

APPENDIX 5

STAR CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 2007

Honourable Chair of SOPAC, Excellencies, Distinguished National representatives and Delegation members, representatives of Institutions and Organisations, Director of SOPAC, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

I. Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity to formally report on STAR's activities.

Before I begin, though, Honourable Chairman, as Chair of STAR and speaking on behalf of all the scientists, may I thank our hosts, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga, for your warmth, welcome and hospitality. Kelepi Mafi is the person I have mostly dealt with and I am grateful for his hard work, but I know that there will be many others who have had a busy few weeks, and we thank you all sincerely.

Malo ipito

I would also like to respond to the warm words the Honourable Minister made about STAR this morning. His dedication of this meeting to Sione Tongilava took me back many years. Long ago, the first research that I did on a Pacific island other than New Zealand was here on Tonga'tapu. When I met Sione, it was only a few minutes before he made his comment "Please understand, English is only my second language and I am not a geologist but ..." and then proceeded to give an exposition on the geology of the Tonga Arc that was way above my level of understanding! So it is with respect that I remember him and with pleasure that I am again in Tonga on scientific matters.

As usual, STAR is indebted to staff of the SOPAC Secretariat for their cheerful and untiring efforts that make the meeting possible in the usual very short time frame. Vinaka. Thanks too to my colleagues for their presentations, chairing of sessions, support to the Chair, work on PMEGs and, in advance, contributions to the TAG sessions.

And so to STAR – As you all know, STAR is the Science, Technology and Resources Network associated with SOPAC. It is an informal grouping of scientists that acts as an interface between the SOPAC Secretariat and its member

nations and the international scientific community, and it does this in several ways. At intervals, an international scientific workshop or meeting may be convened by STAR, or held under its auspices, on a theme relevant to the SOPAC region. The Marine Benthic Habitats Meeting that took place in Noumea in May of this year, although not organised by STAR, was attended by many STAR members. STAR members also correspond and tender advice in the periods between the annual meetings. And I would like to stress here that STAR scientists have always been a resource freely available to you at any time, either directly from the relevant scientist or through myself as Chair.

Most obviously, each year a meeting at which scientific papers are presented and discussed, and thematic Working Groups meet, is held prior to this Annual Session of the SOPAC Governing Council. This year, the 24th meeting of STAR was held on November 22nd to 24th at this centre and was attended by some 120 scientists from around the world. In terms of presentations this meeting was, in fact, the largest STAR meeting to date.

II. STAR Presentations

As the Minister and the Director of SOPAC explained in their opening addresses this morning, the main theme of this year's STAR meeting was: "Pacific Marine Resources and Geohazards, with particular respect to 1. Geoscience and the ECS Challenge and 2. Coastal Hazards and Protection".

Perhaps I could expand here on the rationale behind the themes of STAR. The theme is selected each year jointly by the host nation, the Director of SOPAC and myself. As the theme has the effect of attracting extra scientists working in that particular area, it is an opportunity to ensure that host nations get specialist knowledge in areas that interest them and that we can also bring new developments in science to the attention of the region.

Presentations on any theme related to Pacific geoscience are welcomed, though, and these give breadth to the meeting.

During the meeting, some 68 scientific papers were presented orally and many others by the

posters displaying research results, some of which you see displayed around this centre. Abstracts of these are published in SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 650. As is always the case for STAR meetings, the information presented covered a broad range and I recommend the volume of abstracts as a guide to the material covered and as a source of much useful information.

The Honourable Minister and the Director of SOPAC both discussed the STAR programme in their addresses this morning and I do not need to repeat their comments. But let me very briefly outline the scope of the presentations for you, simply to indicate the variety and relevance. The opening sessions dealt with the Extended Continental Shelves issue, covering not only the background geoscience and the positions reached by some of the member nations but also the processes involved in having submitting applications and having them approved. The latter information was extremely valuable for members of those delegations yet to advance this issue in New York and nicely integrated geoscientific, political and procedural aspects of this important issue. And closely linked to these sessions were papers discussing offshore mining along plate boundary zones in the region.

