2nd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE PACIFIC CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

12th December 2018

**Summary of Key Meeting Outcomes**

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| The meeting;   1. the meeting endorsed the minutes of the SC 1 and noted the progress on the implementation of the 16 Outcomes of SC 1. 2. noted the following;    1. Composition and rules and procedures of the Steering Committee;    2. Status of the National Focal Institutions and Thematic Hubs;    3. Status of the MoUs with THs and    4. Update on PCREEE policies and procedures (e.g. procurement, financial, recruitment etc.). 3. on the “PCREEE as part of the Pacific Energy and Climate Architecture”, the SC2 agreed to the following decisions;    1. Noted the prioritization exercise SPC in the establishment of the new Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division.    2. Reaffirmed the need to coordinate the management and reporting of the PCREEE together with the regional energy service delivery coordinated by SPC.    3. Noted the coming into force of the FRDP and the formation of the PRP and the need for technical inputs from the PCREEE through the PEAG and the PEOG.    4. Noted the establishment of the PCCC and look forward to working closely with in the agreed hosting arrangement for the PCREEE. 4. noted the formation of the GN-SEC and called on UNIDO, Partners and the network to quickly exploit the strategic advantages of the Network in terms of resource mobilization, sharing of technical expertise and the replication and upscaling of the best practices. 5. acceded to the following recommendations;    1. Noted the progress with the development of the Business Plan and the need for it to align and be consistent with the new structure of SPC’s Georesources and Energy Programme.    2. Endorsed the need for the PCREEE Secretariat to complete the Business Plan and circulate it for endorsement out of session, preferably before the end of the second quarter of 2018.    3. Encouraged members to comment and provide inputs to the BP. 6. agreed to the following recommendations; 7. Welcomed inputs to further elaborate on applied research topics related to the private sector. 8. Welcomed inputs to further elaborate on the technical assistance and support to existing businesses. 9. Welcomed indication of interests in the national training workshops on RE&EE business development and start-ups and contract management in cooperation with local Chamber of Commerce, government agencies and the local industry. 10. Welcomed comments on the PCREEE’s resource mobilisation effort. 11. Welcomed the private-sector focussed work plan and budget for 2018. 12. Endorsed the PCREEE 2018 WP&B. 13. agreed to the following recommendations;     1. the staffing structure and the need for extra staff at the PCREEE.     2. the integration of the other staff of SPC, mostly in Suva, with the PCREEE.     3. encouraged member countries and partners to use the Centre as a base for training, research, internships and etc. 14. acknowledged the efforts of CIEMAT and the comments from the meeting. Noted and reaffirmed the need for the online training programme and close collaboration amongst the partners (USP, UPNG, FNU etc.). 15. noted the areas in terms of Finance and Resource Mobilisation that are currently pursued / considered by the PCREEE. |

**DETAILED MINUTES**

The second meeting of the Steering Committee for the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) Steering Committee (SC) was held on 12th December 2017 together with the 8th Meeting of the Pacific Energy Advisory Group and the Workshop on Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment in Small Island Developing States from the 11th – 15th December 2017 at the Novotel, Suva, Fiji.

The opening formality was led by a prayer from Mr. Mafalu Lotolua.

1. **WELCOME**

The participants were all welcomed to the meeting by Mr. Solomone Fifita, the Manager for the Pacific Center for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) based in Tonga.In commencing with the meeting Mr. Fifita outlined the agenda / programme for the day, a copy which is attached as **Annex 1.**

1. **KEY PARTNER STATEMENT**

The meeting heard short statement / remarks from the PCREEE partner - Dr. Bernhard Zimburg – Austrian Ambassador, Austrian Embassy, Australia. Summarily in his address, His Excellency, congratulated UNIDO, the SIDs DOCK and SPC for the successful establishment of PCREEE and also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Kingdom of Tonga and the SPC for co-hosting the Centre. He further added that access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services is a key enabler for economic and social development. Renewable Energy and energy efficiency solutions offer opportunities to reduce the dependency on expensive fossil fuel imports and to keep global temperature increases in-check which is in particular importance for Small Islands Developing States. Dr Zimburg also outlined that Regional Cooperation and sustainable energy plays a crucial role in mitigating existing barriers for sustainable energy markets, investments and industries and in strengthening local capacities. It is in this context that the Government of Austria cooperates with UNIDO and regional organizations in the establishment of sustainable energy centres since 2010.

