



PACIFIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY GROUP TO UNISDR (PSTAG)

H. JACOT DES COMBES, S.L. HEMSTOCK, T. WILCOX, P. TAYLOR, C. WHITE

PRESENTED BY KEVIN MAITAVA

OUTLINE

- International context
- Regional context
- STAG
- PSTAG objectives
- PSTAG membership
- Conclusions

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in 2015 during the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction highlighted the role of science and technology in achieving its targets for 2030.
- Science and technology are mentioned, directly or indirectly in 25 out of the 50 paragraphs of the Sendai Framework through, evidence based actions, knowledge or monitoring.
- Paragraphs 24 and 25 are especially focused on the use of science to support the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework: understanding risks, strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in disaster risk reduction and enhance disaster preparedness.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT (Contd.)

- To support the Sendai Framework, the scientific community met in Geneva in January 2016 for the first UNISDR Science and Technology Conference.
- The Science and Technology Roadmap was established to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- Roadmap's actions, expected outcomes and deliverables are to support/achieve each of the four priority areas of actions of the Sendai Framework.
- The Science and Technology community can then link and plan around the implementation of the Roadmap.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT (Contd.)

A Scientific and Technical Partnership is being established of

- major scientific and technical institutes or organisations,
 - research centres,
 - networks platforms,
 - UN science-based organizations working in various disciplines of science and technology for DRR.
- A call for interest was circulated to interested institutions and a selection will be made by UNISDR supported by STAG, based on expertise and capacity to develop and provide science, technology or tools for disaster risk reduction, as well as the commitment to the Partnership's activities to contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
 - Membership will be four years term, renewable on demonstration of achievements of institutionally agreed outputs.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

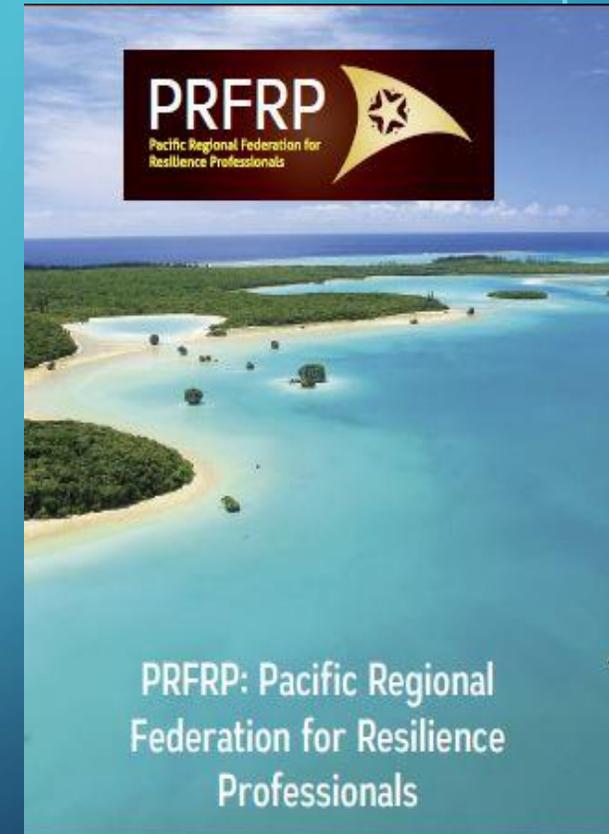
- During the 2016 Regional Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management, there was a recommendation to take relevant steps to improve understanding of climate and disaster risk, by:
 - collection of data and analysis of risk factors such as gender, age, land rights, human mobility and socio-economic status,
 - sound science and technology, through capacity building and research, and
 - documentation and application of traditional and local knowledge systems.

REGIONAL CONTEXT (Contd.)

- Similarly, during the 2016 meeting of the Pacific Humanitarian Partnership (PHP), the need for science and technology to support disaster management in PICs was recognized
- The call was for support at both national and subnational levels.

REGIONAL CONTEXT (Contd.)