Other sessions dealt with shallow marine and coastal processes, oceans and environments, tectonics and mining geology, and energy and resource economics. The Minister referred to the importance of aggregates and erosion, and these have been an important subject at STAR meetings for very many years. In contrast, the papers on resource economics developed a theme first introduced at STAR meetings 2 years ago (and we have received suggestions for more new topics for future meetings).

Finally, but certainly not least, major sessions covered water resources disaster risk reduction, and earthquakes and tsunamis. The importance of all these to the region has again been highlighted by the tragic events in member nations this year.

As usual, although many of the talks presented the results of experimental science, the potential applied aspects were either conveyed directly to the audiences during the talks or explored in ensuing discussions.

In addition to the session talks, a large number of posters containing research results and other data were presented and many of these are still around you on the walls of this conference centre.

III. Working Groups and Associated Meetings

In addition to the scientific presentations, a number of working groups also met – not so many this year as usual because of the other activities going on at about this time. These working groups offer an important opportunity for STAR delegates to bring to the attention of Council items of particular scientific and technical importance to the region.

This year, working groups met to discuss energy and water issues and marine benthic habitats.

I will not report in detail on their deliberations here but the full documents with supporting arguments for the conclusions will be appended to this report (see attachment to this report).

The members of the Energy and Water Working Groups met as a joint group and made several comments and recommendations:

1. They noted and supported the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA to re-establish the PWA in Samoa including preparatory activities such as the re-establishment of the membership and review of the PWA Constitution prior to the 7th Annual General Meeting of the PWA in September 2008.
2. They supported the concept of a community based approach that utilised the widest range of skill sets, and recommended that the technical tools (i.e. NIWA stream health monitoring kit – Pac SHMAK) incorporating water and renewable energy should be developed, Pacificised and where necessary tailored to individual countries. Relevant components of regional programmes and initiatives such as the SOPAC – IWRM project could be used as the vehicle or platform to deliver these tools to communities through appropriate partnerships. Further, they supported the need for pilot projects, capacity building and information exchange so as to ensure sustainability of such community based initiatives.
3. They noted the successful convening of the REM2007 & PEMM2007 by SOPAC in the Cook Islands, the resulting Ministerial Declaration and Communiqué and the initiative taken by SOPAC in the coordination and implementation of components of the Communiqué as relevant. They endorsed the need to strive for cheaper petroleum products, the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through the development of new and renewable energy sources, the

need to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the need for a champion, increased commitment and political will from PIC governments. They further supported the proposal to convene an Energy Ministerial in 2009 and the objective of getting energy on the FEMM agenda.

4. They recommended that SOPAC convene a subcommittee to develop a methodology that considers the inter-relationships between energy, water and climate variability for PICs and to scope out a practical approach and response supported through technology and science that will enable management plans to be developed that will directly contribute to long term sustainability.

The Habitat Working Group recommended:

1. That SOPAC continue to move ahead in its effort to characterize marine benthic habitats. As part of this effort cooperation with biologists and ecologists needs to be encouraged;
2. A pilot project for potential habitat mapping should be undertaken soon. An area within the SOPAC area where good high-resolution maps are available should be selected and a proto-typical map constructed so that mapping protocols can be established and recommendations made on how SOPAC should proceed in marine benthic habitat mapping; and
3. In addition, it was pointed out that shallow water mapping needs to be considered and the use of satellite imagery, which is readily available, be utilized to map these areas.

Associated with the STAR Meeting were meetings of:

- ICG/PTWS Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South-West Pacific Ocean (report attached).
- Science and Technical Experts Working Group Meeting on Paleo-earthquake and tsunami history of active plate margins within the Pacific Islands Region.
- Open Forum discussion of the Key Findings of IPCC Assessment Report 4.

2005 saw the introduction of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Groups. These groups of TAG scientists again met with SOPAC Programme Managers in Suva immediately prior to this STAR meeting. The PMEG Chair, Professor Gary Greene, will report in full on this process to Council later in the meeting.

