

## **Programme to help Pacific Islands cope with climate change**

Article from Marianas Variety, website: <http://www.mvarietynews.com>

Fri, 3 Jul 2009

Pohnpei, Micronesia ----- Adapting to the adverse effects of current and future changes in climate is a reality that a five-year regional project will help Pacific communities put into action.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project will bring a total of \$13.125 million into 13 Pacific Island countries.

This funding will help start adaptation projects on the ground in three major climate change concerns; food security, water and coastal management.

Recently in Samoa, the PACC inception workshop brought together the representatives from the 13 different Pacific countries to help prepare them to carry out this project at the national level.

“We will try and get the PACC countries to take ownership of the project and also understand the administrative and reporting requirements needed for the project. We need to address this with them so that implementation at the national level would be easier and they can begin work immediately at the national and community pilot level,” said PACC Project Manager Taito Nakalevu who is based at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

The 13 countries involved in PACC will be better prepared to ensure that this project will begin smoothly at national level.

During the inception phase, participants will work on communications strategies, have a finalized annual work plan, fully understand the reporting requirements and have established stronger partnerships.

These are just a few of the workshop outcomes.

Mr Nakalevu said the workshop is just the beginning, and there will be more technical workshops to assist with the PACC project coordinators during the implementation phase.

“Hopefully all that was learned at the inception workshop will trickle down to national inception or meetings where they can start the project at national level and flow on from there. The PACC project will engage the communities from the word “go!” to the completion of the pilots whether it is food security, water or integrated coastal management,” he said.

Under the project, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands will focus on food prosecution and food security. The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa and Vanuatu are developing coastal management capacity and Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu are looking to strengthen their water resource management.

“This project is a beginning towards real implementation work in the Pacific. Most climate change projects implemented in the past were enabling activities and capacity building. There is a need for other areas and sectors to be looked at and PACC is a small step towards addressing adaptation efforts at the national and community level on the ground”, said Mr Nakalevu.

The PACC is funded by the Global Environment Facility with the United Nations Development Program as its implementing agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program as implementing partner.

Mr. Simpson Abraham, Sustainable Development Planner, from the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management and Mr. Weston Luckymis, Director of Public Works in Kosrae, are in Apia, Samoa now to attend the Inception Workshop this week.

According to Mr. Andrew Yatilman, Director of OEEM, “The FSM project funded under the PACC this time is Kosrae’s coastal road. The PACC grant will supplement Compact Infrastructure Grants allocated for Kosrae to “climate-proof” the road in Kosrae.”