- The new Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals (PRFRP) was launched in October 2016 to support the update of accredited qualifications for resilience in the TVET sector.
- These qualifications will require the inclusion of information on the most relevant science to be used in the resilience sector in the Pacific.
- The discussion with a science advisory group will be necessary to ensure that these qualifications are relevant and up to date.



UNISDR STAG (Contd.)

- The STAG will constitute up to 20 members representing institutions in the Partnership, in addition to selected few individual experts. UN agencies will have two rotating representatives.
- The composition of the Group will reflect the makeup of the technical institutes and disciplines needed for disaster risk reduction as well as the geographical balance, gender and age.
- The STAG will provide direction and guide the work of the S&T Partnership by:
 - i) preparing, presenting and participating in the implementation of the Partnership's work plan to the Partnership for approval;

UNISDR STAG (Contd.)

- ii) monitoring the implementation of the Partnership's work plan, once approved by the Partnership;
- iii) approving the terms of reference and monitoring the activities of Technical Working Groups;
- iv) providing technical expertise and support to the Secretariat.

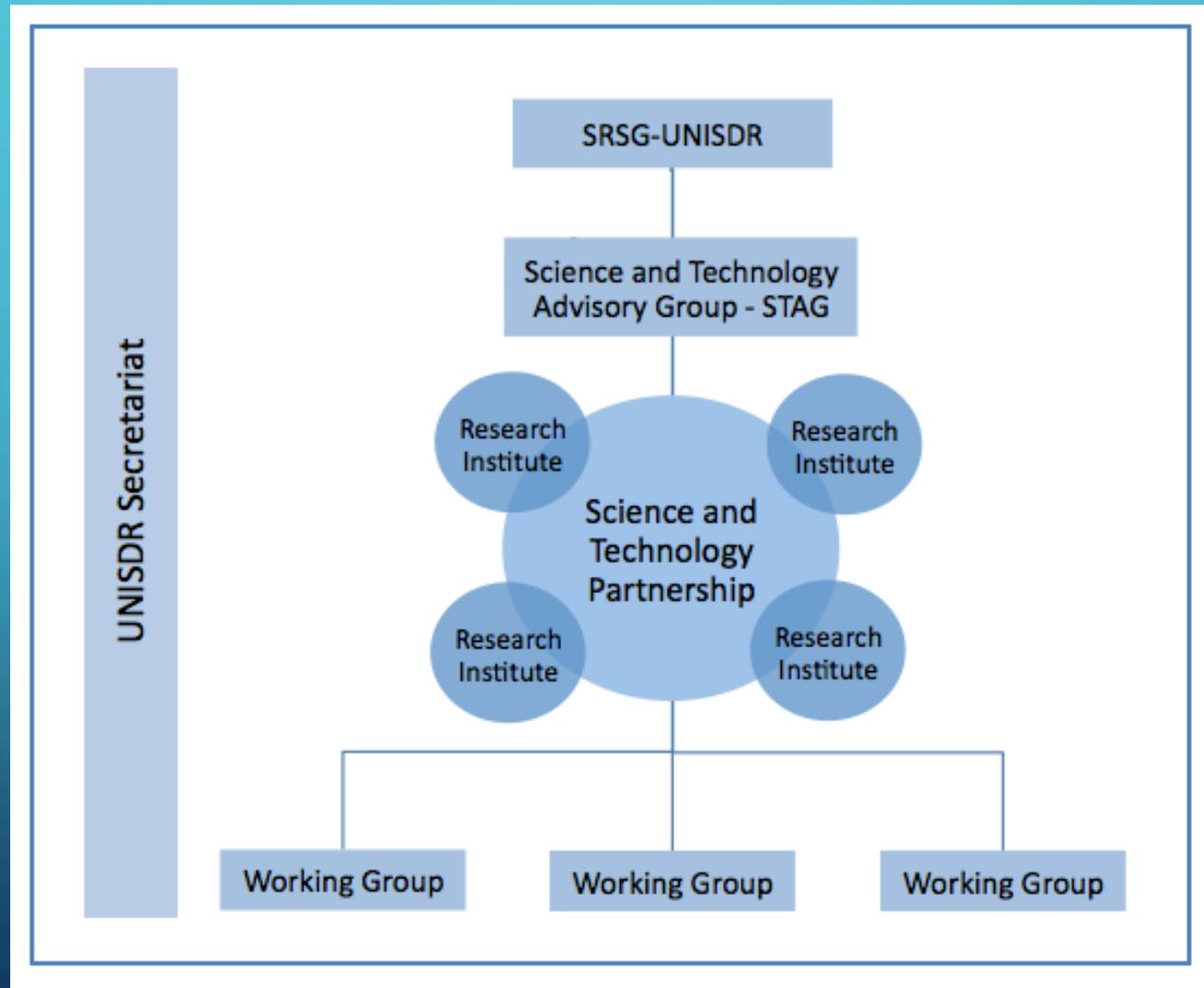
UNISDR STAG

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recognises the importance of science and technology, calling to *"Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and all regions with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group..."*
- To meet this request by the Sendai Framework and to serve the needs of countries and stakeholders more directly, the current UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) is being enhanced in terms of its scope, resources and expands its work to different partners working on science and technology who may be interested to join efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

