



## 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting

### Statement of Outcomes

*Adopted by Regional Disaster Managers  
at the  
16<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting  
Suva, Fiji  
9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2010*

1. The 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, the first meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2010, was convened in Suva on the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The Meeting adopted the form of a professional development workshop with the following objectives:

- Increase clarity in relation to the roles and expectations of the Regional Disaster Managers (RDMs)
- Articulate the barriers that 'get in the way' of delivering against expectations
- Increase understanding of the exact nature of the support that National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) get in-country from the Government, NGOs, regional organisations, UN et al
- Clearly define the expectations RDMs have of international, regional and national support agencies
- Identify areas where 'institutional strengthening' is required
- Identify skill gaps and personal capacity development needs based on proposed draft job descriptions for RDMs
- Develop personal training priorities to support capacity building plans for RDMs
- Foster team building for RDMs to see themselves as 'leaders' in DRM in the Pacific

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Pacific island countries and territories: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna.

3. The meeting was organised by the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) with the support of the Government of Australia, European Union, The Asia Foundation/USAID-Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (TAF/OFDA), the Pacific Sub Regional office of the Secretariat for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the United Nations Development Programme – Pacific Centre (UNDP-PC). A full list of delegates is in **Annex A**.

### Opening Remarks

4. In his opening remarks Mr Mosese Sikivou thanked the delegates for their attendance and for their recognition that this meeting is an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned from around the region. He extended a special welcome to the representatives of Pacific island countries and territories that were participating in the annual event for the first time acknowledging the presence of representatives of French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna.

### Key Outcomes

5. The Meeting :

- Acknowledged the work of the NDMOs in their countries and noted their continued requirements for support
- Expressed its appreciation to the Fiji Mineral Resources Department for its presentation of the outcomes of the Pacific regional workshop on Seismic Hazards, Seismology and Tsunami Early Warning held in Suva, Fiji on 12th – 23rd July 2010, and commended that the outcomes be shared with the relevant partner organisations at the 5th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network
- Congratulated the Cook Islands on the excellent work in developing the Cook Islands Frontline Emergency Response Network (FERN) and expressed an interest in the development of similar information management systems to enhance disaster risk management efforts in all Pacific island countries and territories, in line with national priorities.
- Emphasised the role of NDMOs as one of the critical focal points for international level donor engagement, Pacific DRM Partnership Network, development of in-country NAPs, and establishment of in-country inter-sectoral coordination;
- Noted that the NDMOs need to coordinate DRM capacity building at all levels from the community to local government to national and continue to participate actively in DRM dialogue at regional, and international level;
- Expressed the need for further opportunities for the sharing of information, knowledge, skills and experiences between the disaster management and other relevant agencies of all Pacific islands countries and territories such as through the development of an online forum to facilitate information exchange between NDMOs.
- Noted the commitment of SOPAC to continue support to disaster risk management capacity building in the region through the transitional process it is undergoing in 2010 and for the years ahead;
- In considering the draft SOPAC Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 acknowledged that existing levels of service delivery for DRM and other areas within the SOPAC work programme would continue beyond 2011 as SOPAC transitions into the Applied Science & Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and;
- Agreed to provide feedback to contribute to the finalisation of the draft SOPAC Strategic Plan before it is presented to the SOPAC Governing Council meeting in October 2010
- Acknowledged the presentation of the “Yellow Bird” alert system as one potential mechanism to strengthen end-to-end early warning systems within Pacific island countries
- Noted the presentations by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UNDP Caribbean Risk Management Initiative on the importance of gender considerations in the analysis, planning and programming of DRM at all levels within Pacific island countries and the opportunities for learning.
- Acknowledged the presentations made by Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa and Vanuatu and the progress made in these countries in relation to disaster risk management
- Encourage greater collaboration between NDMOs and establish a regional assistance protocol for wider DRM support in line with any other existing related protocols and arrangements eg FRANZ, SOPAC
- Recognised the need for effective working linkages between DRM and CCA to translate support and understanding into a joint approach/response.

## **Key Training Outcomes**

### **6. The Meeting:**

- reaffirmed the need for continued DRM capacity development in the region with the NDMOs
- Clarified the role & responsibilities of RDMs to emphasise the need to develop skills that include Leadership, Management, Communication/ Relationship Skills, Program and Contract Management , Strategic/Analytic Thinking and Sound Judgement, Experience/

Knowledge of Development Issues/ Developing Countries, Personal Attributes: of Innovation, Change, and Personal Responsibility, and Information Competence

- Identified through a skills audit process training needs in Disaster Risk Management and Leadership and Management to meet current competency development and addressing succession planning within their offices
- Noted the need for leadership development including the skills for management (people, information and resources), policy development, strategic thinking, advisory, communication, information technology, international liaison, financial management and facilitation
- Recognised the need to strengthen and improve communication and information networks and systems to support coordination and collaboration of DRM stakeholders
- Emphasised that the purpose of their position is to lead in collaboration with all stakeholders the planning, implementation and review of the disaster risk management programme using available resources to strengthen community resilience.
- Reiterated the need for a concerted effort to share information (at all times) across all stakeholders
- Noted that an effective DRM Organisation requires a realistic structure; appropriate policies; processes, systems and infrastructural support, resources (human resources, material resources, training programs, et al) and have the confidence to operate in the presiding political environment.
- Acknowledged the particular responsibility of RDMs to grow the awareness and appreciation of the importance of DRM across the whole spectrum and across the whole year rather than just at election time or at time of crisis.
- Recognised the many opportunities for the RDMs to collaborate and exchange amongst themselves and as well as with other DRM partners within the Pacific and other regions

