

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Greetings from Apia.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre is finally underway, with construction commencing following a ground-breaking ceremony held here at SPREP's headquarters. Alongside the ceremony, it was my pleasure to kick start SPREP's celebrations for its 25th Year Anniversary this year since its establishment in 1993. There will be a number of key events and activities to happen in celebration of this special year.

Another important and very key milestone for SPREP and its members, was the signing of the funding agreement between SPREP and the Australian Government. The funds of which will be used to support core programmes and activities of SPREP and its member countries. I thank once again the Australian Government for continuing to support the Pacific region.

A number of other key events and activities occurred this month which we share with you in this issue of SPREP-Tok. Enjoy

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



AUSTRALIA STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH SPREP

The Australian Government signed an AU\$12 million dollar agreement with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), formalising its ongoing commitment toward providing core support for SPREP's sustainable development programs for its 21 Pacific island Members over the next three years.

The new agreement, signed at SPREP's headquarters in Apia, Samoa, builds on Australia's current support to the regional organisation's practical programs in the Pacific aimed at protecting island and ocean ecosystems, encouraging sustainable development, assisting in climate change adaptation and improving the management of solid waste.

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Australia's High Commissioner to Samoa, Ms Sara Moriarty, commended SPREP for its important role in protecting the Pacific's environment and natural resources for future generations.



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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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SAMOA METEOROLOGY STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES THROUGH CASE STUDY



Participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries during the workshop. Photo: SPREP

Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through the Samoa Meteorology Division – Climate section is branching out its services to support Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) agriculture and fisheries sectors, to use climate change information to help plan for the future by undertaking a case study in Upolu and Savaii. Work on the case study began at a two-day planning workshop held at the Samoan Meteorology Division.

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AUSTRALIA RENEWS COMMITMENT TO MAJOR PACIFIC CLIMATE AND OCEANS MONITORING AND PREDICTION PROGRAMME



Participants of the COSPPac planning and steering committee meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Photo: SPREP

At the Planning and Steering Committee meetings for the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) held this month in Tonga, the Australian Government confirmed that they will continue the excellent work of the programme into a second four year phase beginning 1 July 2018.

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE BEGINS



L - R Hon Prime Minister of Samoa, Director General of SPREP, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, Project Manager Konoike Construction

The Pacific island region is only 13 months away from having its' very own Pacific Climate Change Centre hosted at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in Samoa.

The ground breaking ceremony signified the start of construction of the PCCC funded by the Government of Japan through grant aid to the Government of Samoa. The PCCC will be the regional centre of excellence for climate change information, research and innovation.

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WALKING THE TALK IN VANUATU, THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO BAN PLASTIC STRAWS



Saying No! to plastic straws, bags and polystyrene takeaway boxes.

It's a Pacific island nation that has beaten the global community across the finish line with Vanuatu officially being the first nation in the world to legally ban the use of plastic straws. The passing of legislation in February will see the end of single use plastic bags, polystyrene takeaway boxes and straws by 1 July, 2018.

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YCAN SAMOA FIRST PACIFIC YOUTH GROUP TO WIN RAMSAR CONVENTION AWARD FOR YOUNG WETLANDS CHAMPIONS



Youth Climate Action Network for Samoa (YCAN) is the first ever Pacific youth group to be awarded the Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetlands Champions. The award acknowledges a young person or a group of young people, between the ages of 18 and 30, who have contributed to the wise use of wetlands.

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STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO DEVELOP STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR TONGA



The first ever workshop on the State of the Environment (SOE) report and the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) officially opened at the Ministry of Tourism Conference Centre in Tonga. The meeting which brings together 30 participants from various government organisations, private sectors and non-government organisations aims to discuss the national context and priorities for the environment with linkages to the national, regional and international commitments.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS RATIFY NAGOYA PROTOCOL



Solomon Islands is the sixth Pacific island country to ratify the Nagoya Protocol, after the Instrument of Ratification was signed earlier this month. Officially named the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the protocol entered into force on October 12 in 2014.

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ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC



Water quality testing in Abaiang, Kiribati.

The impact of climate change reaches all aspects of human life in the Pacific. Policymakers must select the priority adaptation actions from many options. UNDP and UN Environment are empowering effective climate change decision-making in the Pacific, to enhance resilience.

Representatives of Pacific Island governments will attend a regional workshop on how to appraise and prioritise climate change adaptation options. With the goal to strengthen their national adaptation planning, the workshop will focus on the application of technical tools and methods for selecting priority actions to reduce vulnerability.

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