

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTY-FOURTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-7 August 1992)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (ICOD)
(CANADA)

STATEMENT:

**STATUS OF ICOD AND CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

STATEMENT TO THE 24 TH RTMF.

(by Ronald Archer, Field Representative,
Canadian Cooperation Office, Suva, Fiji)

Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the SPC Secretariat in inviting ICOD to attend this 24th (and in the case of ICOD, the last) RTMF.

As many of you now know, both from attendance in other regional meetings and by references made by the SPC Secretariat in this RTMF, the Canadian government in February this year decided to restructure and reduce the cost of some of its operations. In this process it was decided to disband the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) in Halifax and to move its current programs directly under the auspices of CIDA.

The Canadian government has given the assurance that all currently approved projects of ICOD, for which legal agreements are in place, will be continued to be funded.

As of the end of June, 1992, all staff of ICOD have been released from the organization. Approximately 20 former ICOD staff have been engaged on short-term personal service contracts to maintain the former ICOD projects during an interim period.

During the next eight months, CIDA will be undertaking the identification, selection and negotiation with a new Canadian Executing Agency (CEA) to carry on the administration of the ICOD programs and projects in the future. We anticipate that the identification process will be completed by the end of 1992, with final negotiation to have been completed by 31 March, 1993.

The Canadian Cooperation Office in Suva, which is funded 2/3rds by CIDA through its Canada South Pacific Ocean Development Program (CSPODP), and 1/3 by ICOD, will remain open and staffed until the end of the year, at which time a decision will be made by the newly identified CEA, on its future.

The CSPODP program, which was a 5 year (\$10 million CAD) CIDA funded project aimed at support to the regional organizations of the South Pacific to provide assistance and services to the independent developing countries of the region, commenced in August 1988, and has now committed all of its available sub-project funds. CIDA has completed an evaluation of the CSPODP program, and the report of this evaluation has now been distributed to the cooperating agencies. It is anticipated that on the basis of this evaluation, CIDA will entertain the possibility of funding a second phase of CSPODP. The internal process within CIDA has commenced for this, and if approved, CSPODP II would be administered by the new CEA.

It is encouraging to note that the Canadian Delegate (the Hon. Flora MacDonald) to the recent South Pacific Forum Meeting in Honiara, made the statement to the meeting that Canada remains a committed development partner for the South Pacific region and there will be no reduction in its program of spending in the region.

In light of this statement, and in view of the recent statements of support for world fisheries by the Prime Minister of Canada at the UNCED Conference in Brazil, I would encourage the South Pacific region, both through the Regional Agencies and from independent countries, to continue to develop funding proposals for potential support in the areas of fisheries and ocean development for potential support by Canada. These should be submitted to CIDA and to the appropriate Canadian High Commission in New Zealand or Australia.