



# Resilient Futures

Issue 1 November 2014 Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## SPC And UN Women Sign Memorandum Of Understanding



*UN Women's Nicolas Burniat and SPC's Inoke Ratukalou formalise the MoU*

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and UN Women commemorated International Day of Rural Women with an event that showcased stories from rural women themselves and culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Through the MoU, UN Women and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) – European Union (ACP, EU)-funded SPC implemented Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) will work in collaboration to ensure the different needs, capacities, constraints and social roles of women and men are included in the design and implementation of the BSRP project activities.

It is also aimed at strengthening the capacity of the 15 countries that the BSRP works in.

UN Women's Deputy Representative for the Fiji Multi-Country Office, Nicolas Burniat, signed the MoU on behalf of UN Women and highlighted the importance of including women and girls to ensure the sustainability of climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies.

The BSRP project aims to reduce the vulnerability, as well as the social, economic and environmental costs, of disasters caused by natural hazards in the Pacific. Inoke Ratukalou, Director of Lands Resources Division and Officer in Charge at SPC, said the MoU will play a big part in ensuring gender mainstreaming across the project's activities. "By mainstreaming gender into our projects we can design activities and interventions that are more sustainable and meaningful by addressing the needs and capacities of everyone. It is hoped that this kind of partnership can be an example to us and the rest of the Pacific region of how mainstreaming gender can be a critical and effective exercise that benefits all of us."

The MoU signing was part of a wider event commemorating International Day of Rural Women that illustrated the vital role Pacific women play in climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in general. It was hosted by the BSRP project, UN Women, GIZ, FemLINKPacific and Fiji's Department for Women.

# From the manager's desk



**TAITO NAKALEVU**

**R**esilient Futures is finally here! Our first edition of the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project newsletter. It has been a year since implementation and I am happy to report that a lot has been achieved.

Briefly, the project has a regional and national focus. At the regional level, two key actions are being implemented; i) work on the development of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) and ii) the development of the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA). You will read more about what PIEMA is all about on Page 4.

The SRDP is now in its endorsement stage. The recent Council meetings for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community have endorsed in principal the SRDP. It will be presented at the 2015 Leaders Meeting for final endorsement.

At the national level, countries have identified key priorities they would like to implement under the project and these are detailed in their Country Implementation Plans (CIPs). Some countries are now full-steam ahead with implementation while some are just starting.

In our future newsletters you can expect interesting detailed account of events as we take you on a journey into the countries and communities we work in, interviewing individuals and various stakeholders, for example, the school students and teachers in Palau who will benefit from the water tanks that the European Union through our project supported and the 5000 people in drought affected northern outer islands of Marshall Islands who can now look forward to safe and clean water with our water tank support.

As we now enter into the disaster months are you prepared?

From our team, we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas and a fruitful 2015.

Till next time....

Happy reading,

Taito Nakalevu

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# President Manny Mori endorses BSRP committee

**H**is Excellency, President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia has endorsed the membership of the National Steering committee of the European Union funded Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) Andrew Yatilman said committee members included representatives from various sectors such as;

- Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM)
- Office of Statistics, Budget & Economic Management, Overseas Development
- Assistance and Compact Management (SBOC)
- Department of Transportation Communication and Infrastructure (TC&I)
- Department of Resources and Development (R&D)
- Department of Health and Social Affairs (DoHSA)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- Disaster Coordinating Office, Yap
- Disaster Coordinating Office, Kosrae
- Disaster Coordinating Office, Pohnpei
- Disaster Coordinating Office, Chuuk
- FSM Petroleum Corporation
- FSM Weather Service
- Micronesian Red Cross
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community, North Pacific Office
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- European Union (Observer)

Earlier this year President Mori signed the Federated States of Micronesia Climate Change Act which creates legal obligations for departments and offices in the implementation of the Integrated disaster risk management and climate change policy promulgated in December 2009 and further strengthens the mainstreaming of activities and policies in implementing climate change and disaster management framework of actions. "I thank Congress for passing the Federated States of Micronesia Climate Change Act. Establishing a national policy in the area of climate change is essential in protecting our nation and furthering the interests and well-being of our people," President Mori said after the signing.



***President Manny Mori.***

*Source: fsmblogspot*

## First nation-wide disaster risk management conference for FSM

A first ever nation-wide disaster risk management conference was recently held in Pohnpei. Organised by the Office of Environment Response and Coordination with support from the inter-governmental organisation and Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project, the conference is part of the national effort to strengthen the resilience to climate change and disaster impacts of all communities in Pohnpei. This eventuated after the adoption of the nationwide integrated disaster risk management and climate change policy and the Climate Change Act of 2013. The conference was attended by representatives from various sectors of the state including the disaster coordinating officers, health, education, public safety, public works and the weather service. According to the director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) Andrew, these departments play a crucial role in the hazard detection, monitoring, issuance of warning and evacuation of communities when the threat of a disaster is eminent. "Bringing them together will ensure that there is consistency in the way these agencies will support the community to enhance their safety and resilience," Mr Yatilman said.





