



MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

Talofa from the SPREP campus!

The last month has been all about strengthening our partnerships.

We signed a Host Country Agreement with the Government of Fiji, with the Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to set up a SPREP office in Suva. The signing was a testament of the Fiji government's commitment to SPREP and their recognition of the importance of the work that we do in the Pacific region, and marks a new chapter in our relations. We'd also like to congratulate Fiji and Ambassador Peter Thomson who was elected as the U.N General Assembly President for the 71st session, SPREP is always here to provide support when needed.

Our partnership with the European Union through the PacWaste project, was also praised by the EU's Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica who spoke of the importance waste management, and praised SPREP for delivering results through the PacWaste Project.

We'd also like to welcome the new Deputy Director General of SPREP on board with us, Mr. Roger Conforth who is no stranger to SPREP and our work – you can read more about him in this edition of the SPREP Tok. We look forward to the years ahead.

Soifua,

Kosi.

LATEST NEWS



SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu and Fiji Government's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, at the signing of the agreement in Suva.

SPREP SIGNS HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH FIJI

The Government of Fiji and SPREP signed a host country agreement in June which formalised the establishment of a SPREP office in Fiji. The Fiji Government's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, and SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu, signed the agreement in Suva, marking a new chapter in the partnership between the Fijian Government and SPREP.

The office hosts the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project.

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European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, at the hand over of healthcare waste incinerators to Tungaru Central Hospital. Photo | Courtesy of European Union in the Pacific

VISITING COMMISSIONER PRAISES SPREP/EU COLLABORATION IN THE PACIFIC

The successful partnership between the European Union and SPREP has been commended by the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, during an official joint New Zealand government and European Union development mission in the Pacific.

Mr. Mimica praised SPREP for effectively delivering results through the PacWaste project in the Pacific region.

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Avele College students learning about the Fukuoka Landfill Method with SPREP Pollution Adviser, Anthony Talouli. Photo | SPREP

SPREP DAY CELEBRATED

Over 100 students visited the SPREP campus in celebration of SPREP Day, which is commemorated on 16 June each year.

Students and teachers of Avele College and Leififi College, as well as Vaiala Primary School and Vailima Primary School spent the morning at the SPREP campus, where they were greeted by SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu, and SPREP Youth Ambassador, Brianna Fruean.

The schools spent time learning from the different divisions about the work that SPREP does, and the importance of taking care of the environment.

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Conducting the PCB training. Photo | Jessica Zebedee/EPA

WORKING TO ACHIEVE A PCB-FREE RMI

A new initiative in the Republic of the Marshall Islands aims to rid the island of a dangerous class of toxic chemicals known as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Funded through the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project, the programme aims to make Republic of the Marshall Islands 'PCB-free' by the end of the year 2020.

PCBs are industrial products or chemicals that were once widely used as an insulating material for electrical equipment, and its use has been severely restricted due to serious human and environmental health impacts.

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Participants of the PIP Annual Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.

UNITY IN TACKLING INVASIVE SPECIES ACROSS THE PACIFIC REGION

The Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit was one of the topics discussed during the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) this week. Close to completion, this toolkit will be available through SPREP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to help Pacific island countries and territories manage invasive ant species.

The meeting also reviewed the Pacific Invasives Partnership Action Plan and is developing a new one for 2016/2017, focusing on common activities the PIP will undertake to progress invasive species commitments and actions in the Pacific region.

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Participants of the first P3DM training in Vaka Puaikura. Photo courtesy of the Cook Islands National Environment Service.

THE COOK ISLANDS FIRST PARTICIPATORY 3D MODEL

The district of Vaka Puaikura on Rarotonga now have their very first three dimensional (3D) model to help the district use integrated planning while maintaining sustainable use of their resources.

The training on participatory three dimensional modelling (P3DM) drew upon the expertise from fellow Pacific island countries – Samoa and Tonga, who have also completed the P3DM training with local communities. It brought together community members, school children, and government officers to construct a P3DM of their district based on their local knowledge.

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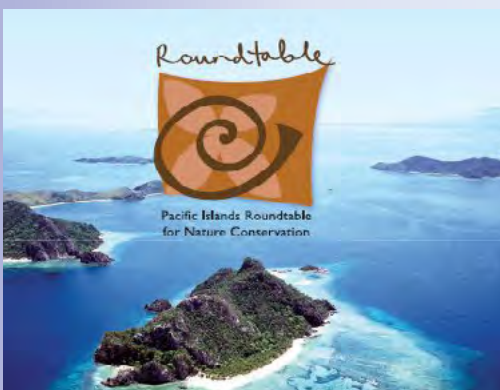
A summary of the results of the Asbestos Awareness Survey.

AWARENESS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING YOUNG PACIFIC ISLANDERS ON ASBESTOS

A new survey about asbestos awareness in the Pacific islands has highlighted the need for greater awareness and education in the Pacific region about the dangerous mineral and its associated health risks.

The survey, conducted by the PacWaste project, was developed to establish a baseline understanding of asbestos awareness ahead of a planned regional awareness and education campaign later this year.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (PIRT) E-BROCHURE AVAILABLE NOW

The brand new Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) e-brochure is now available.

