



Twelfth Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting

SUMMARY RECORD



Madang Resort Hotel, Madang, Papua New Guinea

6th – 8th June 2005

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TWELFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DISASTER MANAGERS MEETING

We would like to acknowledge the support provided by the following partners of SOPAC for their contributions to the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting convened in Madang, Papua New Guinea from 6th to 8th June 2005:

Government of Papua New Guinea [Ministry of Intergovernmental Relations – National Disaster Centre]
Government of Australia [AusAID]
Government of New Zealand [NZAID]
Emergency Management Australia [EMA]
The Asia Foundation/Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance [TAF/OFDA]



Mr Eric Ani delivers the National Perspective at the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting, Madang, Papua New Guinea.

June 2005



The meeting acknowledged the contribution of the Community Risk Programme Manager Alan Mearns who was attending his last meeting before completing his contract with SOPAC in 2006.

Standing left – right: Mr Matt Kuror – FSM National Disaster Coordinator, Col. Eric Ani – Director, PNG National Disaster Centre, Mr Metuatini Tangaroa – Cook Islands NDMO Director, Mr Sumeo Silu – Tuvalu National Disaster Coordinator, Mr John Norton – Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Mr Dais Lorin – Ponphei State Emergency Assistance Officer, Mr Joeli Rokovada – Fiji NDMO Director, Mr Alonzo Kyoto – Palau NEMO Coordinator, Mr Henry Shrew – Kosrae State Disaster Management Officer, Mr Robert Tongiamana – Niue Disaster Management Officer, Mr Maliu Takai – Tonga NDMO Deputy Director.

Sitting Left – Right: Mr Job Esau – Vanuatu, Director of NDMO, Mr Alan Mearns – Manager SOPAC Community Risk Programme, Ms Filomena Nelson – Samoa Principal Disaster Management Officer and Mr David Templeman – Director General Emergency Management Australia.

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FOREWORD

Ten years ago in Madang the Pacific Leaders articulated their vision for the region that vulnerability to the effects of natural, environmental and technological hazards would be overcome. To provide the guidance to achieve their vision the Leaders empowered the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) with the mandate to coordinate disaster management capacity building working in partnership with the regional disaster managers, international and regional organizations, the donor community and national stakeholders.

In 2003 at the eleventh meeting in Fiji the SOPAC Secretariat, with the support and assistance of our development partners, began the regional preparations for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which was held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. Those preparations included a regional stakeholders meeting in June 2004, a review of the regional progress towards the implementation of the 1995 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and the preparation of a regional position paper for the Kobe Conference.

To ensure that the unique vulnerability and special needs of the Pacific were acknowledged in Kobe the Secretariat also ensured that the region was effectively represented at the ISDR lead up discussions in Geneva and that the outcomes of the Mauritius Meeting in relation to the Barbados Programme of Action for the Small Island Developing States was factored into the outcomes of the Kobe discussions.

On behalf of SOPAC I would like to congratulate the regional NDMOs for their vision and commitment to improving disaster risk management arrangements in the Pacific in the past few years and for their valuable contribution to the development of the draft framework for action 2005-2015.

For our part we will ensure that the SOPAC Secretariat, through its Community Risk Programme, provides as much national capacity building assistance that we can to achieve successful national implementation of the framework.



The successful completion of the draft framework has placed the region at the forefront of the global response to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and provided a template that other regions may wish to follow.

I would like to thank the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Director and staff of the National Disaster Management Office for hosting this important regional meeting and also acknowledge the financial assistance and support provided by our key donors and development partners AusAID, NZAID, EMA and TAF/OFDA.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who attended the Madang meeting, particularly our High Level Advocacy Team, and the SOPAC staff who all made a major contribution to the overall success of the meeting and the development of the framework for action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Pratt'.

Cristelle Pratt
Director
SOPAC Secretariat

OPENING AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Papua New Guinea's Sir Peter Barter, Minister for Intergovernmental Relations opened the 12th Pacific Disaster Management Meeting on behalf of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare. The meeting was held at the Madang Resort in Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 6 to 8th June 2005. A transcript of his speech is attached as Annex I (See CD Rom)¹.