*Members of the Puaikura Volunteer Fire Brigade in their newly donated structural fire fighting gear that is made of special material and are fire retardant to better protect the volunteers.*

*Source: Cook Islands News*

## Invaluable Puaikura Fire Brigade volunteers now better protected to fight fires

The volunteers are now better kitted out for their roles in fighting fires thanks to the donation of structural firefighting gear and personal protective equipment. Funded by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) – European Union (ACP-EU)-funded SPC implemented Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) volunteer brigade Chief Fire Officer Barry Hill and long-time volunteer fire fighter Patricia Barton had the opportunity to meet the team from the Fire and Rescue New South Wales while attending the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) in Wellington. The pair also took part in the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) and the Pacific Islands Fire and Emergency Services Association annual general meetings. After meeting some of the executive members from Fire and Rescue NSW, Hill and Barton asked if it was possible to obtain more structural firefighting gear in a range of sizes to accommodate for the growing number of women volunteers with the Puaikura volunteer brigade. Of the 13 Puaikura Volunteer Fire Brigade members – four are women. Commissioner of Fire and Rescue New South Wales Greg Mullins along with Mal Connellan, Chris Jurgeit, Vince Pan obliged the request by Barton and Hill for structural fire gear and donated these which includes boots, jackets, pants and helmets that are made of special material and are fire retardant. Structural firefighting gear is the gear officials wear when they tending to structural fires as opposed to bush fires. It offers the best level of protection from the heat and flames and allows fire fighters to get close to the scene but stay totally protected. It has taken over 10 years for the volunteer brigade to receive the gear and the team were very grateful for the support they have received.

**Source: Cook Islands News**

## About PIEMA

The Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) is a strategic alliance between National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO), Pacific Islands Fire and Emergency Services Association (PIFESA, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management New Zealand (MCDEM), Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the private sector, working towards a coordinated and interoperable environment for effective emergency and disaster preparedness and response in the Pacific Islands region.



*Participants at Palau's first national broadcaster's climate and disaster resilience training. BSRPs Noa Tokavou is on the front right (blue shirt).*

## Palau first to start work on national broadcaster's climate and disaster resilience plan

Palau is the first island nation to begin work on a project, developing Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans for national broadcasters through an emergency management for media course.

The training was part of an initiative funded by the Pacific Assistance Media Scheme (PACMAS), implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Over the three-day period, participants in Palau learnt how to develop a plan that can be used in times of emergencies and disasters to strengthen their ability to continue broadcasting to local communities. 'The enthusiasm shown by representatives from TV, radio and newspapers to develop their disaster plans and strengthen their relationship with the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) is encouraging.

Participants in this training have drawn on their experiences from Typhoon Bopha in 2012 and Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 to identify ways to improve public information in future emergencies and disasters,' said BSRP's Noa Tokavou. During the training, participants learnt more about the hazards to which Palau is exposed, the national warning system that is in place, and their roles and responsibilities within the system. Participants also became familiar with Palau's national emergency management plan and learnt how to develop Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This will ensure that, in the event of an emergency or disaster, the broadcaster can continue to effectively communicate messages to the public.

**Source:** SPREP/SPC

# BSRPs Year 1 Achievements In Brief...



## Cook Islands

- National Steering Committee (NSC) in place,
- 10 members, terms of reference (TOR) approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Project Coordinator hired and will strengthen coordination of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) projects.
- In strengthening women's participation in Emergency Management a female volunteer fire-fighter was funded to attend the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) /Pacific Islands Fire Emergency Services Association (PIFESA) Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) meet, Wellington.



## Federated States of Micronesia

- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Consistent, timely interpretation and dissemination of tsunami warning countrywide.
- Ensure the 10,500 people or 10% of the population of FSM receive early warning 24/7.
- Protect washing away of a classroom building at AWAK Elementary School. (Letter Of Agreement is yet to be signed between SPC and IOM)
- Availability of fuel supply during disasters that may impact the main fuel farm.
- Mainstream DRM and CC into sector plans to benefit 6,616 people of Kosrae.
- Review will be carried out to strengthen response capacity.
- Collaboration of DRM and CC to ensure complementarity and maximisation of benefits.
- Increase visibility of disaster awareness and the BSRP project.
- Enhancement of utilisation of hazard, vulnerability and risk datasets to guide planning.
- Partnership negotiated and established with Micronesian Conservation Trust, the state and NGO's to jointly work on community adaptation and implement DRR activities.
- Review of Year 1 work plan and agreement of Year 2 work plan.

## Fiji



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Gender and disability inclusive design currently developed
- Joint National DRR and CC Platform convened, 128 participants from various sectors attended.

## Kiribati



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- First National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting convened in Tarawa.
- Gender and disability representatives endorsed as part of the Kiribati BSRP NSC.
- BSRP priority activities aligned to Kiribati national CC and DRM and development priorities through aligning with the KJIP SC
- Capacity building opportunities for the Kiribati Fire service attending the AFAC/PIFESA/PIEMA meet, Wellington.

## Marshall Islands



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- 217 water tanks procured installation in process. This to benefit 13 northern islands, population 5,296 or 10% of the RMI population.
- Funded the establishment of the JNAP secretariat.