VI. STAR Discussion of the Pacific Islands Regional Institutional Review

I would like now to turn to the issues arising from Paragraph 19 (b) in the Leaders' Communique from the Pacific Islands Forum (Council Agenda Item 11.1).

STAR scientists have spent much time discussing the implications of this both electronically before the meeting and in person here. There is considerable concern for the future of STAR, as it is closely linked to SOPAC.

A briefing paper including the history of the STAR/SOPAC relationship was circulated to delegates and discussed at the STAR Business Meeting, and the group voted unanimously for me to present the recommendations from it to you. These are included in your documents as AS36/11.1 Suppl. 2 and I would like to discuss one or two points from that paper now.

First of all, it is not appropriate for STAR to comment on the organisation or governance of SOPAC. That is the province of Council and of the leaders of the region. Our concern is solely with the continuation of the link between our voluntary organisation of international scientists and the efficient delivery of geoscience to the region.

We have had considerable discussion about the nature of that link between STAR and SOPAC (which, by the way, is a unique one) and what it is that each group gives to the other. You have heard comments on this already at the opening of this Council Meeting from the Honourable Ministers and the Director of SOPAC. There has also been much discussion amongst STAR, some of which is summarised in our discussion paper, and I am sure that more comment will arise.

Can I add my own perspective? I am always wary about using the tags "basic or experimental" and "applied" science, as the distinction is often not at all clear. Nonetheless, SOPAC is obviously an organisation charged with applying scientific and technical knowledge in practical solutions to perceived problems.

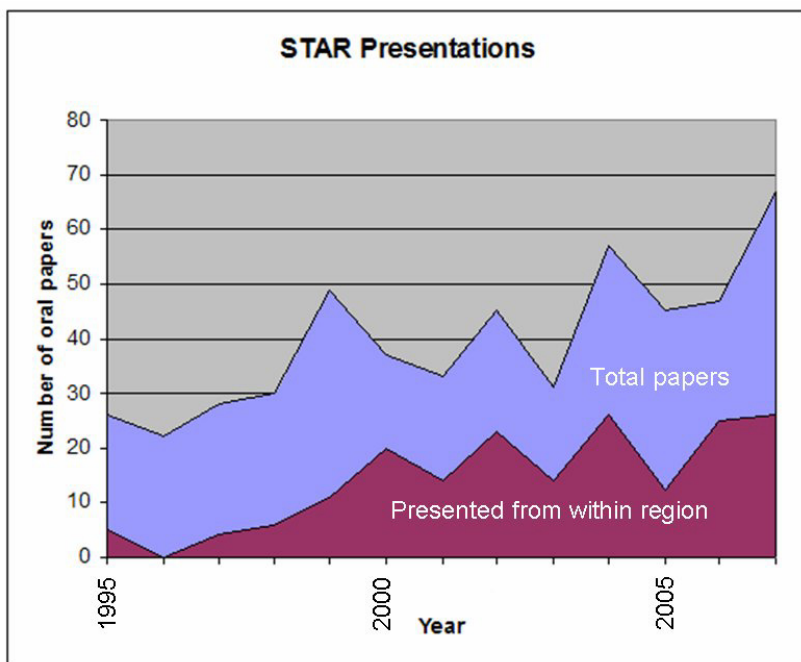
Why do I raise this? The world is facing two unprecedented and interconnected global crises – those of energy supply and environmental change. These will likely require new answers to problems that we don't yet know exist, and many of these solutions will come out of basic, not applied, research. The well known science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once said "The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is

not 'Eureka! (I've found it)' but 'That's funny...'. This recognition of something out of the ordinary is what eventually leads to new insights and solutions. And my own view, perhaps a simplistic one, of the value of STAR to SOPAC is that, as well as giving the access to equipment and experience and databases and ships and libraries that others have spoken about, it keeps SOPAC in touch with the people who say "That's funny.....".