His Excellency, Mr Mack Kaminaga, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji responded on behalf of the National Disaster Managers reiterating the leaders' commitment in the Auckland Declaration and for a fruitful outcome of the following days' deliberations.

Col. Eric Ani, Director of the Papua New Guinea National Disaster Centre and chair of the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting welcomed participants to Madang and invited the Reverend of the Luthereanean Church in Madang to offer the opening prayer.

In keynote address, SOPAC's Deputy Director, welcomed the participants on behalf of SOPAC, while Col. Eric Ani gave the National Perspective of Management of Disasters. A transcript of both speeches is attached as Annex II and III, respectively.

The countries represented at the meeting were: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Organisations and stakeholders represented were: the Australia Bureau of Meteorology, CARITAS Oceania, East-West Centre, Emergency Management Australia, Geoscience Australia, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kerstrel Group, Risk & Emergency Management, Madang Fire Station, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management of New Zealand, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research, Pacific Disaster Centre, Pacific Emergency Management Associates, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Power Association, Papua New Guinea Red Cross, Papua New Guinea Provincial Disaster Coordinators, Rabaul Volcano Observatory, Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory, RAINET, The Asia Foundation / Office of the US Foreign Disaster Assistance, United Nations – OCHA, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, University of Papua New Guinea, Victoria Department of Human Services, World Bank, and the World Meteorological Organisation

Refer to Annex IV for a list of meeting participants.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting forum adopted the agenda of the meeting (Refer to Annex V).

Adoption of the Report of the 11th Pacific Disaster Managers Meeting

Cook Islands moved to adopt the report of the 11th Pacific Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and Communities at Risk Conference. The motion was seconded by Fiji.

¹ All annexes are on CD-Rom only.



Papua New Guinea chaired the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting with Eric Ani of the Papua New Guinea National Disaster Centre officiating.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2005 - 2015

Framework for Action 2005 – 2015

From this point on, the rest of the Meeting focused on, and discussed in depth, the content of the Draft Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, referred to as the 'Draft Framework' throughout this report. The Final Draft Framework and Statement, outcomes of the 12th Meeting is included as Annex VI of this report.

The Secretariat took the meeting through the Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles of the Framework. The meeting forum agreed to the Vision and Mission. Key decisions for the Guiding Principles are summarised as follows:

- 'All hazards' approach throughout the document as this spells out in a definitive and extensive way what natural, environmental and technological hazards are as well as keeps the terminology shorter and consistent with the international perspective.
- The links to the other regional frameworks and or action plans, were emphasised in the discussion and noted in the Framework. These are as follows:
 - o The Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Change,
 - o The Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy,
 - o The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management,
 - o The Pacific Regional Action Plan on HIV/AIDS,
 - o The Pacific Regional Framework on Agriculture.
- The reduction of the number of paragraphs from what it was to what it currently is.

Theme 1: Governance – Organisational, Institutional, Policy and Decision-making Frameworks.

The session was facilitated by Roger Jones of the SOPAC High Level Advocacy Team, highlighting the key recommended changes in a power-point presentation (attached as Annex VII). The key issues of this theme were as follows:

- The title was changed to read as above rather than tagging 'good' before governance due to the implication that it would suggest. 'Good' governance was then emphasised in the body of the document and defined in this section of the document to encompass a 'whole-of-country' approach and adoption of the core principles of accountability and transparency.

- The Draft Framework to reflect the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and disaster management into national policies and planning processes.
- For all key national and regional activities to be linked clearly with the 'Expected Outcomes' section of the Draft Framework in all the thematic areas.

Right: Participants of the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting deliberate over the text of the Framework for Action 2005 – 2015.



Theme 2: Knowledge, Information, Public Awareness and Education

Theme 2 was facilitated by Kathryn Hawley of the Asia Foundation/US Office of Foreign Assistance. Key issues that arose out of this session were as follows:

- After much debate and discussion on the preferences for 'public' awareness and education versus 'community' awareness and education, regional national representatives preferred the use of the term 'public' awareness and education.

