

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)



Date 29 October 2012

Appointment of Director of Applied Geoscience and Technology (SOPAC) Division

Greetings from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

I am pleased to announce that Professor Michael (Mike) George Petterson has been appointed the new Director of SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology (SOPAC) Division. He is expected to take up the position in the second half of January 2013.

Professor Petterson is from the United Kingdom. He is currently Professor of Applied and Environmental Geosciences at the University of Leicester, a position he has held since April 2009. Immediately prior to taking this position, he was Director of Science and Resources at the British Geological Survey.

Professor Petterson has a PhD in geology (1984) and a postgraduate certificate in education (1985). He is a chartered geologist, chartered engineer, Fellow of the Geological Society of London, member of the Institute of Materials, Mining and Metallurgy, life member of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development and member of the Society of Economic Geologists.

He has published extensively and has had a lengthy career as a geologist since 1979. His career has traversed South and SE Asia, the Caribbean, South America and the Pacific where he worked in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Professor Petterson has a strong understanding of the SOPAC Division through his previous work in the Pacific region. He is a member of the STAR network. He has a depth of experience in leadership and management and a track record in leading teams through complex organisational change.

I commend Professor Petterson to the staff of the SOPAC Division, whom he will lead, the broader SPC staff that he will be part of, the Pacific Community that he will serve, SPC's development partners and stakeholders with whom he will work, and STAR, to which he will contribute.

Professor Petterson will take the baton from Dr Russell Howorth, current Director of the SOPAC Division, whose tenure ends in January 2013.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Petterson on his appointment and to welcome him to the SPC executive management team. I also pay tribute to Dr Howorth, who has led SOPAC over the past three years and who has been instrumental in the success of the implementation of the reform of the regional institutional framework in relation to the merger of SOPAC and SPC.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers
Director-General