UNISDR STAG (Contd.)

- The principal **goal** of the Scientific and Technical Partnership and its Advisory Group (STAG) is to provide the scientific and technical expertise for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- **The scope and functions** of this work is defined in the Sendai Framework under paragraph 25g as *to strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of this framework; by*
 - *Promote scientific research of disaster risk patterns, causes and effects;*
 - *Disseminate risk information using geospatial information technology;*
 - *Provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data;*
 - *Identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in DRR;*
 - *Promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making;*
 - *Use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies.*

UNISDR STAG (Contd.)



PACIFIC STAG

- Based on the outcomes of the two regional meetings (Regional Platform on DRR and the PHP meeting) held in Suva in 2016, and following examples of other regions in the world, Asia in particular.
- A Science and Technology Advisory Group in the Pacific to:
 - provide advice and support to the NDMOs of the Pacific Island Countries,
 - provide advice to UNISDR,
 - reinforce the network of science and technology partners in the region
 - advertise results from science and technology for DRR in the Pacific.

PACIFIC STAG

- The principal **goal** of the Pacific Scientific and Technical Partnership and its Advisory Group (PSTAG) is to establish a voluntary group to provide scientific and technical support to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, FRDP, SAMOA Pathway and other relevant frameworks such as SDGs.
- The PSTAG will also provide information and advice to UNISDR.