## Major Issues & Challenges

7. The meeting identified a range of issues and challenges:

- **Training and capacity development** in disaster risk management remains an important concern for NDMOs and for other key actors at national level within Pacific countries. **In addition, there is a need for access to Leadership and Management skills training programme**
- **Access to finance** was cited as an issue, while recognising that there are many pulls on financial resources it is important that NDMOs learn how to successfully gain more funding from both Governments and donors
- **Coordination of DRM stakeholders incountry** to ensure there is no duplication of effort and better use of resources in the implementation of DRM initiatives.
- Pacific countries need to significantly improve access to more accurate **baseline data and information** to support disaster management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.
- Regional and international donors and partners to explore existing and **new mechanisms to support** institutional strengthening and capacity building to NDMOs, other key national agencies, civil society and private sector within Pacific countries and territories.
- **Technology** was recognised as an important part of capacity building,
- **Lack of institutional frameworks incountry to integrate DRM and CCA**

These issues and challenges are to be presented for the consideration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network from 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

## Recommendation

8. The meeting:

Requests the members of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network and other relevant national, regional and international agencies/organisations to provide resources and direct support to address the key DRM outcomes and training outcomes and address the issues and challenges as contained in this Statement of Outcomes

9. SOPAC to explore with interested countries the hosting of the 17<sup>th</sup> RDM meeting

### **Concluding Remarks**

10. The meeting expressed gratitude to SOPAC for facilitating the 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and the support of the Government of Australia, European Union, The Asia Foundation/USAID-Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (TAF/OFDA), the Pacific Sub Regional office of the Secretariat for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the United Nations Development Programme – Pacific Centre (UNDP-PC).

11. The meeting extended its appreciation to development partners of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network and other regional and international organisations for their attendance and valuable contributions.

12. The meeting also extended its appreciation to the SOPAC Secretariat for their continuing leadership and support for this regional meeting and disaster risk management and capacity building in the Pacific.

11<sup>th</sup> August  
Suva  
Fiji

## Annex A



# Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2010 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji Islands

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**Annex 2: OUTCOMES OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
PACIFIC PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT 2010**

<p><b>1. Increased clarity around the roles and expectations of the Regional Disaster Managers (RDMs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversations about the role and responsibilities of the NDMO</li> <li>• Linkages made to Corporate Plan, government directions, 'Annual Work Plans', Budget and Regional Frameworks</li> <li>• Identification of 'Key Responsibility Areas'</li> <li>• Identification of Core Activity Areas—Key Tasks</li> <li>• 'Buy in' from the participants</li> <li>• Draft Job Description</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Articulation of the barriers that 'get in the way' of delivering against expectations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to expand comprehension of NDM in-country: requires an on-going understanding &amp; commitment, rather than at pressure points (times of crises, elections, donor visits)</li> <li>• Resource limitations</li> <li>• Need to maximise linkages within government, across sectors, with partners, NGOs, CSOs, Faith based groups , Private sector</li> <li>• Need for active 'information sharing'</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. To understand the exact nature of support that NDMOs get in-country from the government, NGOs, regional organisations, UN et.al</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Areas where support comes from identified</li> <li>▪ Nature of support articulated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Donors-principally funding, meetings and training</li> <li>▪ Traditional systems</li> <li>▪ Regional organisations</li> <li>▪ Staff/internal support</li> <li>▪ Stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Easier for NDMOs to identify formal sources of support</li> <li>• Telecommunications</li> <li>• Need to acknowledge informal support and support networks, ie family, peers, et al more confidently</li> <li>• Identified heavy reliance on Donors</li> <li>• Need to develop stronger 'in-country' budgetary support</li> <li>• Need to 'GROW' commitment, active support, understanding,</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. RDMs to clearly define what expectations they have of international, regional and national support agencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support from Regional organisations</li> <li>▪ Financial support</li> <li>▪ Recognition and rewards</li> <li>▪ Timely Decisions</li> <li>▪ Information sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Externally</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internally—high maintenance area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response: praise, acknowledgement, support for credibility</li> <li>• Time: to work things through time to respond appropriately</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• Working in a positive environment</li> </ul>
<b>5. Identification of areas where 'institutional strengthening' is required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material Resources—e.g. computers, communication devices</li> <li>• Revised Organisational Structures</li> <li>• Data Bases</li> <li>• Policy development</li> <li>• Planning: Corporate Plans, Annual Work Plans, through to action planning</li> <li>• Systems</li> <li>• Appropriate Office Space and accommodation</li> </ul>
<b>6. Identification of skill gaps and personal capacity development needs based on proposed draft job descriptions for RDMs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills list developed for NDMO developed</li> <li>• Level or skill articulated</li> <li>• Self Assessment</li> <li>• Training Needs Analysis</li> <li>• GAPS identified</li> <li>• Personal Training Plans</li> <li>• Need for 'Leadership Development Program' Identified</li> </ul>
<b>7. Development of personal training priorities to support capacity building plans for RDMs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal training priorities determined</li> <li>• Personal training plans developed—audited against 'Training Needs analysis'</li> <li>• Need for Leadership Development Program identified</li> <li>• Participants keen to take away copies of a Leadership Development framework with them</li> </ul>
<b>8. To foster team building for RDMs to see themselves as 'leaders' in DRM in the Pacific</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up—banquet style</li> <li>• Participatory approach—group work</li> <li>• Partnering</li> <li>• Celebration of achievements</li> <li>• Recognition of work done</li> </ul>