**Detail of the Ambassador’s statement is attached as Annex 2**.

1. **OPENING REMARKS**

The opening remark was delivered by Dr. Andrew Jones, Director Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). In his address Dr. Jones outlined that the success of PCREEE would be determined by the countries and partners taking ownership of it, driving it and contributing to its long term operations either financially or through technical expertise and partnerships. By being in the meeting today, they had the opportunity to shape PCREEE through inputs to its Business Plan, Work Plan and Budget for next year and the years to come.

He further outlined that as a private sector and business community focused entity, the participation of Private Sector representatives in the meeting was crucial. Dr. Jones also thanked the Government of Austria for the initial four (4) years of funding and also the Government of Tonga for its commitment to support PCREEE for a six(6) year period.

**Dr Jone’s statement is attached as Annex 3**.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The participants at the meeting introduced themselves. A copy Participants’ List is attached as **Annex 4.**

1. **RESUMPTION OF THE CHAIR FROM THE 1st STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Secretariat outlined that Tonga was selected at the 1st Steering Committee to be the Chair of the PCREEE for the next 3 years. The representative from Tonga, Mr. Tevita Tukunga took over as Chair for the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting.

In presiding as Chair for the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting, Mr. Tukunga addressed all members present including the development partners and CROP agencies and thanked them for their presence and looked forward to their contribution and participation in the meeting. He emphasized his sincere appreciation to the Government of Austria for its commitment in funding PCREEE.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting heard that as usual one of the first items in a meeting would be the adoption of the agenda and to be followed by the adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising, but we would like to call that agenda item as the “PCREEE Progress”. This is where the outcome of the previous meeting will be discussed.

* 1. **REPORT ON THE PROGRESS FROM THE FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

There were a total of 16 outcomes from the first steering committee meeting. The meeting minutes were circulated by the Secretariat and only one comment was received and that was from the Pacific Power Association.

The progress of the 16 outcomes of the 1st Steering Committee Meeting(SC 1) was presented by the Secretariat and it also elaborated on the progress todate for the Centre as outlined on **Annex 5**.

Summarily in terms of the latter, the Secretariat reiterated the important PCREEE Milestones since its establishment and that included;

1. 2016 – UNIDO and Austria agreed on the PCREEE ProDoc and signed the funding agreement for the Centre.
2. 21 April 2017 – SPC and UNIDO Signed contract agreement.
3. 25th April 2017 – first meeting of the PCREEE Steering Committee.
4. 26th April 2017 – Inauguration of the PCREEE.

Other developments included the setting up of the PCREEE Office, the Signing of the of MOU between the SPC and the Government of Tonga, the recruitment of Staffs for PCREEE and finally the staging of three (3) workshops and a seminar by the Centre.

Following the presentation of the 16 outcomes, the meeting Endorsed the minutes of the SC 1 and noted the progress on the implementation of the outcomes of SC 1.

1. **INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PCREEE**

The secretariat presented the institutional aspects of the PCREEE that comprises the following;

1. Composition and rules and procedures of the Steering Committee.
2. Status of the National Focal Institutions and Thematic Hubs.
3. Status of the MoUs with THs
4. Update on PCREEE policies and procedures (e.g. procurement, financial, recruitment etc.)

Important to note an integral part of PCREEE particularly in terms of the rules, policies and procedures; it adopts that of the SPC’s and specific details is provided as **Annex 6A**. Also attached as **Annex 6B** are detail on PCREEE’s NFIs and THs.

In opening the floor the Chairman of SC2, Dr. T. Tukunga, questioned the Secretariat on working relationship between PCREEE and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFs). The Secretariat in responding outlined that there is an MOU between the SPC and the PIFs and issues are addressed through the executive arm of the SPC. However, at the operational level in terms of specific areas of collaboration there will be a “letter of agreement” or alternative instrument between the organizations to facilitate work and collaboration in this regard.

