

# PACC TUVALU NEWSLETTER

4TH QUARTER 2010

PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN TUVALU



## Season Greetings

PACC newsletter brings to every one season greetings and warm regards to you and your families in this festive season. Welcome to the fourth and final PACC newsletter for the year 2010.

**THE PACC PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT WISHES YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

### 2011 MILESTONE:

- ◆ Developing of Water Policy.
- ◆ Developing Climate Change Policy
- ◆ Development of Implementation Guidelines
- ◆ Implementation of Adaptation Measure
- ◆ Commemoration of World Water Day
- ◆ Commemoration of Environment Day

## Tuvalu pleas for action in Cancun



*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Environment, Mr. Enele Sopoaga at Cancun, Mexico*

The Tuvalu delegate to the Climate Change meeting in Cancun made it clear to the international community that small island states such as Tuvalu remains a scapegoat of the industrialized and developed countries and delegates also specified that “we cannot be afford to be held hostage.....by political backwardness” when speaking of the hottest term in Cancun “Climate Change”

The Tuvalu delegates makes impassioned “Life and Death” plea for action in Cancun. In the UN High Level Segment, Hon. Enele Sopoaga,

calls for urgent global actions by all countries to address climate change.

In his speech, he stated that Tuvalu after the Copenhagen disappointment, have come to Mexico with renewed expectations that the international community will not repeat Copenhagen. “We must unite in strong solidarity and be decisive on meaningful steps to address climate change here”. In negotiating, the Hon. Enele Sopoaga also urges capacity building assistance to be rendered by adaptation fund board.

In respond, the board is offering assistance if only the countries meet up the set forth criteria.

However Sopoaga pointed out that Small Island States were struggling to fulfill the eligibility criteria to access funds and urges the board to bear in mind Article 12.8 of the Kyoto Protocol which calls for support for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable. In overall, the Tuvalu delegations were happy to see that there was a progress in the Cancun meeting and hopefully a legal binding agreement is finalized in Durban in the year 2011.

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## UPDATES FROM THE PACC PROJECT

The PACC Project Management Unit staff from the Water Sector countries attended a week long Socioeconomics Assessment (SEA) PACC Training held on the 15-19 Nov 2010 at the Marshall Islands. The objective of the training was to introduce the SEA-PACC and its linkages to the Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) process, provide the climate context for the SEA-PACC; introduce the SEA-PACC indicators, and engage the participants in group discussions discussing the process, indicators and analysis, and the 'how to' of carrying out the surveys. Participants to the RMI SEA PACC training comprised of Nauru, Niue, RMI, Tonga and Tuvalu. Joining the PACC team was the IWRM Regional coordinator Marc Wilson and

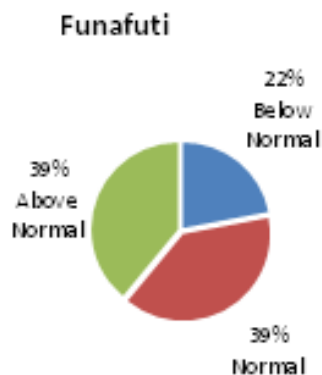


*PACC team out in the field*

IWRM coordinators for Palau and RMI. The training was a fruitful one and the PACC team got to have a feel of conducting a socio economic survey with the Marshallese communities with the hope of replicating the same field work back in our individual countries. The training was financially made available by the PACC regional budget.

The PACC project officer also joined in the V&A training that was held on the 22 Nov- 3 Dec 2010 at the Marine Campus, USP, Fiji. The workshop aimed at enhancing the local human resource capacity in finding ways and means of managing risks that climate change poses for fresh water availability, food (including fisheries) productivity, coastal erosion, salt water intrusion, tourism and human health. Participants were also introduced to practically carry out vulnerability and adaptation assessment in one of the villages in Nausori, Fiji and this is to give the participants the confidence to carry out their own assessments in their respective island countries and workplace should they need to carry out vulnerability assessment.

## Seasonal Climate Outlook for Tuvalu [Sep – Nov] (2010)



Outlook forecast for Tuvalu Islands for the next three months ranging from September to November was made possible through the collaboration of the Tuvalu MET services with the Australian Metrological services in developing forecasting model known as SCOPIC. Generally speaking, the rainfall forecast over Tuvalu islands has a higher probability of wet conditions below normal with Nanumea having the highest probability of 70% below normal.

### Outlook for Funafuti

Based upon the 3 month average value of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) values from May to July (SOI Values=10.77). The most likely

situation will be for "below-normal" rainfall in the period from Sep-Nov with the predicted probability being 44%. The pie charts clearly show the seasonal outlook for Funafuti (Sept-Nov).

**LAST 3 MONTHS:** Normal rainfall for all stations.

### Outlook for the next 3 months:

**July –September 2010;** The outlook for September through to the end of November is biased towards "normal" rainfall in Niulakita with a 43% probability of occurrence and for Nui The most likely situation will be for "below-normal" rainfall in this period from Sep- Nov with the predicted probability being 53%.

## Current status of water in Tuvalu

Being at the fore front of climate change, Tuvalu is indeed in real time problem caused by impact of climate change.

This season is normally the wet season for Tuvalu and yet drought is felt at most parts of the country.

The current situation now and it is reality, tanks are drying out, people are flocking by the door step of the Public Works Department queuing to get the first opportunity to buy water, people queuing up at community and church reserves every morning and afternoon to get a portion of water for the day. The National Disaster committee are meeting up so very often to think of other



*Communities rationing their water supply*

options. According to the Head of the Water Sector, Mr. Koepke, gathering from a latest sounding survey carried out; about 60% of households on Fogafale are left with three weeks water supply.

He added that the committee forecasts if the dry spell continues for another three weeks or beyond the 24<sup>th</sup>

December 2010 than the country may declare a *State of Emergency*.

People on the capital of Tuvalu are really in demand for water.

Community reserves at the meantime are rationing the reserved water so that the reserves can last and cater for the need of people during this dry spell period.

According to the recipients of water from the Funafuti major water reserve, all Funafuti residents are rationed and each family is only allowed two buckets of water every morning.

People however are hoping for the heavens to open up for them soon.

## Water Quality Assessment



*Water Quality surveyors contracted under PACC*

The PACC project works closely with the Health Department in assessing the quality of water at the pilot site, Lofeagai. The project has engaged eight Red Cross volunteers to do the baseline data collection with the kind assistance

of the Public Health Staff to supervise the work.

Work commences on the second week of December and will be on for a period of one week. A radio program was on air prior to the work on the ground as awareness for people and informing them about the task that the PACC and the Health Department is going to undertake.

All data collected will be read and analyze by expertise from Health Department and community members were informed of the status or quality of water as at the time of the survey.

The PACC project together with the Health Department will develop IEC materials for wide awareness.

Finally, PACC will engage SOPAC in compiling the whole report.



*Communities carry water from community reservoir to homes*

## PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

### PACC TUVALU



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## SHARE THE LAUGHTER

### There is a blind man here to see you

A nun in the convent walked into the bathroom where mother superior was taking a shower. "There is a blind man to see you,"

She says. "Well, if he is a blind man, than it does not matter if I'm in the shower. Send him in."

The blind man walks into the bathroom, and mother superior starts to tell him how much she appreciates him working at the convent for them. She goes on and on and 10 minutes later the man interrupts: "That's nice and all, ma'am, but you can put your clothes on now. Where do you want me to put these blinds?"

## PHOTO GALLERY

### PWD Staff competing for the X-MAS CUP