I do not think that I need to go over all of the bullet points covering notes and comments the STAR document. Many Council members have attended STAR, raised questions with speakers and taken part in the discussions of research results. The working relationship between STAR and SOPAC has been endorsed by this Council a number of times. However, in this climate of change, let me expand on the important final three bullet points.

As the antepenultimate point notes, STAR acknowledges that change is inevitable. As you all know better than I, SOPAC has changed its focus over the years. But so also has STAR, partly to match SOPAC's needs but also to reflect both changing science and its own perception of how it might help the region. In this, STAR has been proactive – the most obvious example is the introduction of the PMEGs, which were a STAR initiative designed to improve the contribution of the Technical Advisory Groups. But there have been other, perhaps less obvious pushes too. As just one example, let me show you this graph:

One needs to be careful reading too much into this. Nonetheless, the overall trend in the growth of STAR meetings is clear. The graph



also shows the increase in presentations given by scientists based within the region that is something I have argued for to this Council on a number of occasions. It shows the increasing confidence within the wider scientific community of those scientists as a result of STAR's encouragement and gives them a springboard to the wider international stage. We seem to have around 40% of the papers presented from scientists based within the region, which I believe is about the right mix.

The second to last bullet point expresses the strong desire that a mechanism be found that will enable STAR and the benefits that it brings to the region to continue. I have mentioned the growth of STAR and I believe that with a little modification, if the region wished, the meetings could become one of the premier scientific conferences of the Pacific basin. That is an issue for my successor and could be seen as either a good or a bad thing, but it would bring more expertise into the region. Yet the attributes that give STAR its strength, its lack of a formal structure, its eclectic membership and independence, could also be a fatal weakness. Without the interaction with in-island scientists and the ability of its members to contribute their expertise to the region in their own way, STAR could very easily and very abruptly disappear.

That brings me to the final conclusion. If Council wishes, the senior scientists here are willing to provide whatever advice and support we can to Council in its deliberations over this issue.

That concludes my address. Thank you.

John Collen
Chair, Science Technology and Resources Network (STAR); Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, 26 November 2007

The STAR Chair's full report with appendices is on the CD that accompanies this Proceedings volume; paper AS36/6.2 Revised.

The STAR Statement on its discussion on the Regional Institutional Framework agenda item on the SOPAC Governing Council meeting is on CD as paper AS36/11.1 Supplementary 2.

ATTACHMENT

Minutes of STAR Working Groups & Associated Meeting(s)

1. Habitats Working Group

The Habitats Working Group met in Tonga November 24th and discussed the need and interest to characterize marine benthic habitats in the SOPAC region. Considerable interest was given to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and how this could be accomplished in the region.

It was noted that within the Ocean and Islands Programme (OIP) of SOPAC capacity and data (e.g., multibeam sonar bathymetry and backscatter data) exists that can be used to construct habitat maps. The group felt that construction of such maps would be a first step in identifying potential habitats and subsequently used as a base for biological and ecological data.

It was pointed out that an initiative called "The Micronesian Challenge" has been developed to conserve valuable habitats and under initiatives mandate 30% of nearshore areas are to be established as MPAs in many countries of Micronesia. The working group felt that if such effort were to be successful habitat maps should be constructed. The working group felt that SOPAC and STAR scientists could contribute to this effort and that SOPAC Secretariat could facilitate such effort.

The working group noted that biologists and ecologists are now starting to participate in STAR and encourages synergy between geoscientists and biologists. It was noted that an interest exists by the STAR scientists to cooperate with other disciplines to initiate marine benthic habitat characterization and mapping in the SOPAC region.

The regional interest in marine benthic habitat characterization was noted to be increasing and in hosting the GeoHab 2007 International Conference in Noumea last May New Caledonia took the opportunity of demonstrating its experience in EEZ governance. The GeoHab conference, co-sponsored by SOPAC, the CPC, OIC, NIWA, GNS Science, Australia and other organizations that was attended by 120 participants from 23 countries enabled a regional update both actions and ideas regarding marine habitats and environments that have arisen over the last 10 years, since the previous regional meeting held in Noumea in 1997.