With the facilitation of the Chairman, members of the SC2 noted the following;

1. Composition and rules and procedures of the Steering Committee;
2. Status of the National Focal Institutions and Thematic Hubs;
3. Status of the MoUs with THs and
4. Update on PCREEE policies and procedures (e.g. procurement, financial, recruitment etc.).
5. **TECHNICAL ASPECTS**
   1. **PCREEE as part of the Pacific Energy and Climate Architecture**

The Secretariat presented the next agenda item “PCREEE as part of the Regional Energy and Climate Architecture”. A copy of the presentation is provided as **Annex 7**

Given that the PCREEE will operate within the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP), the PCREEE and the meetings of its steering committee will be coordinated through the two coordinating mechanisms of the FAESP; the Pacific Energy Oversight Group(PEOG) and the Pacific Energy Advisory Group (PEAG). The FAESP is linked to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and thereby providing the linkage of the PCREEE to the FRDP.

The Secretariat commenced the presentation outlining the restructuring process, specifically the merger of the SOPAC’s Georesources & the SPC’s Energy programmes. The new pillars under the new programme includes; i) Policy & Governance, ii) Assessments Data & Information and iii) Training & Capacity Building. The four PCREEE’s outcomes will be aligned under these new pillars. In terms of structure you will have a Director that is responsible for Georesources Energy and Maritime Division and also a Deputy Director.

With the above structure the PCREEE Board Members are included as part of the Pacific Energy Alliance that also consist the PEAG and PEOG Members. The Pacific Energy Alliance is also linked or reports to the Regional Energy Officials Meeting and further reports to the Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting. And if there are issues of importance that requires the knowledge / further deliberation of the Conference of the Pacific Community which is the highest decision making body for the SPC, it will be taken or presented to that particular body. Similarly if there are important matters that need to be presented to the Pacific Forum Leaders, there are also pathways where the issues can be taken and presented to that august body.

In terms of the Climate Architecture, we also have the Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 – 2015. With the Principle 5 of the framework it entails “contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction” and this is where the relationship with energy is forged.

There were a number of working groups under the Pacific Roundtable mechanisms that were formed under the framework that included;

* 1. Adaptation
  2. Mitigation
  3. Knowledge Management
  4. Loss & Damage
  5. Resource Mobilisation

For PCREEE or the steering committee it’s focus or interest would be with the Mitigation working group and a number of delegates currently in the room have been involved in this working group.

Further as earlier presented by PIF’s, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): 2017 – 2030 was adopted by leaders in 2016. The Goal 2 is about low carbon development, and the Strategic Objective and the Outcome are energy related. Most importantly the FRDP have also identified priority actions to be carried out by National and Sub-national governments, civil societies and communities, the private sector, regional organisations and other development partners.

In terms of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP), it will be responsible for coordination under the framework and it will also take up the role in terms of measuring progress and facilitate monitoring and evaluation. The PRP are also consulting the countries for their nomination for the partnerships.

Further, the Samoa SPREP based Pacific Centre for Climate Change (PCCC) will act as a Centre of Excellence for Pacific Climate Action, providing focus for technical expertise, sharing of information and knowledge collaboration. It is an initiative by Samoa Government, the Government of Japan and SPREP. The Centre will focus on more areas than PCREEE and will be broader in terms of its approach. However there is a need for more coordination and cooperation between the PCREEE and the PCCC in terms of alignment of roles.

Following the deliberation on the abovementioned agenda item – “PCREEE as part of the Pacific Energy and Climate Architecture”, the SC2 reached the following decisions;

* + Noted the prioritization exercise SPC in the establishment of the new Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division.
  + Reaffirmed the need to coordinate the management and reporting of the PCREEE together with the regional energy service delivery coordinated by SPC.
  + Noted the coming into force of the FRDP and the formation of the PRP and the need for technical inputs from the PCREEE through the PEAG and the PEOG.
  + Noted the establishment of the PCCC and look forward to working closely with in the agreed hosting arrangement for the PCREEE.
  1. **PCREEE as part of the “Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers” (GN-SEC)**

On this particular agenda item, the Secretariat presented that PCREEE is part of the GN-SEC that is coordinated by UNIDO. Detail of the presentation is included as the latter part of **Annex 7**.

