their continuing support under the SPC banner. Special thanks goes to the SOPAC Secretariat for their always cheerful and efficient assistance in organizing and convening STAR. Without this help STAR just would not take place. Of course one-of the most critical component of the organization are the participants, both in region and externally with many who come from long distances, and without support, to contribute to the science of the region. Lastly, I thank the hotel staff for their responsiveness and Fiji for their warm hospitality.

That concludes my address. Thank you all for your time.

H. Gary Greene

Acting Chair, Science Technology and Resources Network, Nadi, Fiji, 20th October 2010

APPENDIX 6

PROGRAMME MONITORING EVALUATION GROUPS REPORTS 2010

2010 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Matters and issues relating to the SOPAC work programme delivery that are crosscutting in nature and common to all three technical programmes of SOPAC, including support functions and which affect the transition of the Secretariat into SPC are presented below:

- a. **Banding** – The harmonization of SOPAC job descriptions with the SPC bands and the development of a new staff performance and evaluation system. There appears to be a general dissatisfaction with the lack of apparent transparency that has occurred with this process. Many staff members state that they still do not fully understand the procedure and feel isolated from the process.

Recommendation – Provide latest information to staff on how this process is to progress and accelerate the process as this is urgently needed if the RIF is to move ahead.

- b. **Strategic plan** – Last year (2009) PMEG recommended that a new strategic plan be developed by SOPAC even though it was in the process of transitioning into SPC. This process has been accomplished but some staff members feel it was unnecessary while others feel that it was not given the time and thought needed for a forward looking comprehensive document. For example, synergies with SPC programmes and projects were not addressed and insights into emerging issues were not fully considered.

Recommendation – Revisit the strategic plan.

- c. **Morale** – In general, and under the present unknowns of the transition, morale of the staff, with the exception of senior programme managers and some support groups (e.g., ICT), remain high. The majority of the corporate services, library and information dissemination groups have indicated that they are pleased with how the transition is taking place.

Recommendation – Continue to monitor morale with a focus on those groups suffering from lower morale than other staff.

- d. **Compensation / Professional Development** – Last year (2009) PMEG recommended that core funding be enhanced to provide the opportunity of SOPAC staff to write proposals, attend workshops and other professional enhancement activities and this recommendation is still endorsed by PMEG

Recommendation – Consider providing funds through the sustainable funding initiative to cover time for staff to write proposals and attend professional development activities.

- e. **Work Environment Considerations** – Some staff, not all, raised work related issues and the need for a reasonable work-life balance. These concerns addressed the following:

- Rest
- Illness
- Burnout

Recommendation – SOPAC seek a method and funds to provide a healthy work –life balance for those staff suffering from overwork.

- f. **Communications** – Since PMEG last met substantial improvement in communication has occurred in the form of regular staff meetings, e-mail correspondence, and verbal information flow. However, this is not without difficulties in the sense that there still are unknowns in regard to the transition process.

Recommendation – SOPAC scientists need to meet with their counterparts at SPC, pertinent international organizations and internally to design an efficient and realistic future work programme.

- g. **Web Site/Data Management** – Last year PMEG recommended that the SOPAC web site be updated even though the organization will shortly be merged with SPC, as this would facilitate the updating of the web site to reflect the present work programme and initiate the digitizing and archiving of reports, maps and other library holdings, an important and necessary task regardless of where SOPAC sits. Substantial impressive progress has been made on the web site and in the incorporation of data

into a web data management system. However, a concern exists in web/data management group that once SOPAC is fully integrated into SPC they will be told to stop or to change the format of the project. This would substantially disrupt this task.

Recommendation – Allow the Data Management, ITC group to continue without interruption to digitize reports, maps, and other library information in the fashion they have developed.

h. **Open-source Software** – SOPAC often uses open-source software to provide country members with an inexpensive means to connect with the internet and to access data at SOPAC. A concern exists that an SPC policy for using only one software package such as Microsoft will impact low-cost service to countries and stymie internal SOPAC software development.

Recommendation – Allow for flexibility to use the best practices, hardware and software of both SPC and SOPAC.

i. **Computers/Network Transition** – To provide a seamless network transition from SOPAC to SPC the computers, servers and other electronic equipment need to be modified and new equipment added in order to integrate into SPC's network. This requires close cooperation between the two agencies' ICT departments, however it appears that most of this task is being undertaken by SOPAC. In addition, in order to upgrade the systems at SOPAC new computers and servers were to be provided but recently the ITC group has been told to use their old machines.

Recommendation – SPC provide more ITC support and equipment.

j. **Travel Requests** – The time required for obtaining permission and purchasing air tickets has increased and some projects feel they are being adversely impacted by the procedures they need to follow.

Recommendation – Shorten procedures if possible and/or explain rationale for the requirement.

k. **Heads of Geosciences** – All programme managers are concerned about the proposed make up of the new technical advisory group (TAG) that will be formed in replacement of the Council. It is felt that this will not provide synergy between various disciplines that are critical to a programme's activities.

Recommendation – Consider including other disciplinary heads in addition to geologists to participate in the new TAG.

1. **Proposal Development/Donor Management** – Responding to requests for proposals and writing contracts is a time-consuming job that takes time away from technical tasks and often impacts the progress of the programme managers and team leaders.

Recommendation – SOPAC should consider hiring a specialist proposal-drafting person who could monitor opportunities for proposals and assist with preparing the generic content required in many proposals, prior to seeking input from specialists whose input may be needed only for particular aspect.

m. **Human Resources** – There is a need for a dedicated HR unit for a merged SPC to handle issues of staff pay, level advancement, leave, personal development etc. Existing SPC HR unit may need to be expanded to handle extra load of additional SOPAC staff.

Recommendation – The existing SPC HR unit should be expanded to handle the extra load of additional SOPAC staff to provide much needed services to the staff in relevant areas including staff pay, level advancement, leave, and personal development.

n. **Performance Agreements** – Many (most?) staff do not have current Performance Agreements (PMS) in place and do not have professional development plans in place. Staff development is not well administered by the agency.

Recommendations – Staff performance assessment processes need to be adhered to and where needed updated performance assessments produced.

o. **Change Manager** – Although the SPC change manager has visited SOPAC often in recent months staff feel that exposure to this person needs to be increased.

Recommendation – Permanently base the change manager in the SOPAC Secretariat for the duration of the transition.

OCEAN AND ISLANDS PROGRAMME

Highlights and achievements for 2010

The OIP has, under difficult financial circumstances, managed to continue to deliver significant outputs and make a major contribution through geoscientific and

oceanographic information and advice to the member states. The OIP team represent a broad range of competencies. The oceanographic modelling, survey, resource economics, data and information management and the maritime boundaries skills are unique in the region and in many cases have set international precedence.

The maritime boundaries work of SOPAC has been noted internationally as an excellent example of how a regional geoscience agency can assist and support developing countries to establish their maritime boundaries. PMEG sees merit in the suggestion of hiring the services of a lawyer to assist Pacific Island Countries to develop the necessary legislative framework to implement the maritime boundaries.

The geology, minerals and hydrographics team have completed a revaluation of phosphate reserves in Kiribati, which may have economic significance. The deep sea minerals project has shown initiative and has been very proactive in establishing this programme with support from the EU. The SOPAC region will be the first region in the world where deep sea mining will be established and the work of SOPAC will be setting a global precedent.

The OIP has delivered all planned outputs for the year. The OIP team are positive to the merger with SPC and have already identified several areas within the SPC where they can engage and interact to supplement and enhance existing SOPAC programmes. New areas of cooperation and collaboration have been identified and include habitat mapping, fisheries research, maritime industry support, expansion of climate change research and deep sea mining.

PMEG especially congratulates OIP on the drive to unearth, collate and disseminate the large and extremely valuable historical data resources. Access to this data through the very impressive Geonetwork facility provides a significant service to SOPAC, the member states and the wider scientific community.

PMEG notes that the recently published work on the response of atolls to sea level rise has received international attention. This work has the potential to influence how climate change adaptation measures are implemented in the Pacific. PMEG also notes the Manager's involvement in the IPCC AR5 process as a lead author and we congratulate the agency on this achievement.

PMEG recognises the valuable work done by the hydrodynamic modelling team to

support development work in the Cook Islands and Saipan. In addition, the multibeam data acquisition continues to be a valuable component of several OIP programmes, which include the hydrodynamic modelling and tsunami risk assessment and has supported SPC's location of FADs and has supported the Fiji Hydrographic Service.

Cross-cutting issues

1. Pay harmonisation (banding) was not handled well by the organisation and has resulted in staff being sceptical of the process and a decline in morale.
2. There is a need for a dedicated HR unit for a merged SPC to handle issues of staff pay, level advancement, leave, personal development etc. Existing SPC HR unit may need to be expanded to handle extra load of additional SOPAC staff.
3. Despite significant improvements, workplace safety training, safety awareness and the lack of Safety Officer remain important issues.
4. Many (most?) staff do not have current Performance Agreements (PMS) in place and do not have professional development plans in place. Staff development is not well administered by the agency.
5. New process for obtaining permission to travel is causing extra work for staff and has resulted in delays and added costs in some cases where delays have occurred in obtaining approval.
6. Proposal writing consumes much of the time of the senior scientists in the programme. Large parts of many proposals do not require specialist skills to be completed.

Recommendations

1. Given the upheaval caused by the Pay Harmonisation (banding) process the agency should consider reviewing appointment bands and revising them upwards wherever appropriate.
2. The existing SPC HR unit should be expanded to handle the extra load of additional SOPAC staff to provide much needed services to the staff in relevant areas including staff pay, level advancement, leave, personal development and performance agreements.
3. SOPAC should appoint a Safety Officer and should take steps to ensure that adequate first-aid and small boat training is carried

out and that essential safety equipment is available. A risk analysis and emergency contact list should be completed prior to every field operation.

4. Management should consider explaining to staff why the new arrangements are necessary for obtaining permission to travel (e.g. to avoid embarrassment of countries being unaware of SOPAC staff being in-country).
5. SOPAC should consider hiring a specialist proposal-drafting person who could monitor opportunities for proposals and assist with preparing the generic content required in many proposals, prior to seeking input from specialists whose input may be needed only for particular aspects.
6. PMEG recommends that SPC/SOPAC investigate the cost effectiveness of purchasing its own vessel as the combined activities of the new agency may justify such an acquisition.
7. PMEG recommends that SOPAC seeks additional funding to support the currently unfunded ECS component of the maritime boundaries work.

Detailed Comments

1. Safety

There has been a significant overall improvement in the safety awareness and training within OIP over the past two years. SCUBA training and first aid courses have been taken by some staff and some new equipment has been purchased. Congratulations to OIP on securing funds from the Taiwan Government for running a small boat training course next year and also for providing experienced staff to run search and rescue training courses locally. PMEG welcomes the news that there were no serious OH&S accidents in the OIP programme in 2010. Although cell phones and walkie-talkies are available in the conduct of fieldwork, there are insufficient life jackets, flares, two-way radios etc available. Boat driver's licences will be needed in future for designated SOPAC staff, and PMEG acknowledges that the practical boat training planned for early 2011 will be of great benefit to all staff involved in fieldwork. PMEG recommends that all staff involved in field work should also be required to have taken a basic first aid training course. At present, no risk analysis is completed prior to surveys and SOPAC does not have a designated Safety Officer – these matters should be addressed as a matter of urgency. Continuation of the positive culture of change observed to date is needed if the agency is to achieve an acceptable standard of safety.