Recommendations:

The working group recommends that SOPAC continue to move ahead in its effort to characterize marine benthic habitats. As part of this effort cooperation with biologists and ecologists needs to be encouraged.

A pilot project for potential habitat mapping should be undertaken soon. An area within the SOPAC area where good high-resolution maps are available should be selected and a proto-typical map constructed so that mapping protocols can be established and recommendations made on how SOPAC should proceed in marine benthic habitat mapping.

In addition, it was pointed out that shallow water mapping needs to be considered and the use of satellite imagery, which is readily available, be utilized to map these areas.

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Energy and Water STAR Working Group

Working Group Members: Latu S Kupa (PWA / Samoa), Tevita Tukunga (Tonga), Barry Biggs (NIWA), Alistar Suren (NIWA), Taholo Kami (IUCN), Andre Siohane (Niue), Philip Kerslake (Samoa), Kisa Kupa (Kew Consult – Samoa), Lameko Talia (Samoa), Stewart Burn (CSIRO), Tevita Fatai (ANU-Australia), Tony Neil (PPA), Kifle Kashai (USP), Mathais Kleppen (SOPAC), Paul Fairbairn (SOPAC), Anare Matakiviti (SOPAC).

Facilitator: Latu S Kupa, Interim Executive Director, Pacific Water Association

Rapporteur: Paul Fairbairn, Manager Community Lifelines Programme, SOPAC

Introduction

SOPAC in convening the Energy & Water Working Group of STAR opened the meeting, welcomed representatives and called nominations for a Chair. Mr Latu S Kupa, Interim Executive Director, Pacific Water Association took up the challenge, established an agenda based on four (4) key areas and identified a drafting committee of five (5).

Working Group Report & Recommendations

The members of the STAR Energy and Water Working Groups met as a joint group and agreed that the following report and recommendations should be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for the benefit of the Community Lifelines Programme (CLP) and individual Member Countries.

In making the report the following summary has been provided by SOPAC on the status of issues previously raised in the Energy Working Group report for 2006.

1. In implementing the Pacific Islands Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) Communiqué the following had been addressed.
 - a) Assessment of the level of integration of energy policies into National Strategic Development Strategies (NSDS) had been completed and notes that where energy policies existed and where energy had been integrated into NSDSs that the energy sector was further progressed than where there was not the same level of integration. Hence increased effort was now being made to work with PICs to ensure energy was integrated into NSDSs.
 - b) The proposal for bulk purchasing of petroleum supplies was to be reviewed and further evaluated with a report prepared and available to Leaders by October 2008.
 - c) Noting the current continued increase in the price of fossil fuels reinforced the need for the identification of affordable, reliable renewable energy resources and technologies that could be utilised

to meet the growing demand for energy as well as to contribute to reducing PICs dependence on fossil fuels.

2. Responding on key issues and opportunities highlighted in 2006.
 - a) Funding from the EU Energy Facility for the extension of the PIEPSAP Project had been unsuccessful, however a 12 month extension had been approved and the project was now scheduled to end in August 2008.
 - b) A Regional Energy Officials (REM2007) and Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) were convened in April 2007.
 - c) Technical support had been provided to the New York based Pacific Island Missions during the preparatory phases and the CSD15 proper by SOPAC, SPREP and the PIFS. It was noted that there was not a negotiated text from the CSD15 due to the conflict in language between the climate and energy sectors.

The following items were discussed in detail.

3. Pacific Water Association (PWA)

An outline of the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA by the Interim Executive Director to re-establish the PWA was provided, where the re-establishment will be on the basis of the PWA Office being relocated from Suva, Fiji Islands to Apia, Samoa and review of the constitution including a new (reduced) fee structure.

Further it was explained that the PWA should focus on increasing the efficiency of Pacific water utilities, that there was the need to re-establish the membership (financially) before the proposed 7th Annual General Meeting (7-11 September 2008 – Apia, Samoa).

