

October Issue # 9 2013 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

The "Future we want" is the theme of this year's International Day for the Elderly, 1st Oct

Climate Change Cook Islands collaborated with ICT division Office of the Prime Minister, RauTi Para Kumiti and Are Pa Metua to host a computer awareness promotion at the celebration of the International Day for elderly person's at Are Pa Metua on 1st October. From this program an initiative was conceived to extend a computer literacy program to the elderly people in the Pa Enuā and set up an internet cafe at Are Pa Metua strictly for the use of seniors. Telecom Cook Islands has agreed to host the tablets in their office on each of the Southern Pa Enuā and for their officer on each of the islands to assist with the seniors. The ICT division of the Office of the Prime Minister will be conducting the initial trainings on Rarotonga and in the Pa Enuā.

The proposal by RauTi Para Kumiti to SPC under the EU Global Climate Change Alliance, Pacific Small Island States (GCCA PSIS) for funding has been approved according to programme coordinator Dr Teina Rongo. Dr Rongo said "the concept is to enable the seniors to connect via internet with their loved ones overseas whilst using the internet as a mechanism in preparation for climate change. Having access to necessary weather information will boost preparations to climate change and disasters". The seniors will be taught basic computer skills to access the internet, use emails and how to search for information.



Ano Tisam from ICT division Office of the Prime Minister, explaining about computers to seniors, Are Pa Metua 1st Oct (Picture by Celine Dyer).

Climate Change Advisor Dr Teina Rongo says, "this is a useful skill for seniors to acquire which compliment the theme of this year's International Day for the elderly. We must provide opportunities to up skill our elderly with the rest of our society". The project will start rolling out early next year.

Running in parallel to the computer training will also be the filming of a documentary to capture the experiences of the elderly pertaining to observed changes in their environment.

Post 2015 Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific

Cook Islands was first on the list of consultations for the proposed Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific.



Participants at the consultation at New Hope Church, Friday 4th Oct (Picture by Celine Dyer)

The proposed strategy will supersede the current frameworks of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the Pacific Islands Framework on Climate Change 2006–2015, after they expire in 2015. Consultations are conducted by Cristina Casella, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy Adviser with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and local resident Professor John E. Hay, as consultant advising the development of the regional strategy. They are seeking the thoughts, concerns and ideas from stakeholders to shape and carve the strategy to reflect the Pacific perspective.

The 'roadmap process' as they call it will continue to other Pacific islands within the next few months. No concrete outcome was reached at the consultation, but it presented opportunity for stakeholders to be involved at the outset of the process particularly

NGOs. According to Professor Hay, “further consultations and dialogue is required and there will be many more opportunities for Cook Islands to contribute”.

Science Technology and Resources Network (STAR) Conference 5th – 8th October

William Tuivaga, Programme Manager of SRIC Cook Islands and Ana Tiraa Director of Climate Change Cook Islands were amongst the line up of presenters at this particular conference at the Edgewater Resort. Participants came from as far as the US and around the region to share and listen to the latest scientific findings and technology. This year’s theme was on



Participants at the STAR conference held at the Edgewater Resort 5th -8th October 2013 (Picture by Robert Matapo)

Seabed minerals. The conference presented the opportunity to highlight projects in the Cook Islands such as the SRIC programme presented by Willie from climate change. The conference is held every two years at different locations around the region.

Avarua Assessment Report Public Presentation 10th Oct

Matt Blacka from the Water Research Laboratory, University of New South Wales gave a public presentation of the simulated model showing the effect of cyclone water inundation on the Avarua township. The study took 18 months to complete and according to Matt, “this is critical information for the community, business sector, town planners and disaster management to acquaint with in terms of planning for the future. Having knowledge of cyclone impacts on these areas will better equip people with their future planning in the Avarua area”. He also emphasised the fact that Avarua being the business

hub and government administration of the Cook Islands need better management and re-enforcement. Crippling the town will impede on major operational systems of government, businesses and communities.