2. Strategic Plan 2011-2015

PMEG was interested in the process implemented in the design of the strategic plan and an attempt was made to gauge the engagement of staff in the process and their perceptions of the value of the final plan. PMEG found that staff are generally positive about the final plan. However, there was not generally a clear understanding of the process used to design the plan by all staff, in spite of the workshops that were held with all staff to gather ideas. The staff the Director selected to be directly involved in drafting the plan had a different view and understanding from those staff who were not involved. The latter group of staff were unaware, for example, that the design of the plan included input from and dialogue with the SPC. The final plan is generally viewed to adequately represent OIP and to link the projects to KRAs.

3. Staff Morale (Pay structure, job descriptions, PA, capabilities)

Given the lengthy process of the RIF and the negative influence it has had on staff morale over the past few years, this was an area of particular interest from PMEG. In general, the staff appear to have been responding well to the change in management, particularly the improved flow of information from the Director to staff, and the integration into SPC is now viewed with more optimism by staff. However, the Pay Harmonisation (banding) process appears to have been poorly managed and the result is a significant decline in staff morale following this initiative. The main issue is that there appears to have been a systematic mismatch between job descriptions prepared by the individual staff members and the pay band to which they were assigned; in almost every interview we heard staff recounting how the Job Description they had carefully prepared was largely ignored and that their assigned band was below the level that corresponded to their job description. A lack of transparency and poor handling of this process points strongly to the urgent need for the creation of a professional HR section to meet SOPAC's future needs in this area.

4. Work plan processes

PMEG was informed that there was not always the opportunity to plan work programmes to align with the strategic plan. While the work generally fits with the main focus areas of OIP (which are fairly broad) the group has to remain flexible to undertake a wide range of work. This is due to the fact that work is often donor

driven and there is an overriding necessity to generate funds to support the continuation of the Programme work and staff. PMEG notes this has been especially necessary in the last year, as the withholding of key annual contributions has caused anxiety within the teams and budgets. The fact that funding has been such an issue has meant that an inordinate amount of time has been spent chasing grants and contracts (see section 8). There have been some successes but generally the process appears to consume large amounts of resources with uncertain outcomes.

Because of financial imperatives OIP sometimes undertakes consultancy work in the private sector where they are required to provide advice that may have legal ramifications for SOPAC. While it is recognised that the culture of the Pacific works on common sense rather than litigation, there is perhaps a need to address this issue so that the organisation is not exposed to potential negative or costly situations. There does not appear to be a policy on undertaking consultancy work and perhaps this needs to be investigated and may just involve something as simple as a disclaimer on written reports.

5. *Staff development*

PMEG notes that the OIP staff are highly motivated and self directed. They are very satisfied with their direct supervision and feel supported by the manager of OIP. There is general consensus that individual's work is appreciated in the group and they are working in areas that provide a high degree of satisfaction. A number of the scientific team work on projects that they have generated and they have seen these projects become major contributors to the OIP outputs e.g. hydrodynamic modelling. When time permits there are opportunities to develop skills within the group.

While staff development is not offered in a formal way the OIP is congratulated for providing many opportunities for staff development. The OIP manager appears committed to staff development and encourages staff to seek opportunities and funding. Examples include:

- a 4 week data course at IODE with IOC UNESCO support;
- small boat training for all field-based staff;
- ECS data collection training aboard French vessel;

- PhD with University of Tokyo.
- Tsunami modelling placement at GA
- Attendance at international workshops and conferences, e.g. deep sea minerals
- Geocap software training in Norway

PMEG was informed that there is no budget allocated for staff development. In an organisation the size of SOPAC where retaining and developing staff is essential for the organisation, staff development should be included as an agency-wide initiative rather than its present ad hoc approach and be available to all staff. Staff should be encouraged to not only present their work but engage and network with external colleagues, especially when there are major events held locally (e.g. STAR).

The PMS process does not appear to be consistent across all staff. PMEG found that many staff do not have a current PMS. It is noted that this appears to be due in part to the new job banded process and pressures of the RIF and the uncertainty about job continuation and roles. Again this highlights the need for dedicated HR support and all staff need to re-engage with the PMS and should be encouraged to develop individual professional development plans with their managers.

6. *Opportunities to better interact with SPC*

PMEG was informed that a number of OIP staff are already collaborating with colleagues at SPC (e.g. placement of FADs). Other examples of contact and communication include the SPC Regional Maritime Programme newsletter, where SOPAC contributes. However it is generally felt by staff that there has been too little communication between OIP and relevant SPC colleagues.

The organisation should develop a strategy to better engage with colleagues in SPC; e.g. regular meetings of managers and scientists to share ideas develop networks; newsletter via the web to share recent accomplishments; production of capability statements to showcase expertise (this can have wider benefits beyond SPC); regular joint seminar series. The seminar series has happened in the past and was felt to be very productive but was the initiative of one person who has since left and nobody has taken up the baton.

Staff are generally positive that the merger could bring increased opportunities. Examples included the potential increase in boat use due to combined demand which may make it

cost effective for the organisation to purchase a boat (it was noted that often unsuitable, undersized boats were used for survey work, which increased costs due to the need for refuelling and consequently added time to the operations).

Areas where staff considered there may be opportunities to interact with SPC include:

- Increase climate change work
- Increase survey mapping work
- Involve SPC in GEOHAB initiatives
- Opportunities for SOPAC resource economists to work with the SPC statistics group.
- Development of a regional workshop on mining

Staff commented that it was hoped that the SOPAC Council members that also sit on the SPC CRGA will advocate for SOPAC and help to integrate SOPAC into the new, larger organisation.

7. Threats of Merger With SPC

Overall, there were few concerns expressed about the merger with SPC and most staff are optimistic about the future of the merged agencies working together. Staff noted that they felt there may still be a risk of Programme Sectors being fragmented, for example; staff of the Maritime Boundaries Sector felt concern over the possibility of being moved into SPC's Regional Maritime Programme, even though the intent and purpose of the two programmes are different. It must again be stressed that staff are enthusiastic to seek complimentary collaboration but more attention to any such lingering staff concerns should be addressed to reduce these anxieties. Similar concerns were also expressed that the natural resource economics capability of SOPAC and the possibility it may be subsumed into SPC's current resource division. PMEG also agrees that movement or reduction in Sector staff or work will cause disruption and loss of services to PICs.

8. Proposal Writing/Publications

Many staff expressed concern that their work is distracted by proposal writing to bring in funding for their respective programmes that is necessary to maintain current programmes running. There is no time to keep up with emerging issues or devote time to writing to

undertake publications. In this regard many feel proposal writing should be undertaken by a professional such as a Project Planner or proposal writing specialist. This may enhance also the success rate of securing funding. The small funding proposals are reasonably managed but large projects may take time to complete and a big effort to ensure donor requirements are satisfied. For instance the EDF-10 round took 3.5 years – it would be very useful to have a person dedicated to proposal writing and maintaining contacts with donors and knowing the needs of countries. PMEG is aware that there is discussion to streamline funding especially around climate change because recipient countries have too many different bodies to deal with.

9. Agency Outreach and Information Dissemination

It is evident to PMEG that SOPAC is more visible in the media now than in previous years. The development of the web page has been very successful and the web site now is much improved since last year. Information on the home page is current and easy to navigate. SOPAC should continue with tracking of who uses/wants the data to understand client and stakeholder bases. For example, the OIP administered Geo Network keeps track of requests for data and services, which provides valuable information on client needs and uses of SOPAC's data.

There have been significant, world-class papers published by the scientific team in the last year. The reputation and credibility of any scientific organization rests to a significant degree in the publication record of its scientific staff. Further, it is a duty-of-care for any science agency to provide its staff (particularly junior, early-career science staff) with the opportunity to publish in the peer-reviewed literature to develop their publication skills and further their careers. There should be emphasis on research and publication within SOPAC and career development should be encouraged with Performance Agreements signed between managers and scientific staff.

10. Measure Impact of Services and Products

PMEG notes that information and data collected from SOPAC work programmes have been useful to member countries. In this regard about 30 requests were received in 12 months for survey work. The new data base Geo Network received 200,000 hits on the web page

Many countries are using their baseline data to negotiate treaties with neighbouring countries and a further PIC declared its archipelagic baseline in 2010. Eight SOPAC countries have succeeded in lodging eCS claims with UNCLCS and OIP continues to support this important process, albeit without dedicated ongoing funding. Such work has had a huge impact in the region and for OIP and is a major success story.

Interest and use of OIPs modelling capacity is being increasingly requested and this year there have been a number of requests for this capacity. Modelling in Aitutaki Cook Islands of dredging a shipping channel showed the relative impacts of different designs and configurations of that channel and the information can be applied to minimise ecological impact on the reef and lagoon environment. Modelling of dispersion of effluent from an outfall in Saipan lagoon will assist the Government to manage impacts in a neighbouring marine reserve.

The aggregates project was successful in Fiji where after SOPAC identified the quantity of aggregates, a company signed an agreement with a local community who now receive \$30-40K per month.

PMEG notes that these and many other successes have been captured well in the document "OIP Report to SOPAC Governing Council 39th Session". Keeping a separate log of these successes would be useful for future applications, to promote the agency on its web page and to justify certain projects to countries and donors.

WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME

Summary

Achievements and Highlights

- Without question, there are achievements in every area of the WSP work plan.
- The broad mix of expertise and interconnectedness of projects are signs of how WSP has matured.
- Impacts of projects commenced some years ago are now becoming visible.
- Tools like cost benefit analysis can provide the kind of evidence required by those who have to make investment and national policy decisions.
- Project funding is ending in some areas, but the expertise will still be in demand.
- Care is required at proposal stage and in monitoring and evaluation to recognize

who should be accountable for achieving different aspects of projects.

Priorities, Projects and Demand

- Some project funding is ending, so out of the circumstance the work plan is now a mix of regional focus projects and country demand driven services.
- To WSP credit, this change is seen in a positive light, providing the time to support countries one-on-one as and when each needs it, enabling country ownership of the issues, solutions and progress, and allowing a consolidation period following an intense period of introducing new ideas and tools.
- In the short-term the country driven demand services may be somewhat reactive, but in the near future this will emerge into a responsive and programmed service if WSP can develop a joint strategy with each country closely linked to an existing or developing national water strategy.
- There is an issue of how to retain the breadth of core expertise required for WSP to service the needs of the countries.

Aligning Strategies

- The situation WSP finds itself in now regarding its funding base and planning for the future requires consideration of the match between funder priorities and country needs, and WSP's ability to balance responses to both funders and countries.
- The WSP regionally-focused priorities have been guided by the three high-level endorsed regional strategies, but these are aging and in need of review. This activity is in the WSP 2011 work plan and will be important to the emerging WSP strategy.
- In addition, there is also valid reason to consider in the emerging WSP strategy existing or developing national water strategies (supported by the Pacific IWRM planning programme).
- WSP can thus support the implementation of both regional and national water strategies. The match between funder priorities and country needs, and WSP's ability to balance responses is transparent and able to be planned.

Sustainable water management is cross-cutting with health, climate change, disaster risk management, tourism and changing land-use to name a few. The WSP needs to

continue to expand and strengthen its links within SOPAC, with other SPC divisions, with other CROP agencies and beyond to ensure the pervasiveness of water management is visible and acted on together.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) met for 3 days, 13-15 October 2010, at the SOPAC Secretariat in Suva.
- 1.2 The 2010 WSP PMEG team was Jan Gregor (Chair), Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited, New Zealand and Sandeep Singh, US Pacific Regional Environment Office Embassy of the United States of America, Fiji.
- 1.3 The purpose of the evaluation was to hear about key achievements and highlights for the year, to identify key challenges the WSP is facing in delivering on the work plan and going forward, and what actions the WSP is considering to address these challenges.
- 1.4 The evaluation process used was semi-formal in the sense that the WSP PMEG team provided pre-circulated topics for discussion and worked through a schedule of staff interviews, but informal in the sense that each interview was an open exchange of information and questions. In addition to the interviews the WSP PMEG team was provided with a substantial number of project-based progress, monitoring and evaluation, and completion reports. The WSP PMEG team also invited country contact personnel to provide contributions to the evaluation via email.