That the opportunity existed for recommencing benchmarking although noted as being a somewhat contentious activity, institutional strengthening for water utilities, supporting water demand management and leak detection, water quality, re-establishing the buddy system for technical support and the transfer of skills.

In support of the proposal, members of the Working Group were interested in commenting on the constitution, review of the objectives, identification of projects and their promotion

for water utilities and assigned responsibilities of the PWA and potential partners.

SOPAC was identified as a key partner immediately in consideration of the ongoing water sector activities being implemented within the CLP, as was the Pacific Power Association (PPA) in the future where the issue of merging the PWA and the PPA was discussed as an option but not considered feasible at present on the need for the PWA to be formally re-established and operating on financially sound basis.

CSIRO indicated that matters in relation to water services in PICs being considered in the Delphi Study could be further supported through hosting a workshop in September 2008 at the time of the 7th AGM for the PWA.

Recommendation

We note and support the proposal by the Executive Board of the PWA to re-establish the PWA in Apia, Samoa including preparatory activities such as the re-establishment of the membership and review of the PWA Constitution prior to the 7th Annual General Meeting of the PWA in September 2008.

4. Community Based Interventions

An identified need for community based activities was noted where there was a particular focus on the perceived opportunity to improve the living standards of those in remote areas through building on existing initiatives where appropriate, so as to enhance activities in energy and water and the interrelationship of their development.

The stream health monitoring kit (Pac-SHMAK) developed by NIWA was used as an example of an appropriate tool for use in PIC communities where students from the Fiji Institute of Technology had been engaged as part of their studies to develop the indicators for evaluating streams within the Fiji context and conditions. Based on this methodology it was considered that a similar approach could be utilised in other PICs where appropriate sets of indicators could be developed for their country conditions. The development of country specific indicators also establishes as base group of technology focused people that then can be utilised for training the local communities. It was acknowledged that this was an example of an appropriate tool for use within the community context and that there were likely to be other similar tools that could be incorporated into a "Community Toolbox".

The community based approach was considered to be appropriate and would contribute to future sustainability as well as not only being useful in regard to monitoring water resources (streams etc) but also link closely to environmental issues and contribute to reinforcing/supporting existing structures although there was the need to identify relevant educators/partners/end users able to promote and train communities in the use of such tools.

Recommendation

We support the concept of community based approach where this should utilise the widest range of skill sets. That the technical tools (i.e. NIWA stream health monitoring kit – Pac SHMAK) incorporating water and renewable energy should be developed, Pacificised and where necessary tailored to individual country conditions. Relevant components of regional programmes and initiatives such as the SOPAC – IWRM project could be used as the vehicle or platform to deliver these tools to communities through appropriate partnerships. Further we support the need for pilot projects, capacity building and information exchange and building on existing community work so as to ensure sustainability of such community based initiatives.

5. Pacific Energy Ministerial Meeting (PEMM2007)

SOPAC provided an overview that a Regional Energy Officials (REM2007) and a Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting (PEMM2007) had been successfully convened in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in April 2007. A Ministerial declaration and communiqué from the PEMM2007 had been used as the basis for the preparation of a matrix of time bound activities for key CROP Agencies managing energy sector activities to implement and report against. SOPAC has taken a lead role in the development of the matrix and monitoring and reporting progress. Activities that fell within SOPACs areas of responsibility have been incorporated into the 2008 SOPAC Work Programme and note the recommendation that a further Energy Ministers meeting be convened by SOPAC in 2009. The over all objective of striving to get energy matters acknowledged as an imperative for economic development and on the agenda of the Pacific Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) was highlighted.

The working group highlighted that the continuing increase in the cost of petroleum

products was a concern and that there was the need to consider what other renewable energy resources are available for PICs through the sharing of information on technologies and successful experiences. The current work on evaluating the potential for bulk fuel purchasing by the PIFS was welcomed, in particular the time line of reporting back to Leaders by October 2008, as was the initiative of the PPA and the PIFS in investigating and understanding fuel price hedging and whether this offered and opportunity for PICs.

