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## PACWAVE16 TABLE TOP TSUNAMI EXERCISE



*Participants, facilitators and evaluators of the PacWave16 Tsunami Exercise*

Samoa joined 15 other countries around the northwest Pacific region as a participant in a table top exercise called "Exercise Pacific Wave 2016" (Pacwave16) based on a tsunami focused scenario. The exercise was a biennial contribution to the implementation of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System's Pacific Ocean-wide tsunami programs to help strengthen the capacities of the member states of the UNESCO IOC's Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) to reduce the risks of being adversely affected by tsunami hazards.

The purpose of the exercise was to simulate how first response agencies such as the MNRE, FESA, Police, Samoa Red Cross and others how to respond to a tsunami threat by assessing the information provided by the Meteorology Division to inform activation of warning signals and evacuation of at risk people and villages using our national standard operating procedures for tsunami warning and the National Disaster Management Plan. Simulations or exercises is one way of testing plans and procedures and strengthen preparedness and awareness levels of all agencies and people.

The Disaster Management Office and the Meteorology Office facilitated the exercise with participants from the Ministry of Police, Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority and Samoa Red Cross Society. *Continued on next page.*

The Ministry acknowledged the participation of evaluators and observers from SPREP, USAid C-CAP and ADRA-Samoa and MESC.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Logistics Humanitarian Emergencies Meeting

### *Suva, Fiji*



*Participants of the Meeting*

The World Food Program (WFP) the UN agency leading the Pacific Logistic cluster hosted the First Regional Logistics Humanitarian meeting in Suva Fiji from 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016. It was the purpose of this workshop to bring together logisticians from governments, NGO's and other humanitarian agencies in the region to share experiences and to identify and discuss issues and challenges Pacific countries are facing regarding logistics.

Warehouse sharing, Unsolicited Bilateral Donation (UBDs) control, Information sharing, Logistician capacities were some of the common issues identified to be shared amongst the countries with sound solutions recommended from lesson learnt in the past.

This initiative created an opportunity not only for the participants to know each other but also familiarize themselves with how various agencies (aiding, donors, humanitarian etc.) and governments operates during the response and recovery phase of a disaster regarding logistics.

Samoa was represented by Malia Pisi, the Head of Logistics from the Disaster Management Office together with

two representatives from Samoa Red Cross Society.

## The Business Case for Disaster and Climate Risk Management

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) through the Disaster Management Office in partnership with the UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) conducted a Disaster and Climate Resilient training for the Private Sectors on 16 – 17 February 2016. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity and raise awareness to the sector on disaster and climate risks management and to look at ways and opportunities to strengthen resilience, competitiveness and sustainability.

Businesses are finding opportunities in 'resilient proofing' new and existing infrastructure, buildings and supply chains. Larger enterprises are investing to reduce vulnerability by strengthening the resilience of smaller businesses that are suppliers and partners. This strengthens business sustainability via securing local employment, increased productivity, tax revenue and welfare.



*UNISDR trainers with DMO, Chamber of Commerce and participants*

The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, identified the private sector as central to global efforts to strengthen disaster and climate resilience. The National Legal Framework supports Samoa's actions and commitments towards regional....

*Continued on next page.*



....and global strategies and frameworks. The Disaster Management Office assist sectors to plan, develop and implement disaster risk reduction activities.

Local level efforts, in particular, have been impressive. For the business community, protecting its own enterprise is, of course, good business but so is the opportunity contained within a strengthening national resilience agenda and a growing market in disaster risk reduction related goods and services.

## **DMO (MNRE) represents Samoa for the Comprehensive Crisis Management Course**

*11th Feb—16th March*



*Samoan representatives with His Excellency, the Honorary Consul of Samoa in Hawaii, Papaliitele J.E Tihati Tho*

*“The crises we deal with today are too complex to allow a simple faceted solution to the problem, there’s a lot of uncertainties, perhaps because we’ve moved from living simple to complex lives. Thus we need to come up with new ways to counterpart the problems we are facing! These problems can never be solved but can only be managed, so we need to think critically about the systems involved instead of just a single problem”*

This was one of the many key take home messages received from the CCM Course 2016. The 5 weeks long US funded course is one of the 6 main courses offered on a yearly basis by the DKI APCSS (Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies), based at Honolulu Hawaii. 120 security practitioners were drawn from over 38 locations from the Asia Pacific region targeting those mainly involved in national crisis/disaster management

with the ultimate goal to be educated to develop their capacity in order to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from crises events.