2. Water and Sanitation Programme

- 2.1 The WSP provides technical support to 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories through capacity building, awareness and advocacy related to the management of water resources and the provision of water supply and sanitation services.
- 2.2 The WSP comprises about 25 staff, across three programme components and working in four functional teams.
- 2.3 The WSP priorities have largely been guided by the three high-level endorsed regional strategies – wastewater (2001), sustainable water management (2002) and drinking-water quality (2005). The implementation of these strategies is considered key for the region in achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets for water and

sanitation. Progress towards the targets is being made, but not at a rate that will meet the 2015 target. Three main challenges hamper progress – the fragile water resources, available technical and financial resources for water services provision, and complex water governance systems.

- 2.4 It is around these three challenges that the WSP has structured – Water Resources, Water and Sanitation Services and Water Governance. The common thread is providing support for sustainable and integrated water management.
- 2.5 The WSP has active internal (to WSP and to SOPAC) and external partnerships within projects and across the programme.

3. Achievements/Highlights

- 3.1 Without question, the WSP PMEG team heard of achievements in every area of the work plan. It became apparent to the team that there were a number of additional achievements that were not ‘deliverables’ per se, but demonstrate the value of the WSP and of the staff. The WSP PMEG team wants to recognize and record these. This is an illustrative list of achievements, not an exhaustive assessment of delivery against plan because many of the projects have formal independent monitoring and evaluation processes.
- 3.2 The GEF-funded Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project, consisting 14 demonstration projects has focused on project implementation this year. Project plans have been finalized, logic frameworks finalized, project managers appointed, and projects underway. It is pleasing to see that the demonstration projects draw from, or contribute to a range of other WSP work streams. This demonstrates the need to ensure that WSP continues to be supported to retain its breadth of expertise, as it moves into a phase of reduced project-based funding (see KEY CHALLENGES).
- 3.3 The EU-funded IWRM project, which supports the development of national frameworks and plans for IWRM and is integrated with the GEF-funded IWRM project, is about 50% complete. A request was made for a non-financial extension when it became apparent that the timelines set at proposal-stage were being impacted by resource readiness and availability. The project team provided detail of the progress in each of the 14 countries. With the support of this project, the International Water Centre now offers a post-graduate certificate in IWRM. Twenty two Pacific

Island water managers are participating in this course.

- 3.4 The EU-funded Pacific HYCOS project is nearing its end, having commenced in 2006. The aim of the project was to develop the national capacity and service in 14 countries. All countries have the equipment and training to allow monitoring of water resources in the demonstration catchments with some confidence. The degree to which datasets are growing in quantity and quality is variable, dependent on the degree to which the countries have been able to implement regular field programmes. The HYCOS team has demonstrated their adaptability in providing supporting for rainwater harvesting in countries where the dependency is on rainwater rather than surface or groundwater. The HYCOS programme has provided expertise and data into other work streams.
- 3.5 The water and sanitation services component includes five main work streams – water demand management (WDM), water quality monitoring (WQM), drinking-water safety planning (DWSP), wastewater management and water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Ironically, as many of these work streams are coming to the end of project-based funding, the achievements and impacts are starting to become visible. An example of the impact the WDM work stream is having is in Niue, where the development and implementation of a System Loss Management Plan has reduced an estimated 34% system loss to 24%, with significant savings in energy costs. An independent completion report for AusAID states “the WQM has been effective in building laboratory monitoring and testing capacity in pilot countries”. By way of example, the Marshall Islands EPA laboratory obtained USEPA Voluntary Certification. The DWSP work stream has progressed from assisting countries to develop water supply risk management plans to implementing these plans, ie. making improvements and assessment of implementation.
- 3.6 Proposal writing continues, two with EU. One has been submitted in the WASH area, and one including wastewater is in preparation with SPREP.
- 3.7 The GEF-funded and EU-funded IWRM projects are both at full complement of staff.
- 3.8 The WSP is clearly demonstrating signs of its maturing, in that it has realized that achieving many of the sustainable outcomes desired by the region will require

more than science and technology input. Its programme skill/knowledge set now includes a broad range of expertise/roles – scientific and technical, policy specialists, project management, communications advisor, and natural resources economics. One example of the value of this mix of expertise is the cost-benefit analysis of the Palau Koro-Airai drinking water safety plan. The work was able to demonstrate the value to society of the DWSP approach in the long term, showing a return of USD6.00 expected on every USD1.00 invested towards implementing the plan. DWSP is still a relatively new concept in the region, and the practical evidence that demonstrates its value (eg. impact on health statistics) may still be some time away. However, this kind of economic analysis can provide the kind of evidence required by those who have to make decisions about investment and can influence national policy and decision-making.

4. Key Challenges

- 4.1 The WSP has gone through a massive growth period in the last few years, to its credit. Funding for some WSP projects has discontinued in this year or will be coming to an end very soon. To their credit, the WSP is seeing this change in a positive light, with an opportunity to move in some areas into a country demand driven phase. The positive aspects are seen as (i) having the time to provide the support to countries one-on-one as and when each needs it, (ii) enabling countries to have ownership of progress, and (iii) allowing a phase of consolidation, a period for the many new ideas and tools to find their place and priority in country.
- 4.2 Without project-based funding but still expecting to be in demand from countries, there is a concern about how the core skills and knowledge set will be retained in the programme.
- 4.3 Without the project-based resources being available to countries, there is concern about how in-country momentum to achieve the water and sanitation goals will be retained. Specific concerns exist for country hydrological datasets and water quality.
- 4.4 Projects not reaching a satisfactory stage of completion by the end of the funding term carries risks of poor evaluations impacting on future proposals, frustrations for staff and participants and possible disengagement, and a ‘carpet roll’ effect

of workload for staff and participants who then not only have to complete the delayed work but also have new work assigned. Fortunately, donors seem to have been supportive of requests for non-financial extensions, acknowledging that a range of unexpected circumstances can have an impact on delivery. The WSP PMEG team was alerted to the difficulty staff have experienced with what at times can seem like intractable reasons for delays.

- 4.5 Frustrations have been expressed about delays in countries receiving donor funds. This carries risks of possible participant disengagement and adds extra work for project staff to manage the financial process and the expectations of participating countries.
- 4.6 The effectiveness of most common approach to capacity building, that of spending a few days in-country relatively infrequently was questioned, especially where learning new technical skills is involved. The importance of recurrent on-the-ground training and on-going encouragement and mentoring should not be undervalued. Unfortunately the cost of this approach has, in the past, been beyond the means of the project budget.
- 4.7 SOPAC operates in an environment of predominantly project-based funding. The range of donors now accessible to SOPAC, each with its own proposal requirements, and the increasing complexity and size of projects is putting a strain on senior staff to not only prepare proposals but also work plan leadership and project implementation. A lesson well-learned by many now is the under-estimation of the time it takes to prepare proposals, prepare country project plans, reporting etc. This has an impact on business development costs (proposal preparation) and also project delivery costs.
- 4.8 The absence of, and difficulty in achieving practical connections between projects within WSP, within SOPAC and within country was raised with the WSP PMEG team. However, also raised were examples of establishing partnerships beyond what exists now. The health expertise residing within another SPC division is seen as an opportunity. Water, sanitation and health are natural partners. Working better together starts with sharing what each other has to offer.
- 4.9 It was mentioned by staff that engagement with countries and progress can be hindered if the importance and benefits of

the WSP work are not recognized by the country. Part of the problem identified by staff is that benefits may only become apparent some time later or when one or more projects come together (like filling in pieces of the jigsaw puzzle). Taking this to its natural way forward, there was some interest in developing awareness resources that span broader issues and solutions than any one project area.

- 4.10 WSP has recognized that the three regional strategies are now 5-10 years old, and it is time for a revision. This is planned for 2011, and will become an important input to the on-going WSP strategy. An important aspect of the review will be consideration of possible gaps between country needs, funder priorities, and SOPAC balancing its response between the two.

5. Addressing the Challenges

- 5.1 A critical success factor to achieving the intended outcomes for the type of work delivered by WSP is genuine country commitment to each project. This implies close alignment of the intended project outcomes with country priorities that have been endorsed at the highest level. It also implies countries have available capacity to absorb the demands of the project and that the necessary prerequisite steps have been taken. The WSP priorities are predominantly taken from the various high-level-endorsed regional strategies for sustainable management of water and sanitation. The WSP also considers relevant international issues and initiatives that have appeared since the regional strategies were prepared. The WSP PMEG team heard of some difficulties with country engagement and commitment and wonder whether for these countries some combination of differences in priorities, insufficient capacity and just not ready to take full advantage of the project is the reason.
- 5.2 To address 5.1, and also in response to KEY CHALLENGES 4.1 - 4.3, the WSP PMEG team support a mix of regional focus projects and country demand driven services. We acknowledge that this model has emerged out of circumstance and is being seen in a very positive light by staff, providing funding is committed to retain the core skills and knowledge set. In the immediate, we can see the country demand driven services being somewhat reactive. However, we can see in the near future this could emerge as a responsive/

programmed service if SOPAC can develop a joint strategy with each country closely linked to an existing or developing national water strategy. The WSP PMEG team wonders whether this is similar to the SPC Joint Country Strategy (JCS) approach.

- 5.3 To address the issue raised in KEY CHALLENGES 4.4 relating to seemingly intractable reasons for delays, we would like to see a 'safe' process established that encourages staff to discuss possible project delivery challenges in time to be able to do something about them with the people who can help find a way forward. We also note that project proposals and plans need to be clear about who is responsible for each output and the outcome. SOPAC performance should not be assessed against delivery aspects that are beyond its role.
- 5.4 Experience has shown that a 2-3 year project cycle is too short to get the change on the ground, especially if the approach is to design and implement projects through dialogue with the country. In response to KEY CHALLENGES 4.7 we urge those preparing proposals to make sure realistic costing and timeframes are considered during proposal preparation and project design and planning.
- 5.5 In response to KEY CHALLENGES 4.9, cross-project resources should be considered when these can show-case the benefits of the contribution WSP can make to sustainable water and sanitation management. Importantly, the resources need to consider who is the target audience, what aspects will most influence the audience. The inclusion of cost benefit analyses (CBA) can provide the kind of evidence required by those who have to make decisions about investment and can influence national policy and decision-making. We note that CBA is data-hungry, another reason for SOPAC to support the gathering and management of country-specific and regional datasets.
- 5.6 We support the WSP's action to review the regional strategies as it will be an important input to the emerging WSP strategy. In relation to the WSP strategy, we also refer back to point 5.2.

6. Country Feedback

- 6.1 The WSP PMEG team invited country contact personnel to provide contributions to the evaluation. A number of responses were received for which the WSP PMEG team

is grateful. We note these comments were from individuals and we cannot assume these are official country positions.

- 6.2 We note from the responses that often countries are involved in more than one project and that several people within the one country are contacts for WSP projects. No comments to the negative about multiple WSP projects and multiple contacts were raised by respondents, although one respondent did note the obstacle of ongoing work with other aid projects.
- 6.3 At the project level, the respondent's comments confirmed the messages we received from staff.
- 6.4 With relevance to placing increased emphasis on country demand driven services from the WSP, one respondent commented that SOPAC has to move from advisory role to more of a supporting governments in the service provision.
- 6.5 With relevance to the effectiveness of approaches to capacity building, one respondent commented that country needs cannot be addressed or assessed by an outsider if not involved from initial phase to end. In-country consultations have been very useful, particularly if more time is spent in country by visiting officials.

