

NEWSLETTER V

World Water Day 22 March 2005

Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

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March 2005

Dear Colleagues,

This is the **fifth** official mail-out of the **Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management**. We have the intention to change the frequency of issuing this newsletter from semi-annually to quarterly so you can be kept updated on the latest developments. As mentioned in earlier mail outs we would appreciate it if you could forward this to colleagues who may be interested in this initiative so that it reaches the widest possible audience.

NEWS UPDATE

[22 March 2005 World Water Day Campaign Launched](#)

In recognition of “**World Water Day**” SOPAC together with Live and Learn Environmental Education is organizing World Water Day (WWD) activities in the Pacific region. “**Water for Life**” is the theme for this year’s World Water Day. It challenges us to look at the Water and Sanitation Targets of the Millennium Development Goals, to halve the population without access to basic sanitation and safe water supply, to which countries of the world have committed themselves. World Water Day 2005 coincides with the start of the United Nations International Decade on “Water for Life” which runs from 2005 until 2015.

“**Plan for Water, Plan for Life**” is the slogan for this year’s campaign for which awareness materials have been produced comprising of posters, school activity booklets, calendars and stickers. These materials have been distributed throughout the Pacific region through our in-country World Water Day contact points and the observance of World Water Day in each country is greatly encouraged.

World Water Day is celebrated worldwide on 22nd March 15, 2005. The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The United Nations General Assembly calls upon States to devote this day to concrete activities related to the conservation and development of water resources in their national context, and for the UN to assist countries in organising their activities.

By declaring the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade of Water for Life, the UN seeks to set the world’s goals on “a greater focus on water related issues, while striving to ensure the participation of women in water-related development efforts, further cooperation at all levels to achieve water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development and Agenda 21”.

For further information on World Water Day material please contact Kamal Khatri (kamal@sopac.org).

[Pacific Island Countries develop Framework of Action on Drinking Water Quality and Health](#)

Participants in the Workshop on Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries facilitated by World Health Organization (WHO) and held 7-10 February 2005 in Nadi, Fiji, developed a **Pacific Framework for Action on Drinking Water Quality and Health**.

The Framework is designed to support the implementation of drinking water quality actions envisioned in the overarching Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management. The workshop brought together senior officials responsible for drinking water quality and health from 18 Pacific island countries, technical experts from within the region and beyond,

regional and international organizations (SOPAC, SPC, PWA, WHO and others), non-governmental organizations, and donors (AusAID and JICA). The Workshop consolidated the recommendations of earlier WHO meetings on drinking water quality (Nadi, 2001; and Kuala Lumpur, 2003) and identified actions needed to implement them.

Participants developed a series of recommendations, consolidating recommendations from other recent WHO-sponsored workshops, and identified key actions needed to implement those recommendations.

The recommendations and actions are structured under six thematic areas, corresponding to the six themes of the Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Sustainable Water Management. Hence, the Framework for Action builds on and supports the implementation of drinking water quality activities envisioned in the Pacific RAP.

For further information on the Framework for Action on Drinking Water Quality and Health please contact Steven Iddings, Environmental Engineer, WHO South Pacific Office (IddingsS@sp.wpro.who.int) or Tasleem Hasan, SOPAC Water Quality Officer, (tasleem@sopac.org).

[European Union Funds Pacific Programme for Water Governance](#)

The European Union (EU) has made funding available for the Pacific Region under its **Programme for Water Governance** (PFWG). SOPAC was invited by the PFWG global co-ordination unit to develop a proposal for submission from the Pacific region. SOPAC sought and obtained approval to develop a water governance proposal on behalf of its Member Countries at the ESCAP/SOPAC "Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources", held in Fiji in August 2002, which was attended by representatives of 10 Pacific island countries.

The overall objective of the Programme for Water Governance (PFWG) is to mainstream the principles of good water governance into day-to-day applications and pilot projects so as to assist in achieving sustainable water resource management and provision of water services.

The goal of the Pacific component is to promote the application of effective water governance within institutions, systems, structures and processes in 3 countries in the Pacific selected on the basis of their level of development in water governance. The major focus of the programme is on activities which will act as 'Best Practice' examples in countries.

The pilot intervention project would include the establishment of a framework for the development of a comprehensive and effective water governance strategy and implementation activities. The project will start April 2005 and end July 2006.

For further information on the Pacific Programme for Water Governance please contact Marc Overmars (marc@sopac.org).

[Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\) Forum in Dakar, Senegal](#)

The Global **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** Forum was held in Dakar, Senegal, 29 November – 5 December 2004. The Theme for the Global WASH Forum was "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene For All – solutions and actions, local and national".

The Forum was organised by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) a partner to the Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management. SOPAC attended the Forum which was divided into 4 sub themes around

which panel discussions, working groups and plenary sessions were organized: Finance, Coalitions, Local Government and Policy.