The seven established centers under GN-SEC include;

1. ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). Cape Verde – 2010.
2. Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) – Middle East.
3. Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), Barbados – 2015
4. East Africa Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE), Nairobi – 2016
5. Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), Nukualofa – 2017.
6. Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), Namibia.
7. Himalayan Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Apart from the above the Secretariat also presented the Logo of the GN-SEC which is outlined below;



The GN-SEC Steering Committee had met in May 2017 and adopted the rules, procedures and the functions of the committee for the global network. **It is important to note that apart from the steering committee for each of centre there is also the steering committee for all seven (7) the centres in the world or GN-SEC.**

In its deliberation of the agenda item, the 2nd Steering Committee noted the formation of the GN-SEC and called on UNIDO, Partners and the network to quickly exploit the strategic advantages of the Network in terms of resource mobilization, sharing of technical expertise and the replication and upscaling of the best practices.

1. **PCREEE BUSINESS PLAN**

In presenting on the PCREEE Business Plan, the Secretariat outlined that in the SC1 Meeting, it had endorsed the general structure of the PCREEE Business Plan and noted that it would be integrated with SPC’s Energy Programme. In addition the SC 1 also directed the Secretariat to present a complete business plan to be adopted at its next meeting (which is the current meeting or SC2). Unfortunately it is with heavy heart that PCREEE is unable to produce a Business Plan because of strategic issues and developments occurring within the SPC as an organisation.

A copy of the presentation for the PCREEE Business Plan agenda item is attached as **Annex 8**.

On the structure that was adopted during the SC1 meeting, the Secretariat noted that the “Resource Mobilization” aspect of the plan was missing. This is very important for the entity as it is vital for PCREEE to look beyond the first four years of the plan (funding is only provided for the next four (4) years) to ensure continuity in the operations of the Centre.

Other challenges presented for the Business Plan included;

* 1. The Network (GN-SEC) format or the SPCs format (in terms of the consolidation of the business plan).
  2. With the Network format it is noted that it has 70 pages and the SPC wants a 10 page Business Plan.
  3. The need to align PCREEE with the new division of the SPC – “Georesources Energy Maritime Division” and the potential of having the plan that can potentially be contradictory of the intentions of the new division.
  4. Resource Mobilisation Strategy of the Centre
  5. Alignment with PCREEE ProDoc (This was the document agreed to by UNIDO and the Government of Austria – the basis of the funding to PCREEE)
  6. Delivery of activities in the interim will not be affected and PCREEE work will continue.

For the adopted structure according to the Secretariat it will include;

1. The Regional Energy Scene [SPC’s, Thematic hubs and the National Focal Institutions]
2. Development Context
3. SPC Regional Energy Programme
4. Contribution to SPC Organizational Objectives and Results
5. Integrated Energy Programme and PCREEE Results Framework
6. Key implementing partners
7. Risk Management (The risks has been identified. This is the basis of the Austrian Government funding to PCREEE and in that the risks were noted to be manageable.)
8. Energy Budget Summary 2018-2020 (This is something has been agreed to with the countries. It is a total of $6.3 Million for the next 4 years) – the principal donors include Tonga, SPC, Govt of Austria and UNIDO and a total of 60% of the funding has yet to be secured.
9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.
10. Annex - Annual Work Plans and Budgets.

Following the presentation the Chairman opened the floor and invited questions from the SC2 members;

1. Mr. Peter King formerly of ADB and currently of the Asia Institute of Technology (AIT) enquired on the extent in which PCREEE will be likely be engaged in the project preparation and implementation and noting that there is only 6 staffs at PCREEE and the limitations.

According to Mr. Fifita of the PCREEE outlined that the role of PCREEE in terms of project preparation is included and it is an integral component of PCREEE’s role. However, in terms of project implementation, PCREEE will be a project promoter / facilitator. With respect to the actual implementation of projects, it will be undertaken by the Thematic Hubs and the National Focal Institutions.

1. Mr. Juerg Klarer a climate consultant engaged by the AIT stated from the Climate Financing perspective that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) offers new opportunity now known as “Barrier Access”, meaning that institutions at the national level which are accredited to the GCF can access project funds directly. In this context, the question is what is the role of SPC and PCREEE in this regard, is it considering potential accreditation or would the role be devolved to institutions at the national level and are there candidates in the pipeline already?

Mr. Fifita in responding stated, that the accreditation of the SPC is in the process and they have gone through the auditing and verification of its process and policies. It is something that it cannot be devolved to divisions or Centre but it is something that will remain at the higher level of the organization.

