SAMOA STATEMENT

ISSUES/POSITIONS

Oceans and Islands Programme:

- Samoa acknowledges the hard work done by OIP and applauds the Manager and staff of OIP for the hard work that they have put in to ensure that the different projects under the program achieves the work program and tasks that they have been instructed to do. We especially acknowledge the work that has been put in the Management of Vulnerability and Risks as well as the recent upgrade to the tide gauge under the Sea Level Monitoring Project.

- It is with this in mind that Samoa would like to see more of the work continued and raises the following:

  - Under the Sea level Climate Monitoring Project, we request for Real Time Data Display for the Met Office for tsunami warning purposes and for Samoa Ports Authority, there is a need for access to Real time data on the wharf as well as provision of a wind meter to assist with Ports daily operations and services as well as for safety and managing of its assets.

  - Under the same program, we request for specialized training or work attachment for sea level analysis. With on-going infrastructural developments along the coastlines, there is a need to be able to provide scientifically sound advice base on scientific data, but if the data is available but interpretation of the data is limited, then the whole purpose or use of this data is not effective at all.

  - For Aggregates program, Samoa request technical assistance to fully bring the existing geological and geotechnical lab operational. With the demand on aggregates and the need for quality control and management of natural resources, we need to build our capacity to ensure that measures are in place and we have the capability to use our aggregates resources wisely. In addition, Samoa request assistance in developing policies and measures to assist with the management of these limited resources as it can only be enforced if we have the capability to test aggregates that are being used.

  - For Deep Sea Minerals Project, Samoa fully supports the project and requests assistance in developing policies to assist with the management of Deep Sea Minerals in our own EEZ as well as future exploration activities in the International Seabed Area.

Water and Sanitation & Disaster Risk Programmes

- Samoa applauds the hard work by the Program Manager and staff of DRP in assisting Samoa through the implementation of its National Disaster Management Plan 2006 – 2009, provision of staff to assist with emergency response to the tsunami of September 2009, ongoing technical guidance and advice through virtual means, technical assistance in the review of the our National Disaster Management Plan 2006 – 2009 to develop the NDMP 2011 – 2014, SOPAC through DRP contribution to the implementation of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing...

Initiative (PCRAFI) in collaboration with World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and other partners to enhance disaster risk reduction, financial assistance provided to Samoa for both international, and regional and local capacity building trainings and workshops including in-country delivery of disaster management and pacific disaster net training programmes.

• In saying this, Samoa wishes to acknowledge how this assistance in particular after the tsunami of September 2009 have helped in focusing Samoa’s attention on critical areas of disaster risk management such as the application of the PCRAFI to strengthen damage and needs assessment, emergency response planning, risk reduction through well planned infrastructural development, and many others.

• The DRP and TAF/OFDA training programmes delivered in Samoa from 2010 to 2011 have also helped in strengthening close collaboration amongst the local response agencies such as Police and Fire as well as in increasing their skills levels on DRM related issues.

• The Pacific Disaster Net training in September this year have also helped Samoa in exploring ideas on how to strengthen information management systems on DRM within the Disaster Management Office to enable information sharing amongst response agencies.

• In order to garner technical and financial assistance to enable the implementation of Samoa DRM national action plan, a donors round table will be held in late November early December this year to ensure that donor assistance to Samoa on DRM related issues is coordinated and of course DRP will be invited to this donors roundtable.

Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Report

• Samoa acknowledges the hard work by the PMEG members in conducting this crucial process.

• Samoa supports the recommendations contain within the PMEG report 2011 but noted that not much has progressed in terms on implementation of the recommendations from the previous years. Therefore Samoa strongly advice the management of the SPC and SOPAC Division to immediately look at ways to address and progress the implementation of the recommendations within the PMEG reports.

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