7. Closing Comments

- 7.1 The importance of safe drinking-water, adequate sanitation and sustainable water management to the health and prosperity of the Pacific region cannot be understated. The need for continued improvements in the region is a repeated message from community-level through to the international stage.
- 7.2 The WSP plays a vital role in addressing this critical regional need. In the face of reduced project-based funding in the immediate, WSP must continue to be supported to retain the breadth of expertise required to ensure the countries of the Pacific have access to the support needed to monitor and assess water resources, plan to sustainably manage these resources, and provide safe drinking-water and adequate sanitation services.
- 7.3 Sustainable water management is cross-cutting with health, climate change, disaster risk management, tourism and changing land-use to name a few. The WSP needs to continue to expand and strengthen its links within SOPAC, with other SPC divisions, with other CROP agencies and beyond to ensure the pervasiveness of

water management is visible and acted on together.

7.4 We would like to end with two quotes:

“Its so cool that so many parts of water are under one roof ... all elements of IWRM are together ... we can walk and talk.” [staff]

“This area will continue to be a very important area of need for [...], we thank SOPAC for the many years of assistance and look forward to continuing the partnership and improving water and sanitation at the country level.” [respondent]

DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME (FORMERLY THE COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME)

Review Team

Doug Ramsay, Manager Pacific Rim, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA), New Zealand (Chair); and Karen Bernard, Programme Specialist, Natural Disaster Reduction & Transition, UNDP Pacific Centre.

Introduction

The Programme Evaluation and Monitoring Group (PMEG) for the Community Risk Programme (CRP) carried out the annual review of the CRP work programme from the 13-15 October, 2010. The review was conducted at the SOPAC Secretariat in Suva. Copies of key CRP Agenda Item papers were provided to the PMEG team prior to the review including: 1) Report on 2010 work Plan, and 2) Issues and opportunities. The review commenced with a briefing by the SOPAC Director, followed by meetings over the course of the two days with the CRP Programme Manager and all available Programme Staff, followed by a debriefing session with the Programme Manager. Three staff members on duty travel during the review period were interviewed by one of the review team in the week prior to the review. The review process included presentations made by CRP staff, interviews with the staff, and access to technical reports and other outputs, progress reports, current and future work plans. However, as in past PMEG reviews, the short timeframe available for the review did not enable a detailed assessment of the programme’s technical outputs to be carried out.

As in previous years the review focussed on: 1) key achievements and highlights, 2) Programme recommendations 3) Challenges

and opportunities, and 4) New initiatives. Particular focus was again placed on the perspective of Programme Staff around the integrating in to SPC and the associated opportunities and challenges.

Despite this being another particularly challenging year bringing some considerable additional pressures on staff, the CRP team and its Programme Manager have continued to make proactive efforts in addressing or progressing a number of the issues raised in previous PMEG reports. New staff positions have been filled that have strengthened capacity to deliver in key areas within the programme, internally CRP has consolidated its core functional areas, and the Pacific DRM Partnership Network is finding its feet as a development and coordinating mechanism. Demand from countries for a range of CRP’s services is growing and evolving substantially. Areas where it is felt that ongoing or new attention is required by CRP and SOPAC management are discussed under the respective sections below.

Key Achievements

1. Continued praise must be given to the CRP Programme Manager for the way he continues to create a positive and effective working environment for programme staff, and has buffered them from many of the distractions of the ongoing RIF process. All staff felt that he has communicated very well in keeping them adequately informed of the ongoing institutional changes through the year, and is open and accessible should they have any individual concerns. The PMEG were also very impressed by the high caliber and commitment of all programme staff, how they work to their strengths and together as team, and their awareness and involvement across all components of the programme.
2. The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management has benefitted from having a dedicated staff member to coordinate and develop platform activities. The CRP team is again congratulated for successfully organizing the 16th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and associated 5th Annual Meeting of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network. The format of the Disasters Managers Meeting in the form of a closed session for professional development was noted as being particularly well received amongst the region’s Disaster Managers and provides a format to be applied in future years.
3. Whilst progress on mainstreaming DRM

in to national planning, and developing momentum on NAP implementation activities has provided an ongoing challenge, PMEG were encouraged by:

- The launch and approach of the PNG national DRM mainstreaming programme and initiation of an action planning process focusing on Morobe Province. The approach adopted demonstrates many positive aspects that should help deliver tangible outcomes in PNG and provide an important demonstration for other countries, including: 1) SOPAC and platform partners (UNDP / UNICEF) working collaboratively to assist PNG develop and implement the programme, 2) incorporation of mainstreaming activities into both national and key sectoral (education and physical planning) plans, 3) utilizing the technical strengths across the CRP programme to aid implementation, and 4) a focus at both national and provincial level.
 - The upcoming opportunity for a high level advocacy meeting with the Vanuatu Treasury to discuss incorporating DRM as a cross-cutting issue within Vanuatu's national planning process.
 - Ongoing evidence of the lessons being learned through the NAP development and implementation process being used to inform and develop future activities.
 - A continued focus on working with SPREP and other partners to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation activities within the NAP process in an increasing number of countries.
4. PMEG recognizes the considerable and effective contribution made, in a very short space of time, by the new Project Manager for the EU EDF 9-C Envelope project to support DRR in Pacific EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT's). This has turned around a project where there was growing and expressed frustration from both donor and the OCT's over project expectations and the lack of progress in implementation since it commenced in late 2008, has placed it on a solid foundation to realize project implementation, has restored relations, open communication and expectations, and has provided a valuable learning experience for SOPAC in interacting and engaging with the OCT's as it moves in to SPC.
 5. CRP economic-related activities have been further strengthened by the recruitment of a dedicated Economic Adviser to the Policy and Planning Unit of CRP. The work conducted by the Resource Economics Team is providing a solid foundation to help support NAP advocacy, for example through conducting the first assessment of Pacific Island budget investment in disaster risk management activities. The team is also developing a consistent approach to assessing the economic impact of disasters that is endorsed by the majority of the UN, World Bank and EU agencies and will be providing training in early December to 8 Pacific Island Countries. The innovative nature of the work being carried is increasingly gaining international interest, for example the World Meteorological Organization has requested the team conduct a study to identify the value of investing in improved weather services in the region.
 6. The huge effort and dedication put in by the Risk Reduction team over this last year needs to be acknowledged in ensuring that the building and infrastructure data collection exercise in 14 Pacific Island Countries as part of the development of the ADB funded risk exposure database remained on track. This has resulted in detailed building information collected for almost 100,000 buildings across the region and represents the largest datasets of its type in the Pacific region.
 7. PMEG is pleased to see the progress that has been made in the last year within the TAF/OFD Regional Training Programme to establishing linkages with other regional training providers, specifically the development of a new Graduate Certificate in DRM with the College of Medicine of the Fiji National University to commence in 2011.
 8. The training and capacity building team have provided substantial support to improve disaster response coordination over the last year through developing Standard Operating Procedures to support National and District Emergency Operation Centres, a tsunami response plan, and in conjunction with other Pacific Platform partners, an inter-agency disaster simulation exercise which involved participants from 9 Pacific Island countries.
 9. PMEG acknowledges the CRP team's recognition of a gap in services provided

to member countries, and accordingly established a new position to coordinate community level DRM activities in response to a country-driven demand. Requests from countries for support at the community level, in particular for coordination of actors and overall guidelines, validate the relevance of this new position.

10. Over the last year CRP has been improving dissemination of information on both CRP and Pacific platform activities through the relaunch of Snapshots and Footprints newsletters as well as being represented in the newly established Media / Communications team to provide timely press releases.
11. The number of documents available within Pacific Disaster Net now exceeds 5000, and as has been noted in past PMEG reports, represents an extensive repository of Pacific-related DRM information.

Recommendations

1. Pacific Platform for DRM: PMEG continues to believe that the Platform for DRM provides the relevant technical forum for guiding the CRP Work Programme, provides a means of strengthening CRP's regional coordination and facilitation role, and an important mechanism for advocating DRM mainstreaming in to national planning in the region, particularly through the bi-annual meeting of Pacific CEOs of Finance/ Planning and Disaster Management. The platform's role in the overall governance of the SOPAC division was raised in last year's PMEG report and we feel still requires further careful consideration and articulation to ensure effective and best use of its potential.
 PMEG encourages expansion and strengthening of the Platform participation through incorporation of strategic new partners, such as OCTs, other SIDS countries for example through the South-South Cooperation, private sectors, Civil Society Organisations and other groups.
2. Integration of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation: Given the considerable momentum both regionally and internationally towards integrating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation it is recommended that SOPAC and SPREP discuss the synergies that would be obtained by combining the Pacific Platform, Climate Change Round Table and Meteorology Directors' meeting

into a single event held in one location with an associated Pacific CEOs of Finance/ Planning for DRM/CCA meeting held for part of this event. PMEG suggests that the aim of this discussion should be to implement such a coordinated meeting for 2012. PMEG sees considerable opportunities for this to:

- Provide a regional mechanism to support appropriate country-level institutional frameworks to enable DRM/CCA integration.
 - Provide a foundation to bring together the two regional frameworks, the Pacific DRR & DM Framework for action 2005-2015 and the Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change 2005-2015 when they are revised in 2015.
3. NAP implementation: Substantial progress has been made in terms of mainstreaming and NAP implementation activities and momentum needs to continue. In particular the agility to be able to move quickly when entry points appear must be maintained, as well as customization of the NAP processes to particular country needs and circumstances. It is also recommended that the proactive approach to leveraging high-level advocacy support for mainstreaming, technical assistance, and funding support from the Partnership Network to enhance the NAP development and implementation is continued.
 4. PMEG notes that overall the EU EDF B-Envelope Multi Country Project activities are effective and are proceeding well, with implementation on time and attention paid to ensuring national ownership and ultimately sustainability of the infrastructure provided. However, in 3 of the participating countries some obstacles of a political rather than technical nature, relating to government permissions and land-use rights, are emerging. These need to be addressed at an appropriate level in the most proactive way possible to ensure the project can be completed on time and so as not to detract from the project's great success.
 5. TAF/OFDA Regional Training Programme: Whilst a new Graduate Certificate in DRM has been developed in conjunction with Fiji National University, PMEG still suggests that effort be continued to further institutionalization DRM training into a wider range of education courses and technical training institutes at national and regional level. Given the length of time that the training programme has

been running, it is also suggest that is timely for an independent review of the programme with a focus on ascertaining from past participants how the training has developed capacity and is being applied to improve DRM in-country.

6. Pacific Disaster Net: PDN continues to develop as a regional repository of DRM publications and associated information and is being progressed by a team that is managed very well, that are extremely technically proficient, and demonstrate best practice in terms of their processes for capturing information. However, there is still a need for support to the team to:

- Verify who the actual end users are, further ascertain their demand for specific tools, and ensure that verified user needs are informing the planned redevelopment of PDN for next year.
- Develop the strategy for the long-term sustainability of the project, considering donor support and succession planning for eventual full hand-over to a local team.
- Build on the approach being adopted in the Solomon Islands to develop capacity for self population of country-specific information. PMEG also suggests that PDN training needs to be incorporated within the TAF/OFDA training programme to further awareness and usage of the tool.

PMEG considers also that an opportunity is being missed in terms of collating examples of how external organization used the near real time information services provided by PDN in the aftermath of the Samoan tsunami or recent cyclone events in Fiji as a way of demonstrating the value of the utility.