The overall aim of the Forum was to accelerate action in water, sanitation and hygiene towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Plan of Implementation.

The outcomes of the Forum included recommendations and a roadmap of activities as a contribution to the CSD 13 (April 2005) and UN MDG progress review in September 2005. The Dakar Statement touches on several themes within the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management and can be used as an advocacy tool to complement the Pacific RAP.

WSSCC was mandated by a 1990 UN resolution to accelerate progress towards safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all. WSSCC facilitates this process by arguing the need for action on water, sanitation and hygiene, in short WASH, issues in every possible forum. WSSCC just published an Advocacy Sourcebook that offers guidance on advocacy work related to water and sanitation.

For further information on WSSCC and WASH please contact Kamal Khatri, SOPAC WASH Officer (kamal@sopac.org).

[World Health Organization launches 3rd edition of Drinking Water Quality Guidelines](#)

The **WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality** were used by developing and developed countries worldwide as the basis for regulation and standard setting to ensure safety of drinking water. They recognised the priority that should be given to ensuring microbial safety and provided guideline values for a large number of chemical hazards.

The 3rd edition of the Guidelines has been comprehensively updated to take account of developments in risk assessment and risk management since the second edition. It describes a “framework for drinking water safety” and discusses the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, including the complementary roles of national regulators, suppliers, communities and independent “surveillance” agencies.

The 3rd edition includes significant expanded guidance on ensuring the microbial safety of drinking water – in particular through comprehensive system-specific “**water safety plans**”.

For further information on the 3rd edition please contact Steven Iddings, Environmental Engineer, WHO South Pacific Office (lddingsS@sp.wpro.who.int).

[AusAID contributes to Regional Action Plan through Regional Programme on Water Safety Plans](#)

Following the release of the 3rd edition as well as the outcomes of the WHO workshop on Drinking Water Quality and Health, AusAID agreed to support the implementation of the Pacific Framework for Action on Drinking Water Quality and Health in the Pacific through a regional **Programme on Water Safety Plans**.

Details of this programme are currently being worked out by the World Health Organization and SOPAC and more information will follow soon.

[Niue receives UNESCO Participation Programme Grant for Groundwater Monitoring](#)

Following Niue's attendance at the 12th RSC meeting of the International Hydrological Programme, Niue's Department of Water Works received confirmation of support by UNESCO for a groundwater monitoring programme.

The objectives of the programme are, besides the establishment of a groundwater resources assessment and monitoring programme, to obtain a clear understanding of the hydrogeology of Niue, determine possible and potential contamination of the groundwater from land-based activities, adopt effective measures to address the vulnerability of the freshwater supply during natural disasters such as droughts, to assist in establishing Government approval of Water Resources Regulation that legalises and enforces the Water Resources Act of 1996 and to develop effective education & awareness programmes for communities in protecting the islands main water source from contamination and include these in school curricula.

It is expected that the results of the groundwater assessment and monitoring programme can be disseminated to other Pacific Island Countries, specifically to benefit other uplifted limestone islands such as Nauru, Kiribati (Banaba) and Tonga.

For more information on the groundwater monitoring programme please contact Andre Siohane, Director of Water Works (waterworks@mail.gov.nu).

[2nd SOPAC/UNESCO/WMO Hydrological Training Course to be held 4-22 April, Suva, Fiji](#)

SOPAC in collaboration with UNESCO and WMO are preparing the second course of the Hydrological Training Programme for hydrological technicians from the Pacific region to take place 4-22 April 2005 at the SOPAC Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

The 2nd course will be split into two groups, one consisting of students from high volcanic island countries, which are dominated by surface water resources, and a second group from atoll and limestone island countries, which are dominated by groundwater resources.

Participation is expected from Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (Surface Water) and Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Guam, Tonga and Tuvalu (Groundwater). The 3rd and final course will take place in 2006.

For more information on the hydrological training programme please contact Alena Lawedrau, SOPAC Water Resources Assistant (alena@sopac.org).

[Rainwater Harvesting Partnership established](#)

Under the initiative of UNEP, the Rainwater Partnership was established on 14th October, 2004 in The Hague, the Netherlands, to promote and mainstream rainwater harvesting activities.

This Partnership brings together leading organisations involved in the advocacy and implementation of rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Partnership aims to promote the mainstreaming of rainwater in integrated water resources management policies, strategies and plans which should result in the allocation of financial, human and institutional resources necessary for using rainwater. Its first objective is the inclusion of RWH in CSD 13.

SOPAC is founding member of this partnership and will be advocating the use of rainwater harvesting for domestic water supply through the provision of Guidelines and a Manual on Participatory Approaches in Rainwater Harvesting. Both documents as well as a demonstration DVD on a project in Tonga executed with the Tonga Community Development Trust (TCDT) will be disseminated throughout the Pacific region.