Theme 3: Analysis and Evaluation of Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Elements at Risk

Theme 3 was facilitated by Noud Leenders and Atu Kaloumaira of the SOPAC Secretariat. The key issues that this session highlighted were:

- The use of the term 'vulnerabilities' in the title was questioned in terms of its relevance. Due to its use over the years by National Disaster Managers, the term was left as is but to include 'elements' at risk rather than just vulnerabilities and risks.
- Economic vulnerability was included in the list of vulnerabilities under this theme.
- The use of the term 'selected PICs' in this thematic area as a more realistic timeline for implementation hence the use of it rather than inclusion of all PICs.
- The order in which the expected outcomes, key national and regional activities were suggested to be prioritised.

Theme 4: Planning for effective Preparedness, Response and Recovery

The session for Theme 4 was facilitated by Busby Kaotoke of CARITAS and Leon Prop of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. The key issues that arose are summarised below:

- The title of this theme was agreed to as outlined above.
- Draft Framework to include alternative funding mechanisms and for models of disaster management to adopt the principle of regional cooperation.
- The Draft Framework to consider the issue of community-based disaster risk management, rather than limiting the document to community preparedness.
- Regional relief response mechanisms to be developed and/or appropriately supported based on the request of the Pacific Island nations.
- The Draft Framework to reflect the role of the NDMO and for it to consider strengthening them given they are the cornerstone of what this framework entails.
- Timeliness of response from the member countries point of view need to be addressed in the draft framework.

Theme 5: Effective, Integrated and People-Focused Early Warning Systems

It was stated in the meeting that the fact that a whole theme focuses on 'early warning systems', is clear recognition of the importance of this issue in the Pacific. Alan Mearns, Community Risk Programme Manager of SOPAC, facilitated Theme 5. A summary of the issues discussed follows:

- The need to emphasise the difficulties in Pacific Island Countries of communicating over vast ocean distances and the problem of isolation, as well as the importance of considering the vulnerable circumstances in the outer islands of the various Pacific Island Countries. Therefore the importance of timely responses be recognised by using the phrase 'urgent needs' rather than 'needs' in the Draft Framework.
- References are not made to imply that work had been done in the region on early warning systems when the reality is that nothing has been done over the past 3 decades and the use of the phrase 'small populations' as this does not apply to the whole region.
- Early warning systems do exist but there is a need for the draft framework to address the strengthening of its capacity and the mainstreaming of it into government policy and processes, encompasses 'all hazards', as well as for it to remain community focussed with an output to be effective and simple enough for community use.
- Early warning systems to be integrated into global networks and vice-versa

Theme 6: Reducing Underlying Risk Factors

Roger Jones, of the SOPAC High Level Advocacy Team, facilitated Theme 6. Roger first presented recommended changes in a power-point presentation (attached as annex VIII) before inviting comments from the meeting forum. Key issues of the discussions are summarised as follows:

- The meeting forum endorsed the changes suggested by the facilitator (refer to Annex VIII).
- It was suggested that the Draft Framework to reflect 'food preservation and security' as this is an issue in the Pacific
- Rather than the word 'codes' in 'building codes' it was agreed that 'building guidelines' be the term used instead.
- The order of the expected outcomes was changed as suggested in the facilitator's presentation (Annex VIII).



Joe Barr was acknowledged for his exceptional 20-year contribution to disaster management capacity building in the region. A certificate of appreciation was presented to him at the Meeting. Eric Ani and Kathryn Hawley join in congratulating Joe Barr

Implementation and Follow Up

Dr Russell Howorth of the SOPAC Secretariat facilitated this session. A summary of the issues discussed and adopted in the Framework are listed below:

- The Framework to reflect ownership and implementation at national level and its mainstreaming into disaster risk reduction and disaster management policies and programmes.
- The specific role of SOPAC after the approval of this Framework at the SOPAC Governing Council and Forum Leaders meeting respectively.
- The support of international organizations in the implementation of this Framework
- The mobilization of resources, such as provisions of resources to support implementation through the appropriate multilateral, regional and bilateral coordination mechanisms, incorporating the principles of good donorship; and the identification of other financing modalities that could contribute to building community resilience.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting venue will be determined after the SOPAC Governing Council Meeting to be held in Apia, Samoa in September 2005.

ANNEXES

Annex I

Opening Address on behalf of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare, by the Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, Sir Peter Barter

Annex II

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Outcome Statement

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Annexes I – IX on CD ROM

CD POCKET



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SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 601
June 2005

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