7. ADB / World Bank Risk Exposure Database: The vast effort over this last year to collate a considerable amount of building, infrastructure and associated information has provided a substantial foundation to underpin risk-based assessment and risk-reduction planning in the region. PMEG urges that:

- Emphasis be given to demonstrating the value and application of this dataset to key in-country sectors and users (for example land planning, DRM and Climate Change Adaptation decision-making, evacuation planning and post-disaster damage assessments, infrastructure and utility service providers) through

the development of tools and products to help inform decision-making and policy development.

- Whole of country approaches be encouraged, involving the main data and information users, to increase, update, share and sustain the datasets, and appropriate resources allocated to enable this to happen.
8. Monitoring progress and reporting results: As in previous years PMEG continues to recommend that CRP places more emphasis on monitoring the results and impacts of its interventions. The national progress reviews to be conducted as part of the mid-term review of the Pacific DRR & DM Framework for action 2005-2015 and Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 would provide an opportunity to identify and collate success stories where outcomes are now being realized from activities conducted or support provided by the CRP team over the last five years. This could then provide a foundation for the routine collation and presentation of such examples.

Challenges & Opportunities

1. Realising opportunities associated with integration with SPC: Many CRP Programme staff can see opportunities related to becoming part of SPC, particularly around the opportunity to mainstream disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into SPC's sector programmes (for example: agriculture, health, infrastructure) as a means to aid mainstreaming DRM issues into key national development sectors of its members countries. What is less clear is how this potential may be realized. The SPC and the SOPAC division, in consultation with relevant senior programme staff, needs to consider how such interaction may commence, relationships be developed, and the potential programme-level integration opportunities be explored and developed.
2. Donor coordination/proposal writing/contract negotiation support: Donor coordination, proposal writing and contract negotiations with key donors place substantial demands and pressures on Programme Management and key senior staff, and consume a considerable amount of their time at the expense of project delivery and programme management. A critical issue is the urgent need to strengthen Corporate level support to CRP,

and indeed the other SOPAC programmes, in this area to reduce such demands and re-address the imbalance in the workload of senior programme staff that such activities cause.

3. Timely and proper initiation of major new projects. Recent experiences around the initiation of new projects, including the critical recruitment and staffing dimension, needs to be reviewed within the Executive Management Team. Issues in terms of typical obstacles and setbacks encountered should be identified so that improved processes are instituted for initiation of new projects in the future, thereby meeting donor and country expectations and facilitating the team's overall work. Of particular importance is the need to be more proactive in identifying a range of potential approaches to having Project Management staff in place in a more timely manner, for example use of regional rosters for potential short-term placements, early advertisement of an indication of potential future hiring needs prior to contract signing.
4. Managing staff workload: The pressures brought by the RIF process and externally-driven demands of certain projects over the last year have exacerbated ongoing workload issues that SOPAC and the CRP team have been grappling with for some time and this year have caused some burnout, health issues and loss of moral. Whilst all CRP staff felt that the Programme Manager was extremely flexible, supportive and accommodating, in terms of the organization as a whole it is of concern to PMEG that this is raised as an issue for SOPAC on an annual basis and that policies are not in place or are not being applied proactively enough organization-wide to ensure the well-being of staff before problems do occur. It is also a concern of PMEG that these pressure and demands can have a significant component of being donor-driven, and needs to be better recognized, considered and managed by all parties.

PMEG recommends that a work-life balance policy be established or strengthened and applied to buffer staff from excess workload, which has been shown to lead to burnout and health issues. This policy could potentially include a mix of limitations on travel time, compensatory time off in relation to overtime worked while on mission and in meeting critical deadlines, consideration of flexible hours

options related to parenting concerns and needs, and other appropriate measures to be determined in discussion with staff.

5. Administration: The CRP team is well served by an experienced and dedicated Programme Assistant. However, the expansion of the team over the last year has placed considerable additional burden on the staff member. Whilst she appears to be handling and managing this workload well, it will need to be carefully monitored and additional support provided should the demands of the Programme Staff became too great for one person to effectively and efficiently manage on their own. The working relationship between CRP Administration and Corporate staff appears to be satisfactory. However, within CRP there is wider concern over the responsiveness and flexibility over some procedures, such as travel sign-off and approval for an in-country mission, and whether the level of bureaucracy will increase under SPC.
6. Staff professional development: Internal processes need to be established and implemented to link performance evaluations to career development discussion and guidance, with the provision of appropriate learning and professional development opportunities for staff at all levels. Some core resources need to be made available to regularly fund learning activities linked to each staff member's job profile and planned career path, and a range of low-cost options considered.

New Initiatives

PMEG considers that the new initiatives all contribute to developing the core CRP functional team activities and are of strategic importance. The range of new opportunities highlighted will require substantial CRP staff input to enable them to be effectively realized. Given that the CRP also needs to maintain effective momentum on existing work streams, for example in mainstreaming and NAP implementation activities over this coming year which will also require substantial input from many CRP staff, PMEG strongly urges CRP to very carefully consider any other new initiatives or opportunities that emerge during the year and their staff resource implications before pursuing.

DRP PMEG: Karen Bernard, Doug Ramsay (Chair)
17 October 2010

APPENDIX 7

LIST OF CONFERENCE ROOM DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TITLE
AS39/1 Info 1	Information Circular
AS39/1 Info 2	Preliminary Timetable
AS39/3.1	Agenda
AS39/3.1 Info 1	Working Procedures
AS39/3.1 Info 2	List of Conference Room Documents
AS39/3.1 Info 2 Revised	List of Conference Room Documents (this document)
AS39/3.1 Info 3	List of Participants
AS39/4.1	Designation of National Representatives (as at 31 December 2010)
AS39/5.1.1	Cook Islands Statement
AS39/5.1.2	Fiji Islands Statement
AS39/5.1.3	Republic of Kiribati Statement
AS39/5.1.4	New Caledonia Statement
AS39/5.1.5	Niue Statement
AS39/5.1.6	Palau Statement
AS39/5.1.7	Papua New Guinea Statement
AS39/5.1.8	Samoa Statement
AS39/5.2.1	Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement
AS39/5.4.1	(New Zealand) National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Statement
AS39/6.1 (holding paper)	Introduction (by Director)
AS39/6.1 (Supplementary)	Director's Introduction (checked against delivery)
AS39/6.2	Future of the "The Commission"
AS39/7.1	2009 Annual Report Summary
AS39/7.2	Summary Report of 2010 Donor Support
AS39/7.3	CROP and PPAC Summary Reports
AS39/8.1	STAR Chair Report
AS39/8.1.1	International Geological Congress in Brisbane, August 2012
AS39/8.2	PMEG Chair Report on Cross-cutting Issues
AS39/9.1	Ocean and Islands Programme (OIP) Report
AS39/9.1 Supplementary	OIP Response to PMEG Review 2009
AS39/9.2	OIP Issues and Opportunities

AS39/9.2 Supplementary	Regional study on the impact of Wave Climate Change on Coastal Areas (WACC)
AS39/9.3	Report of the PMEG on OIP
AS39/10.1	Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) Report
AS39/10.2	WSP Issues and Opportunities
AS39/10.3	Report of the PMEG on WSP
AS39/11.1	Disaster Reduction Programme (DRP) Report
AS39/11.2	DRP Issues and Opportunities
AS39/11.3	Report of the PMEG on DRP
AS39/12.1	Natural Resource Economics
AS39/12.2	GIS and Remote Sensing
AS39/12.3	Technical Equipment and Services
AS39/12.4	Data Management
AS39/12.5	Publications and Library
AS39/13	2011-2015 Strategic Plan
AS39/14.1.1	2009 Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report and Management Report
AS39/14.1.2	Report on 2009 Regular Budget Variance and Virement of Funds
AS39/14.1.3	Report on Assets and Inventory written off for the year ended 31 December 2009
AS39/14.2.1	Report and Financial Accounts for the 6-month period to June 2010
AS39/14.2.2	Membership Contributions in Arrears
AS39/14.2.2 Revised	Membership Contributions in Arrears (as at 18th October)
AS39/15.1	CROP Harmonisation and Annual Remuneration Review
AS39/15.2	Reserve Fund Ceiling
AS39/15.3	Consideration of Membership Contribution Increase
AS39/15.4	Consideration of 2011 Work Plan and Budget
AS39/15.4 Revised	Revised 2011 Work Plan and Budget (Post-meeting)
AS39/15.5	Confirmation of Auditors for 2010 and 2011 Accounts
AS39/17	Adoption of Agreed Record of Proceedings

APPENDIX 8

ACRONYMS

AAPG	- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (Tulsa, USA)	ANU	- Australian National University
ACDP	- Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler	AOSIS	- Alliance of Small Island States
ACIAR	- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	AOPC	- Atmospheric Observing Panel for Climate
ACP	- African, Caribbean and the Pacific countries of the Lome Convention	AOSIS	- Alliance of Small Island States
ACTEW	- Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Corporation	APACE-VFEG	- Appropriate Technology for Community and Environment – Village First Electrical Group
ADB	- Asian Development Bank	APAN	- Asia Pacific Area Network
ADCP	- acoustic doppler current profiler	APEC	- Asia-Pacific Economic Commission
ADITC	- Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee	APPA	- American Public Power Association
ADO	- Automotive Diesel Oil	APPEA	- Australian Petroleum Production Exploration Association
AFAC	- Australasian Fire Authorities Council	APPL	- Application of Petroleum Prospecting Licenses
AGC	- Atlantic Geoscience Center (Canada)	APSC	- Australian Public Service Commission
AGL	- Land and Water Development Division of the Agriculture Department of the FAO (UN)	APWF	- Asia-Pacific Water Forum
AGSO	- Australian Geological Survey Organisation	AR5	- Assessment Report 5 (IPCC)
AIACC	- Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change	ARGO	- Array for Real-time Geostrophic Oceanography
AIDAB	- Australian International Development Assistance Bureau	ARGOS	- A satellite location and data collection system (CNES/NOAA)
AMSAT	- Australia Marine Science & Technology Limited	AS	- Annual Session (SOPAC)
ANCORS	- Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security	ASAP	- Alf Simpson and Associates Pacific Ltd
ANZECC	- Australia and New Zealand Conservation Council	ASEAN	- Association of Southeast Asian Nations
		ASLR	- accelerated sea-level rise
		ASPA	- American Samoa Power Authority
		ASTM	- American Society for Testing Materials (original name)

ATP	- authority to prospect	CCA	- Climate Change Adaptation
ATWS	- Australian Tsunami Warning System	CCCC	- Climate Change Carrying Capacity
AU	- Australia	CCCCC	- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
AUD	- Australian Dollar	CCD	- Convention to Combat Desertification
AusAID	- Australian Agency for International Development	CBO	- Community - Based Organisations
AUSLIG	- Australian Surveying and Land Information Group	CCAMLR	- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
AVI	- Australian Volunteers International	CCOP	- Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (ESCAP)
AVHRR	- Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer	CCOP/SOPAC	- Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (now SOPAC)
AWA	- Australia Water Association	CD	- compact disc
AWWA	- American Water Works Association	CDM	- Clean Development Mechanism
BAC	- Climate Alert Bulletin	CD-ROM	- Compact Disc Read Only Memory
BGR	- Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (Germany)	CDPI	- Community Development and Participation Initiatives
BGS	- British Geological Survey	CDR	- Centre for Disaster Research (of UPNG)
BINAS	- Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Service	CEA	- Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (Atomic Energy Commission), France
BIO	- Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Canada)	CEHI	- Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
BOM	- Bureau of Meteorology (Australia)	CELT	- Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching
BPoA	- Barbados Plan of Action	CEO	- Centre for Earth Observation
BRGM	- Bureau de Recherche Géologiques	CEO	- Chief Executive Officer
BSc	- Bachelor of Science	CEOS	- Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CalCOFI	- California Cooperative Fishery Investigation	CERMP	- Cyclone Emergency and Risk Management Project (Tonga)
CalTech	- California Institute of Technology	CERT	- (Pacific) Centre for Emergency Response Team
CAR	- Communities At Risk	CESMG	- see ESMG
CARICOM	- Caribbean Community and Common Market		
CATD	- Centre for Appropriate Technology & Development (Nadave, Fiji)		
CAWCR	- Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research		
CBD	- Convention of Biological Diversity		

