**SESSION 3. Wednesday, 1 May 2019, 2.00pm**

**Japan – Japan Pacific ICT Centre**

FRDP Goal 1: *Strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters*

**Key Coordinators/contact**

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**Topic**

Enhanced Resilience for Sustainable Development

**Focus of session**

Goal One - Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific

*Strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters*

**Background**

Enhanced resilience strengthens and protects economic development and sustainable livelihoods. Pacific Island communities are renowned for a resilience that combines tradition and indigenous knowledge with the best of applied new technology and thinking.

This wisdom of integrated thinking and action combined with a common sense approach to make the most out of limited resources led the region to develop a landmark approach to climate and disaster risk governance.

A series of national Joint National Action Plans (JNAP) and the consequent Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2017-2030 (FRDP) provided a global lead in approaches to national and regional governance.

The FRDP consolidates – and articulates – a broad range of Pacific ambitions as reflected across the whole global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

While achievements to date are widely acknowledged, there remains a pressing need for the Pacific to address increasingly complex and escalating climate and disaster risk issues, through the pursuit of greater innovation and local ‘island solutions’ to strengthen community and national resilience.

This session – focused on Goal 1 of the FRDP – will highlight the importance of addressing climate and disaster risk in a holistic manner, requiring collaboration, commitment and action:

* At all levels i.e. local, national, regional and global;
* Across all sectors, i.e. agriculture (food security and nutrition), water and sanitation, infrastructure and coastal zone development; and
* Between national governments and their partners in civil society, private sector, local government and communities, and various regional and international organizations.

**Key Issues**

Pacific Island communities, while noted for their innovation and resilience, are among the most exposed to climate and disaster risk. They often suffer disproportionately because of their environmental, social and economic vulnerability.

Communities are exposed to single shocks – such as a storm or flood (quick onset) or drought or sea level rise (slow onset) – as well as the accumulated impact of smaller events such as a localized landslide or flash flood. Both exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, resulting in increased economic and non-economic costs for those who can least afford it.

Livelihoods, housing, land management and local infrastructure are all on the ‘frontline’ of climate and disaster risk. When these ‘community lifelines’ are destroyed and damaged, at-risk communities become increasingly locked into a cycle of poverty. In addition, the Pacific’s economic make up of heavily subsistence reliant economies means the impact of disaster disproportionality effects many Pacific countries.

As such, resilient development must extend beyond the anticipated worsening of extreme events and climate change impacts. It must fundamentally address the underlying causes of vulnerability.

In addition, resilient development has to fully embrace the role, vision and innovation of youth, who have the biggest stake in a resilient future here in the Pacific.

**Partnerships**

The FRDP states that ‘the achievement of its three goals will critically depend on the existence of a sound enabling environment, including the availability of resources, the establishment of good governance arrangements and effective dialogue, communication and partnerships’.

Partnerships are most effective when they are grounded in a shared understanding resilience, and future programs should invest more in strengthening long-term capacity of local partners to advocate for change at national level.

**Session objective**

The session focuses on the Strategic Objective of Goal 1 of the FRDP: *Present and future disaster risk and climate change are successfully managed, in an integrated manner where possible, within social and economic development planning processes and practices, to build resilience.*

In the FRDP, this Strategic Objective seeks the following Outcome: *Stronger and more resilient communities where efficiencies are achieved by pursuing a more integrated approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.*

**Intended Outcomes**

The session outcomes will provide:

1. Example(s) of integrated climate and disaster risk management being mainstreamed into development planning ;
2. Example(s) of how youth leadership is crucial for building a resilient Pacific including looking at social entrepreneurship ;
3. Example(s) of how private sector partnerships are crucial for building a resilient Pacific (FRDP guiding principle) ;
4. Recommendations to strengthen integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters across a range of diverse partners ;
5. Recommendations on the establishment of relevant Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Groups to support achievement of FRDP Goals.

