

19th REGIONAL DISASTER MANAGERS MEETING

*Annual Meeting of the Heads of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs)
of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)*

*1st - 3rd July 2013
Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji*

Theme: Disaster Risk Management & NDMOs - Future Opportunities for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Introduction

The annual Regional Disaster Managers (RDM) Meeting comprising the Heads of National Disaster Management Offices or equivalent is a major component of the Pacific Platform for DRM (Platform). Historically from the early 1990s this has been a separate and distinct annual meeting and indeed was the premier regional event for Disaster Risk Management until the Platform was established in 2008.

The establishment of the Platform has provided the opportunity for the integration of this important meeting with a range of related DRM interest groups and while SPC/SOPAC recognises the benefits that the interaction affords, it remains committed to providing RDMs with an opportunity for separate discussions on key issues and challenges in DRM and related areas in which the RDMs require support and assistance.

The RDM meeting allows participants the opportunity for open discussions and exchange of ideas with SPC/SOPAC and other partner organisations on different aspects of DRM capacity building. It similarly allows SPC/SOPAC, as the regional body mandated to coordinate DRM capacity building, the opportunity to learn from participants and to focus its work programme to better meet the needs of the group.

The 19th RDM Meeting, in line with the theme, will provide the opportunity for discussions on the progress of DRM initiatives within the Pacific and allow for the identification of key DRM capacity building opportunities.

It is anticipated that discussions will focus largely on the following:

- Progress against the outcomes of the 18th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting
- The range of services and products provided to PICTs by the SPC/SOPAC Disaster Reduction Programme and other partner organisations
- Experiences and lessons learned: NDMO experiences from disaster events in 2012 and 2013
- Progress update: EU EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility
- Joint session with the members of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PICT Met Service Directors)
- Briefing on the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (to be held at the Sofitel Resort & Spa, Denarau, Nadi from 8th - 11th July)

An Agenda for the closed meeting is being circulated separately.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to provide RDMs the opportunity to discuss, with SPC/SOPAC and other organisations, in an informal setting, current challenges and future opportunities for institutional strengthening and capacity building.

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. Provide Disaster Managers with an increased understanding of the DRM services and products available to them from SPC/SOPAC and other partner organisations
2. Facilitate the articulation of PICT priorities for DRM institutional strengthening and capacity building with a particular focus on Disaster Preparedness and Response
3. Strengthen leadership by Disaster Managers of the EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility
4. Ensure ongoing collaboration with PICT Meteorological Services on multi-hazard early warning systems
5. Facilitate the preparation of Disaster Managers for the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable

Format

The meeting will be divided into several different sessions over the course of 2.5 days and will include presentations on various topical issues as well as plenary and group discussions. The meeting will also provide RDMs with a joint session with members of the Pacific Meteorological Council to discuss multi-hazard early warning systems.

Intended Outcomes

- Awareness of the progress in implementing the outcomes of the 18th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting
- Improved understanding of the services and products available to PICTs through SPC/SOPAC and other partner organisations
- Understanding of the progress of preparations for the EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility
- Understanding of PICT experiences and challenges in addressing disaster response to recent events in 2012 and 2013
- Improved preparation for the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable

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