For more information you can visit the website www.rainwaterpartnership.org or contact Sarah Davies, SOPAC Water Supply and Sanitation Engineer (sarah@sopac.org).

[USP launches Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management](#)

Applications are invited for persons wishing to enrol for study towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The course will be offered by the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Distance and Flexible Mode as a pilot project on behalf of the United Nations University (UNU). The course will run on a part-time basis for approximately 18 months, commencing USP's 2nd semester, June 2005, coordinated through the UN Water Virtual Learning Centre (WVLC), newly established at USP.

Ten fully funded study positions are available for suitably qualified postgraduate students from the 12 member countries of the USP region. Upon successful completion of the course participants will receive a Diploma from UNU.

Applicants should have obtained an undergraduate degree or tertiary qualification from a recognised University, or alternatively possess a relevant professional qualification with demonstrated experience and achievement relevant to the proposed IWRM programme. In addition, applicants should preferably be currently employed in the water sector or a related field, and must provide the written agreement of their employer to participate in the programme. Preference will be given to those applicants with demonstrated affinity to water resources management.

Two copies of your application, including full *curriculum vitae* plus certified copies of academic qualifications and transcripts must be forwarded to Mr. Kifle Kahsai, Coordinator of the Programme. Applicants must request two professional referees to forward signed reports (quoting reference number) to the Coordinator by the closing date. Please note that applications and referees reports sent by e-mail will not be accepted. The deadline for submission is 15 May 2005.

For more information on the distance-learning course please contact Kifle Kahsai, University of the South Pacific (kahsai_k@usp.ac.fj).

BACKGROUND ON WATER IN SMALL ISLANDS COUNTRIES

The global water community acknowledged the special vulnerability and particular needs of small islands by the inclusion of "[Water in Small Islands Countries](#)" as a special theme at the 3rd World Water Forum that was held in Kyoto, Japan from 16-23 March 2003. SOPAC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly led this Water in Small Island Countries session as well as its preparation through a regional consultation in the Pacific (Sigatoka, Fiji Islands, 2002).

A major outcome of the Pacific regional consultation was the [Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management \(Pacific RAP\)](#), which details priority actions of the water sector in the region. This action plan, endorsed by 18 island countries, 14 at ministerial level, (and 16 countries at Head of State level including Australia and New Zealand) has been incorporated into the Type II Water Partnership Initiative and was submitted by the Pacific Island Countries to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in Johannesburg during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August 2002.

The objective of this [Partnership Initiative](#) is to implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, inclusive of its sister strategies, the Pacific Wastewater Policy Statement and the Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action, as effectively as possible.

Over 200 participants were involved in the regional consultation and the Water in Small Islands Countries session and they form the core of the Partnership. Now, over 750 individuals have joined this network. Hardcopies of the Regional Action Plan have been distributed to all attendees of Sigatoka and Kyoto. In addition you can obtain more information from the following website:

http://list.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum/index.html

ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PACIFIC TYPE II PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

The overall aim of the Type II Initiatives is to ensure coordination and increased partnerships in meeting the WSSD goals through its Plan of Implementation.

The [Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management](#) is coordinated and facilitated by the intergovernmental organisation SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission), which has the regional mandate to support the Pacific Island Countries in water & sanitation. SOPAC is assisted in this task by a deputy facilitator, the University of the South Pacific (USP).

The Partnership has a [Facilitator](#) (based at SOPAC) who is responsible for implementing the core functions of the partnership: liaising between the regional stakeholder groups and their sub-networks; researching and receiving stakeholder information on on-going and planned water activities; tracking donor and development agency programmes; identifying areas requiring implementation; and coordinating proposal submissions and project implementation. The Facilitator is also responsible for high-level advocacy of the strategic approach.

Monitoring and evaluation are carried out using a matrix inventory of previous, existing, planned and proposed activities, including details of the stakeholders involved, the intervention objectives, implementation duration and status, and anticipated impact.

The Facilitator enables countries and development agencies to: identify successful previous activities and therefore improve the sustainability of subsequent interventions; reduce and

prevent duplication of activities; link country requirements to development programmes (and vice versa); and augment existing and proposed activities nationally and regionally.

A working group of CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) and NGO representatives has been set up to act as the overall coordinating body of the Pacific Type II Initiatives. Facilitators are asked to report to this Sustainable Development Working Group on a regular basis.