This year (2016), the course commenced from the 11<sup>th</sup> of February to the 16<sup>th</sup> March and representing Samoa was Disaster Management Officer Ms Fetalai Gagaeolo of MNRE along with Principal Policy Analyst Muelu Meatoga who is currently an active member of the Disaster Advisory Committee from the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The overall content of the course was a complete package for newest DMO recruit Fetalai in terms of capacity building.

The course was structured into five modules;

- 1) Crisis Management Fundamentals: Resiliency, Agility and Inclusion
- 2) Focused Knowledge Enhancement;
- 3) Enhancing Crisis Leader and Team Capabilities;
- 4) Improving Crisis Coordination and
- 5) Collaboration and Applying Crisis Management.

Apparently, due to the escalating complexity and frequency of disasters affecting the region, the CCM course content was formulated with the intention to boost the effective engagement of Asia Pacific participants through intense practical exercises that emphasized skills such as collaboration, negotiation, communication; critical thinking, leadership and team building which are fundamental in responding to disasters to advance peace, stability and prosperity within the region. These skills were executed through the course lectures, seminar group discussions, exercises and individual projects. It compelled fellows to focus on strategic decisions and approaches required before, during and after crises.

Moreover, a range of opportunities and exercises were offered to help fellows analyze problems, explore factors that shape effective crisis management and develop comprehensive strategies and approaches through applied learning of best practices, case studies and projects. Overall, the course allowed participants to look at responses that are comprehensively planned and effectively coordinated.

It was also a phenomenal platform that opened up great opportunities to exchange a diverse range of core experiences amongst the fellows from the region on how they operate in the management of disasters on a local/national scale. Simultaneously, this built and strengthened networks and long lasting relationships not only amongst the fellows but with the staff of APCSS to promote and reflect the critical need of team effort, coordination and collaboration emphasizing the Whole of Society and Social Inclusion Approaches in the management of crises at all levels.

## **Mt Vaea Hazard Study Community Consultation**

*10<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

The Mt. Vaea study focus mainly on investigating the potential hazardous risks that are currently present and identifying appropriate risk reduction measures to alleviate or minimize these threats to the communities of Vaea. As part of collating information/data for the study, the Ministry and its task team led the Community Consultation session with members of the vulnerable communities to obtain primary information from their knowledge and experiences with past and present hazards/disasters within their respective locations to assist with the proposed study.

On Thursday, 10th of March a total of 180 participants took part in this consultation at the TATTE main Conference Centre. The discussions amongst participants and the Ministry were very constructive. Community participants were given the opportunity to present their views and ideas on the proposed study and any proposed recommendations they would like the Ministry to take into consideration moving forward.

Overall, the feedback was positive and the majority of participants supported the focus of study which seeks to provide security to residents living in hazard prone areas. The Ministry and its Task Team are currently analysing the questionnaires collected on the day and will meet to discuss the next steps shortly. Special thanks to the Ministry's Task Team and the EDF10 Project for making this consultation a success.



*Participants of the Mt Vaea Hazard Study Consultation*



*CEO of MNRE facilitating one of the group discussions*



*Active discussions within the groups*



## **Workshop on knowledge and policy gaps in disaster risk reduction and development planning**

*Bangkok, Thailand*

Miss Josephina Chan Ting – Disaster Risk Reduction Officer attended the meeting and it was part of a series of capacity building activities undertaken in accordance with the Development Account project to address strengthening information and communications technology capacities for disaster risk reduction and development.

Held at the UN ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, the meeting gathered participants from the Asia-Pacific region to focus on addressing key thematic areas such as communications resilience, multi-hazard early warning systems and emerging solutions. Participants were also part of a review of a series of research that was undertaken during the project and share experiences and strategies on innovative approaches to the use of ICT in a disaster management context.

The objective of this meeting was merely to improve the awareness of the participants to utilize ICT to collect and analyze disaster data and mainstream disaster risk reduction into development planning and improved capacity of stakeholders to integrate emerging ICT solutions into disaster risk reduction and development planning.

## **PDNA Training for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Post Disaster needs assessment training was held in February and was attended by representatives from various sections of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This training was an introduction for the participants to the PDNA methodology to aid in increasing the capacity of the Agriculture and Fisheries sector to lead and participate in PDNAs in the future.

Samoa has adopted the Post Disaster Needs Assessment

(PDNA) methodology as its preferred way of calculating the cost of disasters and define recovery strategies. To allow the Government of Samoa to effectively lead future PDNAs it is necessary to build capacity through the provision of training on the PDNA methodology to key personnel. In 2014, the Government of Samoa requested SPC's support to facilitate a multi-sector training in the PDNA methodology. In 2015, the same support was requested to provide training specifically for representatives of the Tourism sector. The training conducted in 2016 continues this sector-based focus by providing training to representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Both the 2015 and 2016 sector level training courses are part of wider recovery programmes within each sector and are designed to build capacity sector-by-sector in the PDNA methodology.