PACIFIC STAG

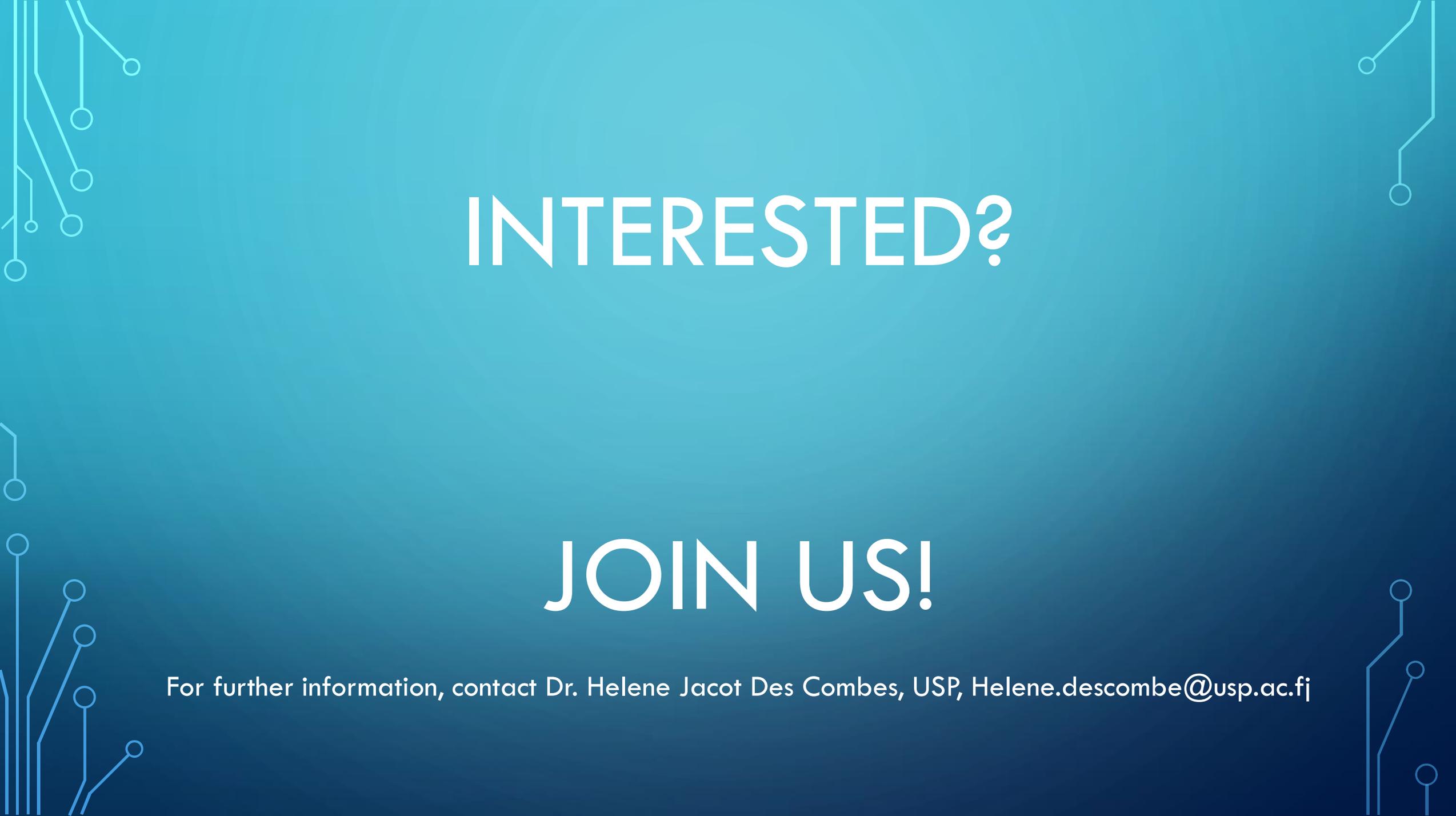
- To achieve this goal, the disciplines considered to be within the scope of the Pacific STAG include, but are not limited to:
 - agricultural sciences,
 - engineering sciences,
 - health sciences,
 - humanities, natural sciences, and
 - social sciences.

PACIFIC STAG (Contd.)

- The PSTAG intends to support and contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the FRDP through the following functions:
- Work in coordination with national and regional DRR platforms, partners or networks;
- Advise national, regional and global DRR platforms to integrate Science and Technology actors in their bodies to facilitate science into Resilience Building policy;
- Contribute towards the implementation of DRR policies in collaboration with various stakeholders in the different areas;
- Identify and share key scientific information, knowledge, best practices and case studies that can be applied by policymakers and practitioners;
- Catalyze new efforts and partnerships to generate new knowledge and contribute to capacity building for scientists particularly in developing countries;
- Assist in addressing DRR data needs in the region through strengthening of data collection, storage and analysis and dissemination; and
- Work in coordination and synergies with UNISDR global and regional science and technology advisory groups and science and technology networks in the region, e.g. the STAR Network.

CONCLUSIONS

- The process is still in its infant stage.
- Invitations to science and technology partners in the Pacific Island Countries have been sent and any interested partners are welcome.
- TOR are being finalized, aligned with the TOR of the UNISDR STAG but also to take into account the specificity of the Pacific region, especially in terms of the type of science and technology institutions and the size of the science and technology community.
- Liaison with the other networks in the region will start when the PSTAG is officially established.

The background is a solid teal color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art elements resembling circuit traces or neural network connections, with small circles at the end of the lines.

INTERESTED?

JOIN US!

For further information, contact Dr. Helene Jacot Des Combes, USP, Helene.descombe@usp.ac.fj