1. Mr. Abdessalem Rabhi, the Programme Manager for the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), sought clarifications in terms of PCREEE’s role on assisting Pacific SIDs on the Project that has already been formulated or the formulation of new projects. Mr. Fifita in responding outlined that PCREEE is more on identifying new projects and developing it from scratch and at the same time assisting existing projects.

The Chairman reiterated that the Business Plan is yet to be put in place by the Secretariat and the reasons behind it as earlier presented. The SC2 in its deliberations of the agenda item (PCREEE Business Plan) acceded to the following recommendations;

* 1. Noted the progress with the development of the Business Plan and the need for it to align and be consistent with the new structure of SPC’s Georesources and Energy Programme.
  2. Endorsed the need for the PCREEE Secretariat to complete the Business Plan and circulate it for endorsement out of session, preferably before the end of the second quarter of 2018.
  3. Encouraged members to comment and provide inputs to the BP.
  4. **2018 Work Plan and Budget (WPB)**

The Work Plan and Budget for PCREEE for 2018 was presented by Mr. Fifita. A copy of the presentation is attached **Annex 9**.

In the presentation Mr. Fifita outlined that the budget was allocated by activities and according to its Output and Outcomes. The Budget is presented in Euros. The level of co-funding is not quantified and only the allocated UNIDO funds are shown on the presentation (as per the table below). The PCREEE in constructing its WPB is also mindful of other initiatives in the region for example the World Bank – Pacific Power Association Initiative, the SEIAPI Project and the ADB Pacific RE Investment Facility and other initiatives dealing with the private sector and business community. Specifically the WPB includes;

| **NO.** | **Outcome** | **Key Activities** | **Costs (Euros in K)** | **Budget (K)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Enhanced regional institutional capacities through the creation of the efficiently managed and financially sustainable PCREEE | Heavy duty printer/scanner  PCREEE Signage | 8.5 | 173.5 |
| 3 PCREEE Staff | 130 |
| Steering Committee Meetings | 15 |
| Resource Mobilisation – Assist in development of regional proposals; GCF PPF on EE Appliance Labelling & standards. Drafting & Consultations on Regional EE in land transport & the regional GEF 7 proposal on promoting sustainable energy entrepreneurship | 20 |
| 2 | Strengthen capacities of local key institutions and stakeholders groups through the up-scaling and replication of certified training and applied research programmes and mechanisms | National Consultation Workshops | 5 | 37 |
| Support PacTVET & CIEMAT | 4 |
| Organise national training workshops on RE&EE business development and start-ups  Sponsor 4 applied research at USP and UPNF | 20  8 |
| 3 | The awareness and knowledge base of local key institutions and stakeholder groups on RE&EE are strengthened | Workshop with IEA | 3 | 18 |
| Support ESCAP – Evidence based policies for sustainable use of energy resources in AP Region under its Development Account for 5 PICs. | 5 |
| Joint conduct of RE conferences with UPNG and other partners (SIDs Dock IWON) and strengthen women participation & gender. | 10 |
| 4. | Increased RE&EE Business Opportunities for local companies and industry through the development and implementation of regional investment promotion programs and tailored financial schemes | Support 3rd PIC Energy Investors Forum spearheaded by PRIF – August 2018 | 10 | 75 |
| TA to establish Sustainable Energy Associations in PNG & Fiji | 10 |
| TA to support establish new business in SE and support existing business | 50 |
| Contribute to Korean Mini Grid Study | 5 |
| Sub Total | | | | 303.5 |
| Project Management Fees (15%) | | | 46 | 45.5 |
| Total for 2018 | | | | 349 |

Following the presentation from the Secretariat, the Chairman called for comments and inputs or interventions from the floor.

The intervention from the floor was raised by Mr. Andrew Irvin of the IUCN;

1. According to Mr. Irvin, the primary consideration for the Centre is how it can facilitate regulation and legislative changes for the sector to ensure investors get a return on their investment, for example on the issue of “feed-in-tariffs”. The comment was basically aimed at creating cost competitiveness for the private business in the region. The interventions in terms of regulatory and legislative changes would ensure the investment environment is more predictable.