The working group further noted the increasing interest in energy efficiency, the need for governments to take the initiative in this area and make the necessary commitments, bearing in mind that fossil fuels for the region will still remain important and there is a need to reduce reliance. The PESTRAN project focusing on the transport sector is currently awaiting approval of GEF4 funding is a sub-regional initiative on energy efficiency however there remain a significant number of other opportunities in the area of appliance efficiency, building design and lighting etc. It was considered important that there was the need for a champion, increased commitment, political will and engagement to support these initiatives.

Recommendation

We note the successful convening of the REM2007 & PEMM2007 by SOPAC in the Cook Islands, the resulting Ministerial Declaration and Communiqué and the initiative taken by SOPAC in the coordination and implementation of components of the Communiqué as relevant. We endorse the need to strive for cheaper petroleum products, the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through the development of new and renewable energy sources, the need to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the need for a ministerial level champion to encourage increased commitment and political will from PIC governments and global partners. We further support the proposal to convene an Energy Ministerial in 2009 and the objective of getting energy on the FEMM agenda.

6. Energy, Water and Climate Variability

In general it was identified there was a need to have sufficient data and information be able to better understand the inter-relationship of the various sectors, in particular energy, water and climate. Where a coordinated approach would be required to ensure that there is a

detailed planning processes available allowing issues such as the future security in regard to adequate supplies of water, the potential areas of risk to be identified and as a result the ability for these within PICs to be able to be managed sustainably.

In regard to climate variability it was noted that there still remain a number of questions that need to be answered but it was felt necessary to take the initiative now to develop a concerted approach that establishes a process for planning for the future. It was acknowledged that there are a significant number of inter-linkages and relationships between energy, water and climate that require understanding. More specifically the true value of water now and in the future and implication of the increasing cost of petroleum products.

In regard to data and information it was acknowledged that there were benefits of having the ability to be flexible in adopting as appropriate a national or a regional approach, where it was noted that national approaches could possibly lead to duplication of efforts between PICs especially where data and information needs to be available to identify areas of risk.

Recommendation

SOPAC convene a sub-committee to develop a methodology that considers the inter-relationships between energy, water and climate variability for PICs and to scope out a practical approach and response supported through technology and science that will enable management plans to be developed that will directly contribute to long term sustainability.

REPORT(S) OF ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

A group of interested STAR participants met, briefed other participants on new initiatives and current issues in terms of Tsunami.

Ad Hoc Regional TWS STAR Working Group

Date: 26th November 2007

Progress needs to be made towards effective tsunami warning in the SW Pacific. Data and information availability when and where needed, and the added value of the membership of the IOC PTWC were the major topics discussed in this meeting.

The working group recommends:

- SOPAC to further support Pacific countries effort to become members of Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOC PTWS).
- SOPAC to be the secretariat for the ICG/PTWS South West Pacific Working Group for coordination of the activities of the working group and provide logistics support.
- SOPAC to consider additional capacity building in areas related to the analysis of warning communications, and “weak links” in the complete end-to-end system while focusing on in-country Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWS) warning interpretation.
- SOPAC member countries to improve sharing of information and data sources required for tsunami modelling, warning and awareness and consider upgrading of broadband internet options for this purpose. SOPAC secretariat to survey current internet access for PIC warning systems, and investigate of cost effective options for improving this sharing.
- SOPAC to help facilitate the signing of the bilateral MOUs between Australia and SOPAC member countries for installation/upgrading of seismic and sea level stations as part of the Australian Tsunami Warning System and the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project. (SPSLCMP IV).
- SOPAC member countries to activate the Intersessional Coordination Group of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation (ICG\PTWS) Working Group on Pacific Emergency Communications through PTWS Member States (Samoa). The WG focuses on issues such as the identification of technologies, development of arrangements for the transmission and receipts of tsunami warnings alerts create a communication equipment inventory and future outlook.