**Session Structure**

The FRDP lists a series of Priority Actions for national and local government, civil societies and communities, private sector, and regional organizations and other development partners to build resilience.

This session is in two parts and will explore some of these priority actions whereby each part of the session will start with an opening speaker who will set the scene exploring the themes of (A) *Innovative Islands* and (B) *Strengthened Governance for Resilient Development* under the overall theme of ***Enhanced Resilience for Sustainable Development*.**

The sessions themselves are structured as indicated below.

**Part A - Innovative Islands**

**2.00 pm - 3.30 pm *Japan – Pacific ICT centre***

**Session coordinators: Anais Rouveyrol and Rhonda Robinson, SPC**

**Structure: Opening Speaker, Panel presentation and Discussion**

**Moderator: SPC to Confirm**

**Opening Speaker/s**

What does a future resilient Pacific look like? The youth perspective on action and advocacy for resilience building. *Essay Winner speaker.*

*Followed by:*

The role of culture and resilience building, a Pacific Atoll Island experience and how culture can be taken into account in resilience building actions. *Speaker (TBC)*

**Panel Topics and Speakers**

1. Linking scientific assessments to follow up action: National investments in multi-hazard early warning, seismic monitoring and broader regional application: a government perspective. *Esline Garaebiti, Director of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, GeoHazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management.*
2. Women’s economic empowerment: the power to influence resilient actions and the impact it has on the personal resilience of women. *Adi Bale, MVA executive, Nadi Market, Markets 4 Change*
3. Bridging disaster response and development, a practical Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) example as a resilient development solution. *(Speaker TBC).*

**Objective**

This session will champion the innovation-promoting, "probing and learning" culture of the Pacific, which has young, innovative and entrepreneurial people at its heart.

It will highlight Pacific island leadership in adaptation, innovation and resilience and will feature case studies relevant for several communities of practice including showcasing opportunities for resilience building at many levels. It will focus on the following areas

1. The importance of evidence based action and linking scientific and technical applications to an on-the-ground solution;
2. The recognition that efforts in disaster response can lend themselves to broader resilient development work and in particular at the community level;
3. The role of youth and women to strengthen livelihoods as a foundation for resilience;
4. Private sector partnership in terms of business development (youth enterprise and women in business) and key sectors, i.e. tourism.

**Part B – Strengthened Governance for Resilient Development**

**3.45 pm – 5.30 pm *Japan – Pacific ICT Centre***

**Session coordinator: Andrew McElroy, UNISDR**

**Moderator: to be confirmed**

**Opening Speaker**

Opening speaker sets the scene on how governance in support of national development priorities becomes more effective the more integrated and inclusive it is. *Defining resilient development and putting development at the forefront of national resilience building efforts to climate change and disasters.*

Speaker (TBC)

**Panel Topics and Speakers**

1. Good data in good decisions – why applied technology important and how it can work even in remote communities. *Litia Kirwin, Director Loving Islands Sustainable Pacific Island Development.*
2. What role can spiritual stewardship play in resilience building? Hard evidence and data yes … but don’t forget culture, tradition and spirituality. *Frances Namoumou, Pacific Council of Churches.*
3. Following the money towards a more resilient and sustainable future: the critical importance of hazard and exposure data to inform risk financing resilience-building efforts. *Litea Biukoto, Disaster Risk Team Leader, Pacific Community (SPC) and Daniel Lund, Resilience Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)*

**Objective**

The overall objective of the session is to demonstrate how effective governance saves lives, saves money and protects hard-fought development gains.

In an era of escalating disaster and climate risk, the session will share experience and wisdom from three important elements of effective governance, namely how:

* Applied technology and use of data informs policy and better decision making even in remote island settings;
* Effective community engagement and support has to consider culture, tradition and spiritual aspects as well as hard data and evidence;
* Disaster and climate resilience financing tools and mechanisms need to be increasingly innovative and accessible.