In responding to the comments, the Secretariat outlined that PCREEE on its own would not be able to resolve the issue, but it would need to work together with partners to ensure that the private sector is able flourish in these environment. In addition it is not also possible to only focus the PCREEE work to a single country in the region, however funding by the bigger players (ADB. GCF and WB) would be able to address this important issue.

Further it is important for PCREEE to make an impact on the ground and would like to see that companies that it assists are able to generate employment through the provision of jobs to locals. This would be an effective approach for PCREEE with respect to its intentions and the work it carries out.

The Chairman further elaborated that the role with respect to regulations and legislation changes will be led and driven by the various countries and their Governments.

The Chairman with the SC2 in its deliberations of the agenda item (Workplan and Budget) acceded to the following recommendations;

1. Welcomed inputs to further elaborate on applied research topics related to the private sector.
2. Welcomed inputs to further elaborate on the technical assistance and support to existing businesses.
3. Welcomed indication of interests in the national training workshops on RE&EE business development and start-ups and contract management in cooperation with local Chamber of Commerce, government agencies and the local industry.
4. Welcomed comments on the PCREEE’s resource mobilisation effort.
5. Welcomed the private-sector focussed work plan and budget for 2018.
6. Endorsed the PCREEE 2018 WPB.
7. **STAFFING OF THE PCREEE**

The Secretariat presented the staffing of the PCREEE. A copy of the presentation is attached as **Annex 10**.

The structure of the PCREEE is aligned to the ProDoc and there are confirmed funding levels that have been received by the Centre. The entity is supposed to have three Departments but is not there yet. The Departments include;

1. Department for Management and Organisational Development (DMOD)
2. Technical Department
3. Department of Administration & Finance

The Organization Structure for PCREEE includes the supporting positions that are either in Suva or part of the wider GN-SEC and those that are funded by the project and partners. It is part of the SPC and there are activities that it may not be able to carry out in Tonga that will be supplemented by the team in Suva. In addition in terms of the administrative positions particularly the Human Resources and Financial aspect of PCREEE, it is still handled in Suva. As earlier mentioned the structure would be part of the new division under the Geo-resources, Energy and Maritime Division. The Centre has space for 16 staff but currently has six staff right now and also members are encouraged to use the Centre as a base for training, research and internships.

The SC2 in its deliberations of the agenda item agreed the following recommendations;

1. Noted the staffing structure and the need for extra staff at the PCREEE.
2. Noted the integration of the other staff of SPC, mostly in Suva, with the PCREEE.
3. Encouraged member countries and partners to use the centre as a base for training, research, internships and etc.
4. **ONLINE CAPACITY BUILDING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR ISLANDS AND TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC, CARIBBEAN, AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN**

On this particular Agenda Item, Ms. Lara de Diego, a Project Coordinator for CIEMAT presented the online Capacity Building and Certification Program on Sustainable Energy Solutions (OCB-SES). A copy of the presentation is attached as **Annex 11**.

The OCB-SES is a first joint activity for the Centres and is implemented with the financial support of the Spanish and Austrian Governments. It is envisaged that the online course will be part of the curricular of existing sustainable energy programs (including Masters level) of the different Universities in the various regions (University of Cape Verde, the University of the West Indies and the University of the South Pacific).

The OCB-SES responds to the need for affordable training and certification in the islands. The lack of capacities are a major barrier for the creation of sustainable energy markets and industries. To this effect, UNIDO has subcontracted CIEMAT to develop and hand-over the OCB-SES in close partnership with SIDs DOCK, CCREE, PCREEE and ECREEE. In addition it will require further consultations and collaboration with the PacTVET and institutions mentioned above. In addition the modules will be complemented by the participation of Spanish institutions which are centres of excellence in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency and the environment.

In terms of Certification and Accreditation the OCB-SES is based on objectives and learning outcomes that are addressed through technical scientist content program that is equivalent to 20 hours per module. Within the self study modality online assessment tools will become essential to track the progress and achievement of competencies and objectives. The second Program involves the study and improvement of the evaluation criteria to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes. Further accreditation based upon profesional qualification may be offered through a University or accredited training institution.

Following the presentation the Chairman opened the floor and invited questions from the steering committee;

1. Dr. Kristin Deason, the Pacific Regional Officer from the Global Green Growth outlined that in most PICs internet connectivity was an issue and to ensure that the OCB-SES reaches the intended audience, what is the plan for addressing this issue. Secondly, what is the plan to have people to take the course (awareness).