CFTC	- Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation	COLA	- cost of living adjustment
C-GOOS	- Coastal-Global Ocean Observing System	COM	- College of Micronesia (of FSM)
CGPS (cGPS)	- Continuous Global Positioning System	COMBAS	- a joint Japanese-French project to study active marginal basins in the Southwest Pacific (followed the STARMER programme)
CHARM	- Comprehensive Hazards and Risk Management	COME	- Coconut Oil Methyl Ester
CIA	- Central Intelligence Agency (United States)	ComSec	- Commonwealth Secretariat (UK) 185
CIDA	- Canadian International Development Agency	COOP	- Coastal Ocean Processes Programme
CIESIN	- Centre for International Earth Science Information Network	COP	- Conference Of the Parties
CIF	- Cost, Insurance and Freight	CORA	- Canadian Ocean Resource Associates Inc.
CISNet	- Coastal Index Site Network	CP1	- Core Project 1, the Global Description of the World Ocean
CISO	- Chief Information Security Officer	CPCEMR	- Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources (CPC for short)
CLIPS	- Climate Information and Prediction Services	CPI	- Consumer Price Index
CLCS	- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf	CPPS	- Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
CLIVAR	- Climate Variability and Predictability	CPWC	- Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate
CLP	- Community Lifelines Programme (SOPAC)	CRED	- Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters
C-MAN	- Coastal Marine Automated Network	CRES	- Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (of the Australian National University)
CMM	- Commission for Marine Meteorology CNES - Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (National Center for Space Studies)	CRGA	- Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (of South Pacific Community)
CNMI	- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	CROP	- Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (formerly SPOCC)
CNO	- Crude Coconut Oil	CROP ICT WG	- CROP Information and Communication Technologies Working Group
CNRS	- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (National Center for Scientific Research), France	CRP	- Community Risk Programme (SOPAC)
CNRT	- National Research and Technology Centre for Nickel and its Environment (of New Caledonia)	CSA	- Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (USA)
COE	- Corps of Engineers (properly USACE) (USA)		

CSC	- Commonwealth Science Council	DMU	- Disaster Management Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
CSD	- Commission on Sustainable Development (of United Nations)	DO	- Dissolved Oxygen
CSI	- Coastal Regions and Small Islands (of UNESCO)	DOE	- Department of Energy (Fiji, and elsewhere)
CSIRO	- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Australia)	DoM	- Department of Mining (PNG)
CSO	- Civil Society Organisation	DOALOS	- (UN) Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
CSP	- Conservation Society of Pohnpei	DORD	- Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd, Japan
CSPOD	- Canadian South Pacific Ocean Development Programme	DOS	- Disk Operating System
CT	- Composting Toilet	DOWA	- Deep Ocean Water Applications
CTA	- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (Netherlands)	DPCC	- Development Partners for Climate Change
CTD	- Conductivity/Temperature/Depth Device	DRM	- Disaster Risk Management
DANIDA	- Danish International Development Agency	DRP	- Disaster Reduction Programme (of SOPAC Division of SPC, formerly Community Risk Programme of SOPAC)
DBCP	- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel	DRR & DM	- Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management
DDSMS	- Department of Development Support and Management Services (of UNDP)	DSDP	- Deep Sea Drilling Project
DFID	- Department for International Development (UK)	DSM	- Demand Side Management
DGMWR	- Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (Vanuatu)	DSM	- Deep Sea Minerals
DGPS	- Differential Global Positioning System	DSTO	- Defense and Science and Technology Organisation (Australia)
DIMENC	- Direction de l'Industrie, des Mines et de L'Energie (New Caledonia)	DTM	- Digital Terrain Modelling
DISMAC	- Disaster Management Centre	DWC	- Dialogue on Water and Climate
DMA	- Defence Mapping Agency (US)	DWSP	- Drinking Water Safety Planning
DME	- Direct Micro Expelling	EC	- European Commission
DMPGM	- (Papua New Guinea) Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management (formerly the Department of Mining)	eCS	- Extended Continental Shelf
		ECLAC	- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
		ECOSOC	- Economic and Social Council (UN)
		ECU	- European Currency Unit

EDF	- European Development Fund	ESCAP	- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
EDMS	- Electronic Data Management System	ESMG	- Earth Science and Marine Geology (SOPAC certificate course)
EEZ	- Exclusive Economic Zone	ESR	- Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited
EFH	- Essential Fish Habitat 186	ESRI	- Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment	ESSI	- Earth Search Science Incorporation
EMA	- Emergency Management Australia	EST	- Environmentally Sound Technologies
EMA	- Engine Manufacturers Association (US)	EU	- European Union
EMDAT	- Emergency Events Database (CRED, OFDA, OECD, WHO)	EUEF	- European Union Energy Fund
EMM	- Energy Ministers Meeting	EUEI	- European Union Energy Initiative [for Poverty Eradication for Sustainable Development]
EMP	- Ecosystem Monitoring Programme	EUMETSAT	- European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
EMT	- Executive Management Team (SOPAC)	EVI	- Environmental Vulnerability Index
EMWIN	- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network	EUWF	- European Union Water Facility
ENERGIA	- International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy	EWG	- Energy Working Group (CROP)
ENSO	- El Niño Southern Oscillation	EWS	- Early Warning System
ENVISAT	- Environmental Satellite	FADS	- Fish Aggregation Devices
EPA	- Environment Protection Agency	FAME	- Fatty Acid Methyl Ester
EPC	- Electric Power Corporation (Samoa)	FAO	- Food Agriculture Organisation (UN)
EPC	- thermal graphic recorder used in mapping (probably after company founder: Edward P. Curly)	FAU	- Finance and Administration Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)
EPCS	- Electronic Particle Counting System	FAUST	- French-Australia Seismic Transect
EPG	- Eminent Persons Group	FCCC	- Framework Convention on Climate Change
EPM	- Environmental Programme for the Mediterranean	FEA	- Fiji Electricity Authority
ER	- Internal SOPAC Secretariat abbreviation for EU-SOPAC Project reports	FEPC	- Federation of Electric Power Companies (Japan)
ESAT	- Environmentally Sustainable Aggregates for Tarawa	FEMA	- Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)

FEMM	– Forum Economic Ministers Meeting	GA	– Geoscience Australia
FFA	– Forum Fisheries Agency	GCOS	– Global Climate Observing System
FFEM	– Fonds Française pour l’Environnement Mondial (French Funds for Global Environment)	GCRMN	– Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
FEMS	– Fiji Forest Export Marketing System	GCSI	– Global Change Strategies International Inc.
FICs	– Forum Island Countries	GDIN	– Global Disaster Information Network
FIELD	– Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development	GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
FINNIDA	– Finnish Department of International Development Cooperation	GEBCO	– General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (IOC-IHO)
FINTEL	– Fiji’s International Telecommunications Provider	GEF	– Global Environmental Facility (World Bank-UNEP-UNDP)
FIT	– Fiji Institute of Technology	GEF-PAS	– Global Environmental Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability
FJD	– Fijian Dollar	GEO3	– Global Environment Outlook 3 (EVI)
FLIS	– Fiji Land Information System	GeoCMS	– Geospatial Content Management Server
FMS	– Fiji Meteorological Service	GEOHAB	– Global Ecology of Harmful Algal Blooms
FNPF	– Fiji National Provident Fund	GEOSAT	– GEODETIC SATellite
FNTC	– Fiji National Training Council (now TPAF)	GEOSS	– Global Earth Observing System of Systems
FOAM	– Forecast Ocean Atmosphere Model	GERIS	– Geological and Earth Resources Information System (PNG)
FOB	– Free On Board (Incoterm)	GEST	– Group for the Export of Services and Technology (of New Caledonia)
FOC	– Forum Officials Committee	GFDRR	– Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
FOSS	– Free and Open Source Software	GHCN	– Global Historical Climatology Network (NOAA, US)
FPOC	– Forum of Presiding Officers and Clerks (SPC)	GHG	– Greenhouse Gas
FRI	– Fisheries Research Institute	GII	– Geophysical Institute of Israel
FSM	– Federated States of Micronesia	GIPCO	– GOOS Integrated Panel for the Coastal Ocean
FSchM	– Fiji School of Medicine	GIPME	– Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment
FSP	– Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific	GIS	– Geographic Information Systems
FSPI	– Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International		
FTIB	– Fiji Trade and Investment Board		

GIS/RS	– Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing	GTOS	– Global Terrestrial Observing System
GIWA	– Global and International Waters Assessment	GTQ	– Gas to Queensland Project (Papua New Guinea)
GLI	– Global Imager	GTS	– Global Telecommunications System (of WMO)
GLOBEC	– Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics Programme	GTSP	– Global Temperature-Salinity Pilot Programme
GLOSS	– Global Sea-Level Observing System	GTZ	– Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
GMA	– Global Marine Assessment	GWP	– Global Water Partnership
GMO	– Genetically-Modified Organism	HAB	– Harmful Algal Blooms
GNP	– Gross National Product	HAU	– Hazards Assessment Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
GNS	– Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (of New Zealand)	HDI	– Human Development Index
GODAE	– Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment	HDR	– Human Development Report (UNDP)
GOES	– Geosynchronous Operational Environmental Satellite	HELP	– Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy
GOOS	– Global Ocean Observing System	HfA	– Hyogo Framework for Action
EuroGOOS	– European GOOS	HIG	– Hawaii Institute of Geophysics (of UH)
I-GOOS	– Intergovernmental GOOS	HLAT	– High-Level Advocacy Team
NEARGOOS	– North East Asian Region GOOS	HLC	– High-Level Consultation
MedGOOS	– Mediterranean GOOS	HOTO	– Health Of The Oceans (IOC)
PI-GOOS	– Pacific Island GOOS	HOTS	– Hawaii Ocean Time Series Station
GOSSP	– Global Observing Systems Space Panel	HPLC	– High Performance Liquid Chromatography
GPA	– Global Plan for Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	HR	– Human Resources
GPDRR	– Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	HRD	– Human Resources Development Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)
GPF	– General Purpose Fund	HTML	– HyperText Markup Language
GPS	– Global Positioning System	HURL	– Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (of UH)
GRID	– Global Resource Information Database (UNEP)	HYCOS	– Hydrological Cycle Observing System
GROMS	– Global Register of Migratory Species	IAEA	– International Atomic Energy Agency
GSC	– Geological Survey of Canada	IAG	– International Association of Geodesy
GSJ	– Geological Survey of Japan		