If you have comments on this Partnership Initiative or would like to make contributions and be further involved please do not hesitate to contact us on the following e-mail address: marc@sopac.org.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

Marc Overmars

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PACIFIC WATER AGENDA 2005

Timeline	Event	Purpose	Discussion Points & Actions Required
10-14 January 2005 BPOA+10 CSD/UNDESA Port Louis, Mauritius	UN Sustainable Development for SIDS, Barbados +10 Mauritius	10 year Review of progress on the plan for SIDS sustainable development	Review of Actions undertaken on the Joint Programme for Action (JPfA) and the South-South Partnership established between Caribbean and Pacific.
7-10 February 2005 WHO Nadi, Fiji Islands	Workshop on Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify common water quality issues Review WHO WQ guidelines Propose practical approaches for National Water Safety Plans 	Recommendations for and Design of Regional Water Quality Monitoring Programme (WHO/USP/IAS and SOPAC).
22 March 2005 SOPAC / Live & Learn Pacific region	World Water Day 2005	"Water for Life" Awareness Campaign	Raise awareness on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Pacific island countries and prepare for the "Water for Life Decade" (2005-2015).
TBC April 2005 PWA Suva, Fiji (tentative)	Pacific Water Association Board Meeting, PWA		Further Development of Regional Water Demand Management Programme (PWA and SOPAC).
11-22 April 2005 UNCSD New York, USA	13 th Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD13)		Governments to agree on contents as well as next steps in IWRM planning. Water & Sanitation to be addressed at MDG Review Meeting in September 2005.
4-22 April 2005 SOPAC/WMO/UNESCO/N IWA, Suva Fiji Islands	2 nd Course Hydrology Training Programme	Training on Surface and Groundwater Hydrology and introduction on the use of Climate Information and Integrated Water Resources Management	Review of the 1 st course and identification of contents of the 3 rd course. Preparations for the development and implementation of the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS).
TBC September 2005 SOPAC Apia, Samoa	SOPAC Council Annual Session & Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Water Working Group	SOPAC Work Programme Review and Approval	Reporting to Member States on Pacific RAP review meeting, CSD12 and Barbados + 10, and implications for regional and national support. Identification of priority actions.
TBC September 2005 SOPAC Apia, Samoa	Science & Technology and Resources Network (STAR)	Presentations on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Identification of best practices and lessons learned.
21-25 November 2005 UNESCO IHP RSC Bali, Indonesia (tentative)	13 th RSC Meeting International Hydrological Programme (IHP) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific	Reporting on Pacific progress on Hydrology (Theme 1 Water Resources Management and Theme 2 Island Vulnerability)	Review of Actions undertaken and contributions provided to the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).
TBC 2005 WMO, RCD/RAP Suva, Fiji Islands (tentative)	4 th Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in RA V (South-West Pacific)	Reporting on Pacific progress on Hydrology (Theme 1 Water Resources Management and Theme 2 Island Vulnerability)	Review of Actions undertaken and contributions provided to the Operational Hydrological Programme (OHP).

TBC 2005
EPA

EPA meeting region IX

Presentations on Water,
Sanitation and Hygiene

Review of Actions undertaken on
Environmental Health and Water
Management.

SELECTED WATER WEBSITES

ADB Water in Small Island Countries

www.adb.org/Water/theme3.asp

AOSIS Alliance of Small Island States

www.sidsnet.org/aosis

AUSAID

www.usaid.gov.au

Australian Water Portal

www.developmentgateway.com.au/water/index.html

Barbados +10

www.sidsnet.org/Mauritius2004/

CSD12

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm

Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate

www.waterandclimate.org

East-West Center

www.EastWestCenter.org/climate

ESCAP

www.unescap.org/esd/water/activities

European Union

www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/publicat/water/en/fronpage_en.htm

www.euwi.net

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/index.html>

Gender and Water Alliance

www.genderandwateralliance.org

Global Water Partnership

www.gwpforum.org

GWP Australia

www.gwpaustralia.org

Island Climate Update

www.niwa.cri.nz/NCC/ICU

NZAID

www.nzaid.govt.nz

USGS

<http://hi.water.usgs.gov>

USP

www.usp.ac.fj

Pacific ENSO Update

<http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/subdir/update.dir/update.html>

Pacific Water Association

www.pwa.org.fj

SIDSNET

www.sidsnet.org

SOPAC Water

http://list.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum/index.html

UNEP

<http://freshwater.unep.net/>

UNESCAP

www.unescap.org

UNESCO

www.unesco.org/water

UNU

www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh

WHO

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/

WMO

www.wmo.ch/web/homs/index.html

World Bank

www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/water

World Summit on Sustainable Development

www.johannesburgsummit.org

World Water Council

www.worldwatercouncil.org

World Wide Fund for Nature

www.wwfpacific.org.fj

WSSCC

<http://www.wsscc.org/>

NIWA

www.niwa.co.nz

SPC

www.spc.int

--- Please let us know if you think other websites are worth mentioning here! ---