Ms. Lara, outlined that PCREEE will be the ultimate owner of the OCB-SES, it is important that a solution is found in the respective countries to alleviate this problem. Similarly the responsibility to disseminate the course will also depend on PCREEE and the local University but CIEMAT will also assist the región in this regard.

1. Mr. Nixon Kua of the SPC EU-PacTVET, the focal point for Sustainable Energy under the PacTVET Project, initially he explained the PacTVET program and focused on the the need for community strengthening and at the same time doing away with Cohort and ad-hoc training. The OCB-SES offering was moreless at Diploma and Postgraduate level and considered it as the upper link to the PacTVET programme. It certainly complements the PacTVET program addressing knowledge, skills and attitude and very thankful of the initiative.
2. Mr. Greg Decherong, the Director of the Palau Energy Office questioned whether the program has started. Ms. Diego outlined that they were still developing the courses and are not available now. He further added that it is important that the courses / efforts are not duplicated.
3. Mr. S. Fifita of the Secretariat recalled the outcome of the Minister’s Meeting that the courses or training are accredited and qualifications are recognized in the region.

Mr. Kua added that PacTVET courses Certificates I – IV had recently received recognition and something that the region need to be proud off.

1. Dr. Atul Raturi of the University of the South Pacific commended the work done by CIEMAT and PacTVET and further outlined the importance of having a “hands on component” to be part of the online offering. He further recommended that 80% to be online training and 20% to be face to face In addition the USP was also grateful to be part of the collaboration.
2. Mr. Daniel Shafer of Warrior Biojet echoed the earlier comments made earlier by Dr. Raturi and also elaborated on the need to have hands on trained professionals in sustainable energy.

The Steering Committee through the guidance of the Chairman acknowledged the efforts from CIEMAT and the comments from the meeting. The SC2 noted and reaffirmed the need for the online training programme and close collaboration amongst the partners (USP, UPNG, FNU etc.).

1. **FINANCE & RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

On this particularly Agenda Item, the Secretariat outlined that there is funding from the Government of Austria, UNIDO and other partners including the Government of Tonga with respect to the first four (4 years - 2017 to 2021) for PCREEE.

On the earlier 2018 Budget presented by the Secretariat, SC2 members may have noted that PCREEE still needs funding to augment its on-going operations and more importantly funding after the four (4) years.

The areas that have been identified to strengthen the PCREEE funding (or sought additional funding) include;

1. Bilateral Donors
2. Global Climate Funds (GCF)
3. Global Environment Funds (GEF – 7)
4. Fee for Service (Consultancy Works)

The Meeting (SC2) noted that PCREEE will be developing a Concept Note under GEF 7 for the Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship. In terms of GCF, PCREEE is working together with the PALs program and will be taking up a Regional Land Transport proposal.

The status of the Regional Land Transport was queried by Mr. Andrew Irvin of IUCN. In responding, Mr. Fifita of the Secretariat outlined that a draft concept was formulated, however the UNDP Fiji Country Office had recommended a letter of request from the participating countries in order to get one of their staff to continue working on the proposal. In noting the difficulties in the requirement from UNDP, either the PCREEE or in partnership with Japan and AIT will work together and develop the proposal and revert to the countries for the endorsement. This was considered an amenable approach to the situation.

In terms of bilateral funding, a proposal was made to the Countries that if there are costs that will be accrued by PCREEE the request will be made to countries to cover for these from the bilateral funds. The Tuvalu example was explained to the SC2.

Similarly on the fee for service, PCREEE is also requesting Countries that the cost of their involvement be catered from the national and bilateral allocations.

With guidance from the Chairman, the SC2 noted the areas in terms of Finance and Resource Mobilisation that are currently pursued / considered by the PCREEE and thanked the effort of all participants.

1. **OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF THE NEXT SC MEETING**

The meeting agreed to have its second meeting within the next 12 months in partnership or back to back with some related events. On the Business Plan 2018 as earlier outlined it will be endorsed out of session and hopefully before the end of 2nd Quarter 2018.

There was no other business and the chair closed the meeting thanking the steering committee for their attendance and participation.

**Meeting Ended**