

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management – Concept Note

24-26 October 2016 | Venue: Holiday Inn - Suva, FIJI



Session number and title:

No. 3b: Private Sector Resilience

Date and time: Monday 24 October 1530-1700

Length of session: 1.5 hours

List of Speakers:

- Ms Morkia Hunter – Digicel
- Ms Elenoa Vakabunoya – Vinaka Fiji
- Helene Jacot des Combes (USP)
- Mr Howard Politini – PIPSO (TBC)
- Representative from the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (TBC)

Objectives:

- Highlight the role of the private sector in implementing the FRDP and Sendai Framework
- Discuss the role of private sector as agents of change in relation to resilience building (notably their connectivity with communities and their numerous comparative advantages)
- Showcase some achievements/highlights to date, and tools and training available to businesses
- Identify outstanding needs of the private sector to strengthen their resilience
- Commitments to strengthen resilience of private sector and way forward/actions for the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council on improving resilience of businesses.

Overview

There is a significant opportunity for businesses and government to evaluate how the private sector can contribute to improving resilience in the Pacific region. This session will provide an overview of the global and regional frameworks which underpin the resilient development agenda in the region, and their recommendations on private sector

engagement, and will then outline some of the challenges and opportunities of implementing these recommendations whilst showcasing and highlighting some of the ongoing work in the area.

Background

Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific

The most significant commitment in relation to climate change and disasters for the Pacific Region in recent years is the endorsement of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. It is clear that there is now a universal acknowledgement that addressing climate change and disaster requires a new way of thinking. The FRDP provides a general consensus that these cannot be addressed by a single sector or field, and as such the private sector should play a central role in building resilience and responding to disasters.

The FRDP states that ‘partnering with, and guiding the private sector, for example through incentive schemes, will be critical. Whilst some progress has been made by businesses voluntarily reducing disaster risk, further and comprehensive investment in disaster risk management and business resiliency measures is of paramount importance.’

Sendai Framework

Another significant landmark in relation to climate change and disaster risks was the Sendai Framework which highlights a lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment as an underlying risk driver and calls for business to integrate disaster risk into their management practices. Similarly, it states that addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development.

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