## Nauru



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Endorsed 2014-2015 Annual Work Plan.





## Niue

- 10 members NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Awareness raising to agencies who are now well informed of DRM and CCA programs and linkages.



## Palau

- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Enhance facilities that coordinate emergency response including communication channels.
- 13 water tanks procured installed in priority schools to benefit 1,089 students and 222 staff.
- Consistent and timely interpretation and dissemination of tsunami warning



## Papua New Guinea

- Focal point at National Disaster Centre (Assistant Director) approved to coordinate the project.



## Samoa

- NSC identified and endorsed country priorities identified.
- Increased capacity of in-country emergency management stakeholders to maintain their Emergency Radio Network.
- 9 males (43%) and 14 females (57%) from government (Samoa (11), Fiji (1) and the Solomon Islands (1)), Red Cross (6), non-government (2) and faith based organisations (2) have increased awareness of; shelter and settlements operations; functions of shelter cluster coordination; knowledge and skills to effectively manage evacuation centres.
- TFI Training delivered to 18 participants from Samoan Government, Police and Fire Authorities, Red Cross Society and NGO's to develop a pool of in-country trainers able to deliver DRM courses.
- Post Disaster Needs Assessment training delivered to 29 participants from Samoan Government, the private sector, civil society organisations and NGO's to reduce Samoa's reliance on assistance from outside experts and to speed up the formation of plans to recover and reconstruct in the event of a large disaster.
- Training delivered to four NDMO staff (including the Assistant CEO), four mapping section staff (including Principal Mapping Officer) and two Geoscience staff. Supported the Samoan Disaster Management Office to produce tsunami evacuation maps and consult with villages on evacuation routes and signage, as per a methodology developed in 2011.
- Two delegates to the AFAC/PIFESA/PIEMA meet, Wellington

## Solomon Islands



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- Country priorities identified and endorsed by the NSC.
- Enhanced access to emergency service coordination and capacity building opportunities through Regional engagement

## Tonga



- Tonga BSRP project oversight roles and responsibilities clearly outlined and understood
- Focal points better prepared to receive and disseminate Tsunami warnings –two meteorology staff trained.
- Enhanced access to emergency service coordination and capacity building opportunities through Regional engagement.

## Tuvalu



- Project oversight roles and responsibilities clearly outlined and understood.
- Gender and disability representatives endorsed as part of the BSRP NSC.
- Tuvalu Government buildings fire safety improved and risk reduced.
- Fire inspection and building safety capacity for Tuvalu Police force improved.
- Enhanced access to capacity building opportunities for Tuvalu Police through formal twinning arrangements with Fiji NFA.
- Enhanced access to emergency service coordination and capacity building opportunities in Tuvalu through Regional engagement.

## Vanuatu



- NSC in place, TOR approved and country implementation plan endorsed.
- NSC also identified and endorsed country priorities.

# Upcoming Events

**December 1st—12th, 2014 :** 20th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and 10th session of the conference of the Parties (COP20/CMP10), UNFCCC, Lima, Peru. For further information contact UNFCCC Secretariat, Email: [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int), Phone: +49-228 815-1000, Fax: +49-228-815-1999.

**December 1st-5th, 2014:** Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management in Vanuatu. For more information contact, Shadrack Welegtabit, Director ,National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu.

**December 4th—12th , 2014:** Disaster and hazards mapping summit 2014, Manila Hotel, Philippines, Resource Recovery Movement . The Disaster and hazards mapping summit 2014 is intended to develop better approaches to mapping risks and dangers to communities in the Philippines and other countries with tropical climates. For further information contact, [summit@hazmapping.org](mailto:summit@hazmapping.org) or [saferecover@msn.com](mailto:saferecover@msn.com) , Tel: +6325058107 , Mobile: +639212261611,+639174760651 .

**December 8th-9th, 2014:** Reconciling mining and the sustainable development in the Pacific countries, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. For further information contact, PACE-Net Plus coordinator IRD, 101 Promenade Roger Laroque BP A5 – 98848 Noumea (New Caledonia) Phone: +687 26 07 47, Email: [jean-francois.marini@ird.fr](mailto:jean-francois.marini@ird.fr).

**December (exact date to be confirmed):** Maintenance and testing exercise of disaster preparedness equipment held in two Disaster Management Offices (DMO) containers in Niue. The Niue NDMO under the Niue Po-lice Service currently has 2 x Disasters Containers that hold chainsaws, generators, emergency lighting, stretch-ers, water containers, etc. This activity is to check, repair and test these equipment as well as undertake a de-ployment exercise from the container point to community Safety Shelters. For further information contact: Anthony Blake, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), email: [anthonyb@spc.int](mailto:anthonyb@spc.int).



*Participants from various sectors in Samoa work through group exercises to identify the damage and loss experienced in the Agriculture sector from a fictional case study.*



*SPREPs Climate Change Director, Dr Netatua Pelesikoti gives an overview of the Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit to participants at the International Day for Rural Women celebrations, SPC, Nabua.*





*People watched as tidal waves hit Mosral, Kosrae in Marshall Islands recently.  
Picture courtesy of BSRP's Officer North Pacific, Noa Tokavou.*

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