The e-brochure contains information about the Roundtable, such as its Mandate and Principles for Nature Conservation in the Pacific, as well as its Vision and Mission.

You can download the e-brochure directly from the PIRT website

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Canoe races on the Mataniko River.

A HEALTHIER MATANIKO RIVER IN HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS HOLDS FIRST CANOE RACE

Solomon Islands celebrated World Environment Day by organising partners and stakeholders for a clean-up day of Mataniko River in Honiara on 9 June.

The activity attracted different organisations to help with the clean-up of the river which was followed by an organised canoe race that drew hundreds of spectators to the river bank.

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The provision of the PacWaste incinerators will improve the proper disposal of healthcare waste across the Pacific. Photo | A.Carvan/SPREP

NEW HEALTHCARE WASTE INCINERATORS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC

The PacWaste Project has reached another milestone with the installation and commissioning of state-of-the-art healthcare waste incinerators in Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

These high temperature incinerators will ensure that biohazardous waste in the Pacific region will be treated in accordance with international best practice, and are the first of 26 to be provided by PacWaste to the region's key hospitals and health clinics.

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The new and improved Pacific Climate Change Portal.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL LAUNCHED IN SAMOA

SPREP in partnership with Griffith University in Australia hosted a launch for the newly revamped Pacific Climate Change Portal in Samoa.

The launch was an important step forward for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction planning in the Pacific region.

The upgrade of the portal was made possible through SPREP, Griffith University through the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded Pacific iCLIM Project and the GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific region Project.

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SPREP STRATEGIC PLAN



NEW SPREP STRATEGIC PLAN IN THE MAKING

Staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) held a one day "challenge" workshop in June to finalise their input to the development of the new SPREP Strategic Plan.

The specific areas discussed included regional and organisational goals and objective, planning and reporting, and SPREP structure and culture.

A regional workshop for SPREP members and partners will be held in Samoa from 18-19 July as part of continued consultations with stakeholders to develop the new SPREP Strategic Plan. It is important that there is strong participation and ownership in the development of the new Strategic Plan by SPREP members and partners.

The new Strategic Plan will be presented for consideration of the members at the 27th SPREP meeting in Niue from 19-22 September.

For more information on the coming regional consultation for members and partners, please email audrey@sprep.org.



Protect Pacific Whales – Ocean Voyagers Campaign

Did you know?

The tusk or horn of the male narwhal is actually an oversized canine tooth. The tooth pierces the left lip, growing throughout life up to 10 feet long. This fancy oversized tooth is jam-packed with nerve endings and grows in a left-handed helix spiral. Oddly, about 15% of female narwhals also have tusks. Some of the first narwhal teeth (or tusks) to reach Europe were touted as being the horns of the mythical unicorn.



INTRODUCING SPREP'S NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

SPREP's new Deputy Director General, Roger Cornforth, started his official duties on May 30, 2016.

Roger, a national of New Zealand, is no stranger to SPREP, having worked as Programme Officer, and Technical Management Group member of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme from 1993-1997, as a member of the advisory group for the design of the Pacific Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme, and as a founding member of the Pacific Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

He brings to SPREP extensive strategic leadership and international experience in the environment and development sectors and from a number of senior leadership roles in the Department of Conservation of New Zealand, in NZAID, and within New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including in international climate change and sustainable development negotiations. Most recently, Roger was Senior Vice-Chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee, and member of the management team of the Ministry's Pacific Development Division.

He holds a Master of Arts in Biogeography/Coastal Environments from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

"I am excited to be back at SPREP, this time contributing to SPREP's leadership in meeting the environmental priorities of Pacific communities," he says. "My personal ambition is to bringing a more integrated national programme focus to members, and to see greater regional collaboration in the application of technical and financial resources to meet members' national and regional priorities. Perhaps most of all though, I am excited to be once again working in the Pacific for Pacific peoples."

CORPORATE SERVICES CORNER



LEARNING MORE ABOUT SPREP'S INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE AND ARCHIVES

"Every book in these offices, every pamphlet in the library and every meeting document in the server wouldn't be able to turn into actual future change without our future generations involved. That's you and me. We have so much to protect because we have so much to lose." – Ms. Brianna Fruean, SPREP Youth Ambassador as she welcomed the students on SPREP Open Day

"I really liked the library," - Ms. Manuia Penani, 10 years old of Vailima Primary school

"The library and learning about recycling was the best!" - Mr Simona May, 8 years old of Vaiala Beach School.

SPREP's Information Resource Centre and Archives was a highlight of school students during their visit to SPREP to commemorate SPREP Day on 16 June. The IRCA has been a valuable part of SPREP since 1993 and contains a wealth of environmental information. The institutional knowledge of SPREP is stored in an internal archive system that is managed and housed by IRCA. It also manages all the information resources in SPREP which are distributed to members and anyone in need of any environment information. The IRCA also stores all information online which is easily accessible for anyone at any time. Should you wish to know more about IRCA, or be in need of any environment related information please contact the team at sprep_irca@sprep.org and they'll be able to help you.