Public presentation by Matt Blacka at USP Centre 10 Oct 2013 (Picture by Robert Matapo)

The report highlights the vulnerability of Avarua town to water inundation from cyclones, but the onus is on government, businesses and the local community to act upon.

Cook Islands USP/EU GCCA Project by Vaine Wichman



Community meeting on one of the Pa Enea (Photo by Vaine Wichman)

The USP/EU GCCA project conquered major milestones since inception in the Cook Islands. Project Co-ordinator Vaine Wichman highlights some of the achievements.

According to Vaine the project has contributed to promoting climate change in the Cook Islands by working alongside Government agencies and community groups in nurturing skills and developing capacity to enhance better decision making. Modifying the project methodology to the particular circumstances of the islands has enabled island communities such as Penryhn to develop and produce their own V&A Assessment and Adaptation Plan. An

important aspect of the project methodology is its flexibility and inclusiveness that enabled community involvement and participation, hence capturing traditional knowledge and practices.

The project ensured that those in the Pa Enea, particularly the Northern Group islands are able to attend and participate in regional and national training opportunities that otherwise would be awarded to government. These pool of trained cadres based on each island are then able to transfer their knowledge to assist with planning and project implementations on their respective islands.

The project has accomplished ground breaking results including building rapport with communities. The project is in the process of finalising a proposal to EU for rain water harvesting and maintenance, food security through agriculture activities, renewable energy demonstration units for cooking and lighting as well as the protection of the harbour for small boat mooring identified by the community during the V&A assessment. Continuation of the project is imperative to build on the momentum of these communities in the Pa Enea.

Asia Pacific non-Annex 1 GHG Inventory software (NAIIS) training- 14th -18th Oct



Participants at the workshop, New World Makati, Manila

The Non-Annex 1 GHG Inventory Software (NAIIS) is particularly designed for use by the non-Annex 1 Parties for estimating and reporting national GHG inventories in developing the UNFCCC National Communications Report. Thus far the Cook Islands have produced two NatComs under the National Environment Service (NES). With the third NatCom to commence soon it is fitting that we participate in this training to get a feel of the updated software. UNEP has earmarked funding for this project to run for three years and we are hoping to get started by early next year.

The training entailed participants to open and enter data and manoeuvre around the software. A concern

raised by participants is the fact that it is a web based software. This in itself is a disadvantage to those countries with limited access to the internet and who are monitored on their internet usage and also those with slow download time. Another issue raised by small island countries is the fact the inventory does not consider the ocean resources of small islands with huge oceans. The NatCom is a useful document for government and decision makers as it contains detailed account of a country's natural and imported resources and activities.

Last Platform meeting for 2013

Wednesday 30th October was the last Platform meeting for 2013. The Legal Analysis report by Fine Tuitupou-Arnold was presented. The report looked at three main areas; policies, institutional frameworks and legal arrangements. It is still in draft form and waiting on comments from relevant stakeholders for final incorporation. Once the report is finalised a decision will be made on the recommendations of the analysis. The Climate & Disaster Compatible Development Policy was also presented and distributed to participants with the official launch yet to be confirmed.

The next platform meeting is planned for February 2014, and on that note I would like to thank all our platform members for your support over the past year and we at Climate Change wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2014.

Kura-Kuriri

We wish our CoP19 team a successful mission to Warsaw, Poland. The team captain is Climate Change Director, Ana Tiraa with her second in command Ms Mii Matamaki. Troop members are; Ms Amelia Fukofuka, Lavinia Tama and will be joined by Diane MacFadzien, Ewan Cameron and Nannette Woonton from SPREP. Linda Siegele who will provide legal advice to the team will be joining them in Warsaw.

Willie, will be accompanying Jaime from UNDP to Aitutaki from Monday 4th – Friday 8th Nov.

Till next time **KIA MANUIA!**