IAMSLIC	– International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers	IDNDR	– International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IAS	– Institute of Applied Science (USP)	IEDS	– Integrated Exploration and Development Services Limited (Australia)
IAVCEI	– International Association of Volcanism and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior	IETC	– International Environmental Technology Centre
IBTS	– International Bottom Trawl Survey	IFAD	– International Federation of Agriculture Development
ICCAI	– International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (AusAID)	IFRC	– International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ICCEPT	– Imperial College Centre for Energy Policy and Technology	IFREMER	– Institut Francaise de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (formerly CNEXO)
ICES	– International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	IGBP	– International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
ICG/PTWS	– Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System	IGC	– International Geological Congress
ICLEI	– International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives	IGES	– Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
ICM	– Integrated Catchment Management	IGNS	– Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (of New Zealand)
ICOD	– International Centre for Ocean Development (Canada)	IGODS	– Interactive Graphical Ocean Database System
ICOGS	– International Consortium of Geological Surveys	I-GOOS	– Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS
ICRI	– International Coral Reef Initiative	IGOSS	– Integrated Global Ocean Services Systems
ICSU	– International Council of Scientific Unions	IHE	– Institute of Water Education (of UNESCO)
ICT	– Information and Communication Technologies	IHO	– International Hydrographic Organisation (of IOC/ UNESCO) French Oceanographic Research Institute
ICU	– [Pacific] Islands Climate Update (NZAID)	IHP	– International Hydrological Programme (of UNESCO)
ICZM	– Integrated Coastal Zone Management	IIEC	– International Institute for Energy Conservation
IDA	– Initial Damage Assessment	IIEE	– International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering
IDDR	– International Day for Disaster Reduction	IKONOS	– High Resolution Satellite Imagery
IDM	– Introduction to Disaster Management (course by TAF/OFDA)	IMA	– International Market Allowance
		IMarEST	– Institute of Marine Engin-

	earing Science and Technology (based in UK)	ISOC	– Internet Society
IMO	– International Maritime Organisation	ISP	– Internet Service Provider
INET	– Internet Conference organized by ISOC	ISPRS	– International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
IOC	– Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)	I-SSEP	– Interiors-Science Steering and Evaluation Panel
IODE	– International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange	IT	– Information Technology
IOI	– International Ocean Institute	IT-Pacnet	– Annual meeting of the CROP ICT Working Group
IOS	– Initial Observing System of GOOS	ITIC	– International Tsunami Information Centre
IPCC	– Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	ITOPF	– International Tanker-Owners Pollution Federation Ltd
IPGP	– Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris	ITSU	– International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific
IRC	– Internal Revenue Commission (PNG)	ITTO	– International Tropical Timber Organisation
IRCSA	– International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association	ITU	– Information Technology Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
IRD	– Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (ex ORSTOM)	IUCN	– International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (The World Conservation Union)
IRETA	– Institute for Research Extension and Training in Agriculture (USP)	IUG	– International Union of Geographers
IRI	– International Research Institute for Climate Prediction	IWCAM	– Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management
IRIS	– Incorporated Research Institution for Seismology	IWP	– International Water Programme
ISA	– International Seabed Authority	IWRM	– Integrated Water Resources Management
ISAAA	– International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications	IYO	– International Year of the Ocean (also YOTO)
ISC	– Interim Sub-Committee (of SOPAC Governing Council to deal with future role and direction of SOPAC)	JAFOOS	– Joint Australian Facility for Ocean Observing Systems
ISDR	– see UNISDR	JAIF	– Japan Atomic Industrial Forum
ISDWC	– International Secretariat of the Dialogue on Water and Climate	JAMSTEC	– Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (formerly Japan Marine Science and Technology Centre)
ISM	– Island Systems Management	JCOMM	– Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology

JCS	– Joint Country Strategy (of SPC)	LEO	– Long-term Ecosystem Observatories
JGOFS	– Joint Global Ocean Flux Study	LITHP	– JOIDES Lithosphere Panel
JIBC	– Japan Bank of International Cooperation	LEEE	– Live and Learn Environmental Education
JICA	– Japan International Cooperation Agency	LME	– Large Marine Ecosystems
JNOC	– Japan National Oil Corporation	LMER	– Land-Margin Ecosystem Research Programme
JOGMEC	– Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (formerly MMAJ)	LMR	– Living Marine Resources
JPfA	– Joint Caribbean-Pacific Programme for Action on Water and Climate	LoA	– Letter of Agreement
JPOI	– Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	LoE	– Letter of Exchange
JREC	– Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition	LOICZ	– Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone
JWP	– Just World Partners (UK)	LOIS	– Large Ocean Island States
KAP	– Kiribati Adaptation Programme	LPG	– Liquid Petroleum Gas
KEEP	– Kiribati Environmental Education Project	LRD	– Land Resources Division (of SPC)
kgoe	– kilogram of oil equivalents	LTER	– Long-Term Ecological Research
KIGAM	– Korea Institute of Geology, Mining and Minerals	LUCC	– Land Use and Cover Change Programme
KMPC	– Korea Mining Promotion Corporation	LV	– Low Voltage
KOICA	– Korea International Cooperation Agency	MARPOL	– International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
KORDI	– Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute	MBSM	– Multi-Beam Swath Mapper
KRA	– Key Result Area	MCDEM	– Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (New Zealand)
ktoe	– kiloton of oil equivalents	MDA	– MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd
LADS	– Laser Airborne Depth Sounder	MDG	– Millennium Development Goals
LAFIA	– Leading Australia's Future in Asia	MEA	– Multilateral Environmental Agreement
LAN/WAN	– Local Area Network/Wide Area Network	MERIS	– Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer
LDC	– Least Developed Countries	MEXT	– (Japanese) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
LDG	– Less Developed Countries (UN)	MHWS	– Mean High Water Spring (tides)
LED	– Light-Emitting Diode	MIMRA	– Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
		MITI	– Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Japan)

MLML	– Moss Landing Marine Laboratory	NESDIS	– National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NOAA, US)
MLSNR	– Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources (Tonga)	NGCC	– National GOOS Coordination Committee
MMAC	– Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (Fiji)	NGDC	– National Geophysical Data Center (US)
MMAJ	– Metal Mining Agency of Japan (now JOGMEC)	NGO	– Non-Government Organisation
MMTC	– Marine Minerals Technology Center (University of Hawaii)	NHS	– National Hydrological Services
MNRD	– Ministry of Natural Resources Development	NIO	– National Institute of Oceanography (India)
MODIS	– Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer	NIRE	– National Institute for Resources and Environment (of Japan)
MOMAF	– Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Korea)	NIWA	– National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand)
MONBUSHO	– Ministry of Education and Science (Japan)	NLTB	– Native Land Trust Board (Fiji)
MoU	– Memorandum of Understanding	NMFS	– National Marine Fisheries Service
MRD	– Mineral Resources Department (of Fiji Islands)	NMS	– National Meteorological Service
MRU	– Mineral Resources Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)	NOAA	– National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
MSR	– Marine Scientific Research	NODC	– National Oceanographic Data Centre
MTR	– Mid-Term Review	NOPACCS	– Northwest Pacific Carbon Cycle Study
MVN	– Melanesian Volcanological Network	NORAD	– Norwegian Agency for International Development
MWSC	– Majuro Water and Sanitation Corporation	NPK	– Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potassium
NAML	– North American Marine Laboratories Network	NSF	– National Science Foundation (US)
NAO	– North Atlantic Oscillation	NTCA	– National Tidal Centre Australia
NAP	– National Action Plan	NURP	– National Undersea Research Programme (US)
NAPA	– National Adaptation Programme of Action	NZ	– New Zealand
NASA	– National Aeronautics and Space Administration (US)	NZAID	– New Zealand Agency for International Development (formerly known as NZODA)
NDMO	– National Disaster Management Office (various countries)		
NEDO	– New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (of Japan)		
NEMS	– National Environmental Management Strategy (various countries by SPREP)		

NZIGNS	– New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences	OPRET	– Office of the Promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies
NZODA	– New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance (now NZAID)	ORAP	– Ocean Research Advisory Panel
NZWWA	– New Zealand Water and Wastewater Association	ORI	– Ocean Research Institute (University of Tokyo)
OBS	– ocean bottom seismometer	ORMP	– Ocean Resources Management Programme (of USP)
OCEANOR	– Oceanographic Company of Norway AS	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
OCHA	– see UNOCHA		
OCT	– Overseas Countries and Territories (which are associated with the European Union)		
ODA	– Overseas Development Agency	OTEC	– Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
ODI	– Overseas Development Institute	PACE-SD	– Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development
ODP	– Ocean Drilling Programme	PACER	– Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
OECD	– Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	PacESD	– Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development
OECS	– Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	PacINET	– Pacific annual ICT conference organised by the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC)
OEDC	– Ocean Engineering Development Company (Japan)	PACPOL	– Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention (Programme)
OFDA	– Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance	PACRICS	– Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System
OHP	– Operational Hydrology Programme (of WMO)	PAFPNet	– Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network
OHS	– Occupational Health and Safety	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)
OIP	– Ocean and Islands Programme (SOPAC)	PAMBU	– Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
OISCA	– Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement	PAOOP	– Potential Applications of Ocean Observations for the Pacific Islands Region
OJP	– Ontong Java Plateau	PAR	– Photosynthetic Active Radiation
O&M&R&R	– Operations & Maintenance & Repairs & Replacement		
OOPC	– Ocean Observations Panel for Climate		
OOSDP	– Ocean Observing System Development Panel		
OPCs	– Optical Plankton Counters		

PAS	- Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	PESA	- Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia
PAYE	- Pay as you Earn	PESTRAN	- Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in the Pacific Islands
PCAE-SD	- Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development (of USP)	PET '98	- Pacific Exploration Technology (conference of 1998, Nadi, Fiji Islands)
PCGIAP	- Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific	PFTAC	- Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PCM	- Participatory Watershed Management	PGSP	- Pacific Governance Support Program (AusAID) renamed Pacific Public Sector Linkages Program (2009)
PcSs	- Pacific Coastal States	PIAS (DG)	- Pacific Institute for the Advanced Studies in Development and Governance
PCU	- Project Coordinating Unit (IWRM Project)	PIBA	- Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association
PDC	- Pacific Disaster Center	PIC	- Pacific Island Country
PDF	- Portable Document Format	PICCAP	- Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme
PDL	- Petroleum Development Licenses	PICES	- North Pacific Marine Science Organisation
PDN	- Pacific Disaster Net	PICHTR	- Pacific International Center for High Technology Research
PDO	- Pacific Decadal Oscillation	PICISOC	- Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society
PDRMP	- Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme	PICMS	- Pacific Island Country Meteorological Service
PDRMPN	- Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network	PICPP	- Pacific Island Climate Prediction Programme
PDWBC	- Pacific Deep Western Boundary Current	PICTAR	- Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PEAC	- Pacific ENSO Application Center	PICTs	- Pacific Islands Countries and Territories
PEACESAT	- Pan-Pacific Education and Communications Experiment by Satellite	PIDP	- Pacific Islands Development Program
PEAMIS	- Pacific Environment Assessment and Management Information System	PIEP	- Pacific Islands Energy Policy
PECC	- Pacific Economic Cooperation Council	PIEPP	- Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Plan (superceded)
PEG	- Pacific Energy and Gender Network	PIEPSAP	- Pacific Islands Energy Policies and Strategic Action Plan
PEGSAP	- Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan		
PEMM	- Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting		
PEMTAG	- Pacific Emergency Management & Training Advisory Group		
PEN	- Pacific Energy News (SOPAC)		