Agriculture and Fisheries represents 10% of Samoa's Gross Domestic Product and provides work for two-thirds of its labour force. It is also highly vulnerable to the effects of disasters. Tropical Cyclone Evan alone caused more than \$74 million (SAT) of damage and losses to the sector. As part of the Agriculture and Fisheries Cyclone Recovery Programme supported by World Bank and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) a request was made through the Disaster Management Office (DMO) to the Pacific Community (SPC) to provide training in Post Disaster Needs Assessment. The training aimed to build the capacity of the agriculture and fisheries sector to lead PDNAs in the future.



*Participants during group discussions*



*Group discussions*

## NEW RECRUITS



**NAME:** Karen Medica

**DESIGNATION:** Disaster Risk Management Specialist—Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Karen first came to Samoa in 2000 to select teachers from NUS to upgrade their technical skills. Later in 2013 she returned to assist the Cyclone Evan monitoring and reporting efforts. Karen has a long history of international development experience, having worked in many countries across Asia and the Pacific regions (PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu).

Her experience in disaster settings includes the Red Cross Asian Tsunami team, assisting with post-disaster recovery in Aceh, Indonesia. Other disaster contexts included Bangladesh (1997 floods – Bhola Island), Solomon Islands (2007 Choiseul tsunami), Samoa (Cyclone Evan Recovery – 2013-4). During the recovery phase for Cyclone Evan, Karen worked at MOF developing M&E frameworks for use across whole-of-government. Before arriving in Samoa, Karen submitted her PhD on cultural

adjustment to Monash University. Other qualifications she holds include two Masters degrees – one in International Development and another in Public Policy and Management. Karen's work experience includes with universities (Monash and Melbourne) and INGOs – Red Cross, Save the Children, World Vision, Australian Business Volunteers, Oz Child. Karen will be working with the DMO until September, focusing on monitoring and evaluation work relating to the new NDMP and will also assist mainstreaming of DRM and CCA across the sectors. While in Samoa, she hopes to build the capacity of DMO staff in areas including M&E and training of trainers.



**NAME:** Anna Blake

**DESIGNATION:** Civil Engineer

Anna Blake will spend 12 months with DMO and is a civil engineer from Tasmania, Australia and has worked in Tasmania's hydro electric dam sector for the past four years. Anna is originally from Leicester in UK and graduated at University of Birmingham. She's a keen traveler and likes to experience new cultures, she's previously undertaken engineering internships in Uganda and Ghana. She's looking forward to the Samoan food, rugby and mountains, as well some exciting projects in the DMO. In Australia, Anna enjoys mountain biking, surfing and hiking, so she is keen to keep fit and open to new challenges.



**NAME:** Madeleine McGann



## **DESIGNATION: Legal Advisor**

Maddie will spend 12 months as a Legal Advisor with DMO working with the Disaster Risk Reduction team at Mullinu'u to improve and sharpen legislation, improve enforcement, and enhance compliance monitoring at a community level.

Before moving to Samoa she was a planning and environment lawyer in Brisbane and holds a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Science (Environmental Management). Maddie grew up in Papua New Guinea and is excited to be back living and working in the Pacific. She enjoys reading, snorkeling and running, and is looking forward to learning more about Samoan culture – especially the food!

## **WELCOME 2016**

**Looking forward to working  
with you all this year.**

**We would like to wish you a  
safe and Prosperous 2016.**

## **SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **How to prepare for a flood:**

- Learn all you can about previous floods in your area and about possible warning signs and systems.
- Keep an eye on the weather conditions, listen to the weather forecast and follow flood warnings.
- Keep on hand materials such as lumber, plywood, nails, rope, wires, plastic sheeting, sandbags etc.
- Keep on hand a portable radio, spare batteries and an emergency kit
- Store all chemicals away from the reach of flood waters.
- Store livestock feed and supplies above expected water levels. Ensure safety of pets.

### ***Message from the DMO Newsletter Team:***

***This newsletter is compiled and distributed with the intention to create a channel of communication to keep our readers informed of vital issues concerning the Disaster Management Office and to provide an avenue for your invaluable feedback whether it be queries or suggestions on the information provided and/or required from us. Any feedback that would improve this service is welcomed.***

**Give us your views about our articles!  
Contact us for more information on anything you would like to know.**

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