**CONCEPT NOTE**

**National Validation Workshop for the PCREEE Business Plan and Regional Electric Mobility Policy and Programme for the Pacific.**

**10th July 2020**

**Honiara, Solomon Islands**

1. **Background:**

The Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2035 has two focus areas and that is the social and economic livelihoods of the Solomon Islanders. It recognizes that sustainable economic development is critical to growth and progress of the Solomon Islands.

The National Energy Policy 2014 – 2024 administered by the Department of Energy (DoE) under the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE) aligns itself with the National Development Strategy. The policy is established on eleven key principles and some of which are whole-of sector approach, environment and climate change, gender, capacity building, financing, investment and sustainability. The policy has ambitious targets of achieving 100% electricity access by 2020 for urban households, 35% of electricity access for rural households by 2020, 100% RE generation by 2050 and 10.7% improved energy efficiency in all sectors by 2019.

The SPC’s Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) was established in April 2017 as a regional vehicle for accelerating the uptake of feasible renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the Pacific islands Countries and Territories.

The PCREEE has recently completed the development of its Business Plan 2020 to 2030. The Business Plan 2020 – 2030 outlines the key strategic areas of PCREEE’s focus in the next 10 years and the key resources required to deliver on them. The document is in its final draft stage and therefore requires validation from SPC’s member countries.

The Regional Electric Mobility Policy and Programme for the Pacific is also another key strategic document recently completed by the PCREEE and requires validation from its member countries. The document outlines the regional policy framework and programmes to guide its member countries in the development of their respective national policies on electric vehicles.

A regional validation workshop was earlier planned for June or July this year to validate the two documents but the COVID 19 pandemic has caused disruption to the plan. It is in that regard that the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE) of the Solomone Islands Government (SIG) and the PCREEE are collaborating on hosting the National Validation workshop to validate and endorse the draft PCREEE Business Plan 2020 – 2030 and the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme for the Pacific.

The PCREEE representatives will be participating remotely via zoom or skype (whichever is convenient) to present the draft PCREEE Business Plan and the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme for the Pacific.

1. **Overview**

Solomon Islands has a population of over 670,000 of which about 80% live in the rural areas. It has very low access to reliable electricity. Majority of the population depends on small solar home systems for lighting and biomass for cooking.

The country depends almost entirely on imported fossil fuels for electricity generation, transportation and lighting. Nevertheless, there is available vast potential for renewable energy which could provide 100% electricity generation to the entire population. The barriers to 100% access to electricity and 100% renewable electricity generation are attributed to the small economy and dispersed geography of the islands and population, financial constraints, technology constraints and inadequate capacity to exploit the renewable energy resources.

Solomon Islands Electricity Authority (SIEA), trading as Solomon Power, is a State-Owned Enterprise established under the Electricity Act 1969 to provide electricity services in urban areas of the country (currently Honiara and nine provincial centres). The power sector depends almost entirely on diesel for power generation, 80% is produced for Honiara while 20% is for the provincial centres.

Last year 2019 marks a milestone achievement for the Solomon Power and the Solomon Islands Government’s energy sector through the development of the Tina River Hydropower Project, shifting the nation close to achieving its energy and greenhouse gas mitigation targets. The Tina River Hydropower project with an installed capacity of 15MW will displace more than half of the national diesel-powered generation. The project cost is estimated to reach USD 240 million.

The transportation system in Solomon Islands, both land transport and sea transport depend entirely on fossil fuels. It is estimated that over 50% of SI’s fuel consumption is used for transportation, and thus one of the important sectors to consider if it is to increase efficiency in fuel consumption and reduce its carbon footprints as per its commitment under the Climate Change Paris Agreement ratified in 2016.

While the world is moving towards electric vehicle, many of the countries in the Pacific including the Solomon Islands does not have any specific policy yet on electric vehicles. The draft regional electric vehicle policy and programme will be the stepping stone to guide and develop national policies on electric vehicle.

1. **Objectives**

The objective of the event are as follows:

* National Validation workshop on draft PCREEE Business Plan
* National Validation Workshop on the draft Regional E-Mobility Policy and Programme for the Pacific
* Raise education and awareness on the draft PCREEE Business Plan and the draft Electric Mobility Policy and Programme.

1. **Targeted Outputs**

* Validation Workshop and awareness campaign successfully completed in Honiara
* Comments and Endorsement of the PCREEE Business Plan
* Comments and Endorsement of the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme in the Pacific

**5. Expected Outcome**

The Validation Workshop and Awareness Campaign is expected to achieve the following;

* Increased education and awareness in Solomon Islands on electric vehicles;
* Increased education and awareness in Solomon Islands on the PCREEE Business Plan
* Endorsement of the PCREEE Business Plan and the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme in the Pacific

1. **Validation Workshop Strategy and Content**

The Validation Workshop for the two regional documents (i. draft PCREEE Business Plan and draft Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme) will be conducted for half a day only.

The invitation letter to the participants will provide link to the two regional documents to download and prepare themselves before the actual workshop so they can contribute and comment effectively.

The presentation during the workshop will summarize the contents of the two documents and will provide a platform for discussions and comments on the document.

The Validation Workshop will be facilitated remotely via Zoom/Skype by the PCREEE representatives. It is therefore crucial that the venue must have good internet connections and availability of audio-visual aids.

**7. Target Participants**

The target audiences will be representatives of key stakeholders related to national planning, energy and transport. The participants will be limited to 20 and will comprise of the staff from the MMERE including the Department of Energy, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance and the private sector (Bus and Taxi Association, vehicle dealers, etc). The NGOs can also be invited.

**8. Possible Partners**

The validation workshop will be conducted as a partnership between SPC PCREEE and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification through the Department of Energy. Other key Government departments including statutory bodies and NGOs are also welcomed to join.

**9.** C**omplementarity and Replicability:**

The dialogue is open to be integrated with other related events of partners.

**10. Budget:**

Budget will be based on 20 people for validation workshop.

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| **Cost Item** | **Estimate [SID]** | **Comments** |
| Travel and DSA | TBC | NA |
| Venue | 1000 | DoE / PCREEE |
| Equipment |  | DoE |
| Catering | 4000 | PCREEE |

**11. Preparatory Work**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Preparatory Activity** | **Identified Leader** | **Completion Date (2020)** | **Others** |
| 1 | Publicity – radio, newspaper, etc | DoE | June |  |
| 2 | Meeting Invitation, and draft agenda | PCREEE/DoE | June 30 |  |
| 3 | Confirmation of venue and catering | DoE | June 30 |  |