PIESAP	– Pacific Islands Energy Strategic Action Plan	PIROF-ISA	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework – Integrated Strategic Action
PIESD	– Pacific Islands Energy for Sustainable Development	PIROIS	– Pacific Islands Region Ocean Information System
PIFACC	– Pacific Islands Framework for Action for Climate Change	PIROP	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
PIFS	– Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	PITA	– Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association
PIFSA	– Pacific Islands Fire Service Association	PLU	– Publications and Library Unit (of SOPAC Work Programme)
PIG	– Pacific Island Gold	PMEG	– Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group(s) (SOPAC)
PI-GCOS	– Pacific Global Climate Observing System	PMEL	– Pacific Marine Environment Laboratory (of NOAA)
PI-GOOS	– Pacific Island Global Ocean Observing System	PMESCO	– Pacific Micro Energy Service Company
PIGS	– Pacific Islands Geological Society	PMGO	– Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory
PIGGAREP	– Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIREP Phase II)	PMS	– Performance Management System
PIIPP	– Pacific Islands Information and Communications Technologies Policy and Strategic Plan	PNG	– Papua New Guinea
PIMD	– Pacific Institute of Management and Development	POC	– Physical Oceanography Committee
PIMM	– Pacific Islands Management Model	POGO	– Partnership for Observation for the Global Ocean
PIMRIS	– Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System	PPA	– Pacific Power Association
PIRATA	– Pilot Research Array in the Tropical Atlantic	PPAC	– Pacific Plan Action Committee
PIRC	– Pacific Internet Resource Centre	PPAPD	– Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (SPC)
PIREIS	– Pacific Island Resource and Environment Information Service	PPB	– private post bag
PIREN	– Pacific Island Renewable Energy Network	PPDRM	– Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management
PIREP	– Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (SPREP)	PPISWM	– Pacific Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Water Management
PIRMBIS	– Pacific Islands Regional Maritime Boundaries Information System	PPL	– Petroleum Prospecting Licenses
PIROF	– Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum	PPSLP	– Pacific Public Sector Leadership Programme (AusAID)
		PORTS	– Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System

PRAN	– Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru	PWP	– Pacific Water Partnership
PRAP	– Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management	PWWA	– Pacific Water and Wastes Association (formerly PWA)
PRC	– People’s Republic of China	RAC	– Regional Analysis Centers
PRDMM	– Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting	RAF	– resource allocation framework (GEF terminology)
PREA	– Pacific Regional Energy Assessment	RAMP	– Rapid Assessment of Marine Pollution
PREEN	– Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network (co-founded by SPC, SOPAC and IUCN)	RAMSAR	– Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
PREFACE	– Pacific Rural Renewable Energy France-Australia Common Endeavour Project	RAMSI	– Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands
PREP	– Pacific Regional Energy Programme	RAN	– Royal Australian Navy
PRETI	– Pacific Renewable Energy Training Initiative	RANET	– Radio and Internet Information Network
PRIF	– Pacific Regional Infrastructure Programme (ADB)	RAO	– Regional Authorising Office (EU)
PRIP	– Pacific Regional Indicative Programme	RAP	– Regional Action Plan
PRISM	– Pacific Regional Information System (Statistics for Development at the SPC)	RB	– Regular Budget
PRISMS	– Pacific Regional Islands Shoreline Monitoring System (Project under development by SOPAC, OIP)	RCI	– Regional Coordinating Institution
PSSA	– Particularly Sensitive Sea Area	RE	– Rural Electrification
PPSEAWA	– Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women Association	RE	– Renewable Energy
PRAN	– Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru	REEEP	– Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
PTWC	– Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre	REM	– Regional Energy Meeting
PUB	– Public Utilities Board	REP	– Rural Electrification Policy
PUC	– Pohnpei Public Utilities Corporation	REP5	– EU EDF9 Support to the Energy Sector in Five ACP Pacific Islands Countries
PV	– Photo Voltaic	REP-PoR	– Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction
PWA	– Pacific Water Association	REPP	– Regional Energy Policy and Plan
PWD	– Public Works Department	RESCO	– Renewable Energy Service Company
		REU	– Rural Electrification Unit (Fiji Department of Energy)
		REWS	– Regional Early Warning System
		RfA	– Regional Framework for Action
		RIF	– Regional Institutional Framework

RIFRR	– Regional Institutional Framework Review Report	SEAFRAME	– Sea Level Fine Resolution Acoustic Measuring Equipment
RINEX	– Receiver Independent Exchange Format	SEDAC	– Social Economic Data Applications Centre
RIP	– Reference Image Points	SERREAD	– Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo profiling floats in the South Pacific Ocean
RMI	– Republic of the Marshall Islands	SeaWIFs	– Sea-viewing Wide Field of View Sensor
RMBP	– Regional Maritime Boundaries Project	SEI	– Special Events Imager
RMP	– Regional Maritime Programme	SHMAK	– Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment kit (New Zealand)
ROC	– Republic of China (Taiwan)	SIDRM	– Solomon Islands Disaster Risk Management Project (AusAID)
ROM	– Results Oriented Monitoring	SIDS	– Small Island Developing States
ROV	– remotely operated vehicles	SIEA	– Solomon Islands Electricity Authority
RPN	– Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network	SIO	– Scripps Institute of Oceanography (University of California, US)
RS	– remote sensing	SIS	– Small Island States
RSC	– Regional Steering Committee (of UNESCO, IHP in the Asia-Pacific region)	SIWA	– Solomon Islands Water Authority
RTFP	– Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (Pacific)	SIWIN	– Small Islands Water Information Network
RTK	– Real Time Kinematic	SLH	– Sea Level Height
RVO	– Rabaul Volcano Observatory	SM	– SPREP Meeting
SAN	– Storage Area Network	SMEC	– Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Australia)
SAP	– Strategic Action Plan for International Waters	SOA	– State Oceanic Administration (China)
SAPHE	– Sanitation, Public Health and Environmental Improvement (Project)	SOE	– State of the Environment
SAR	– synthetic aperture radar	SOC	– Southampton Oceanography Centre
SBSTA	– Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	SOEST	– School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology (of UH)
SCW	– SOPAC Council Committee of the Whole	SOI	– Southern Oscillation Index
SCOR	– Scientific Committee on Ocean Research	SOOP	– Ship-of-Opportunity Programme
SDI	– Sustainable Development Indicators		
SDR	– Special Drawing Rights		
SDWG	– Sustainable Development Working Group (CROP)		
SEACAMP	– Southeast Asian Centre for Atmospheric and Marine Prediction		

SOP	- Standard Operating Procedure	SQL	- Structural Query Language
SOPAC	- Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission; and also - Secretariat for the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission	SRP	- Société de Recherche du Pacifique
SPACHEE	- South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment	SST	- Sea Surface Temperature
SPAS	- School of Pure and Applied Sciences (USP)	STA	- Science and Technology Agency (of Japan)
SPaRCE	- Schools of the Pacific Rainfall Climate Experiment	STAR	- Science, Technology and Resources Network (SOPAC)
SPBCP	- South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme	START	- (Global Change) System for Analysis Research and Training (IGBP)
SPBEA	- South Pacific Board of Educational Assessment	SURE	- Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy
SPC	- Secretariat of the Pacific Community	SWA	- Samoa Water Authority
SPDRP	- South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme	SWPHC	- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
SPICE	- Southwest Pacific Circulation and Climate Experiment	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
SPILLCON	- Asia Pacific marine environmental pollution prevention & response conference	TAF	- The Asia Foundation
SPILLS	- Worldwide Tanker Spill Database (etcentre.org)	TAG	- Technical Advisory Group
SPLOS	- States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	TANGO	- Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
SPM	- Sustainable Project Management	TAO-IP	- Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Implementation Panel
SPOCC	- South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (now CROP)	TCC	- Tonga Communications Corporation
SPPO	- South Pacific Programme Office (of UNDHA)	TCDT	- Tonga Community Development Trust (now called Tonga Trust)
SPREP	- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	TCSP	- Tourism Council of the South Pacific
SPSLCMP	- South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project	TCWUP	- Tropical Cyclone Warning Upgrade Project
SPT	- Station Polynésienne de Teledetection (Papeete, Tahiti)	T-DEM	- Time-Domain Electromagnetic
SPTO	- South Pacific Tourism Organisation	TEC	- Tuvalu Electricity Corporation
		TEC-MIS	- Tuvalu Electricity Corporation - Management Information System
		TEMA	- IOC Training, Education and Mutual Assistance programme

TEPB	– Tonga Electric Power Board	UNCLOS	– United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
TEPCO	– Tokyo Electric Power Company	UNCTAD	– United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
TERI	– The Energy Research Institute	UNDESA	– United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
TESL	– Teaching English as a Second Language	UNDHA	– United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs
TNA	– Training Needs Analysis	UNDOALOS	– United Nations Office of Legal Affairs/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
TNC	– The Nature Conservancy (Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia)	UNDP	– United Nations Development Programme
TOGA	– Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere Research Programme	UNEP	– United Nations Environment Programme
TOPEX	– Typhoon Operational Experiment	GRID-Arendal	– A collaborating centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1989 by the Government of Norway as a Norwegian Foundation, located in Arendal Southern Norway, with outposted offices in Geneva, Ottawa and Stockholm
ToR	– Terms of Reference	UN/ESCAP	– United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
TPAF	– Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji (formerly FNTC)	UNESCO	– United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
TQM	– total quality management	UNESCO-IHE	– Institute for Water Education
TRITON	– Triangle Trans-Oceans Buoy Network	UNFA	– United Nations Fisheries Agreement
TSKL	– Telecom Services Kiribati Limited	UNFCCC COP	– United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Conference of the Parties)
TTPI	– Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	UNICEF	– United Nations Children's Fund
TWAS	– Third World Academy of Sciences	UNICPOLOS	– UN Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea
TWB	– Tonga Water Board	UNIFEM	– United Nations Development Fund for Women
UFP	– Universite Francaise du Pacifique	UNISDR	– United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UH	– University of Hawaii		
UK	– United Kingdom		
UN	– United Nations		
UN-APCICT	– United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development		
UNCED	– United Nations Conference on Environment and Development		
UNCLCS	– United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf		

UNISPACE	– United National Conference on Outer Space	WaSP	– wind assessment and modeling programme
UNOCHA	– United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (formerly UNDHA)	WCMC	– World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNU	– United Nations University	WCRP	– World Climate Research Programme
UoG	– University of Guam	WDI	– World Development Indicators
UPNG	– University of Papua New Guinea	WDM	– Water Demand Management
UPS	– Uninterruptible Power Supply	WERI	– Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (of University of Guam)
URL	– Universal Resource Locator	WESTPAC	– IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
US	– United States	WGNE	– Working Group on Numerical Experimentation
USACE	– United States Army Corps of Engineers	WHO	– World Health Organisation
USAID	– United States Agency for International Development	WHOI	– Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (US)
USD	– United States Dollar	WHYCOS	– World Hydrological Cycle Observing System
USDIA	– United States Department of Industrial Accidents	WIOMAP	– Western Indian Ocean Marine Applications Project
USDOE	– United States Department of Energy	WMO	– World Meteorological Organisation
USGS	– United States Geological Survey	WPTWG	– Western Pacific Tsunami Working Group
USP	– University of the South Pacific	WPSs	– Work Programme Strategies (SOPAC)
VEI	– Volcanic Explosivity Index (EVI)	WQM	– Water Quality Monitoring
VISSR	– Visible and Infrared Spin-Scan Radiometer	WRI	– World Resources Institute
VMS	– Vessel Monitoring System	WRMB	– Water Resources Management Branch (Papua New Guinea)
VOS	– Voluntary Observing Ship	WRU	– Water Resources Unit (SOPAC Secretariat)
VOME	– Vegetable Oil Methyl Ester	WSIS	– World Summit on the Information Society
VPA	– Virtual Population Analysis	WSP	– Water Safety Plan(ning)
VSAT	– Very Small Aperture Terminal	WSP	– Water and Sanitation Programme (of SOPAC Division of SPC)
VUW	– Victoria University of Wellington	WSSCC	– Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WAGIS	– Wide Area Geographic Information System		
WASH	– Water Sanitation Hygiene		
WASH WG	– Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Working Group (STAR)		

WSSD	- World Summit on Sustainable Development	WWG	- Water Working Group (STAR)
WTO	- World Trade Organisation	WWII	- World War 2
WWC	- World Water Council	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
3WWF	- Third World Water Forum	YPR	- Yield-Per-Recruit
5WWF	- Fifth World Water Forum		