

2nd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, June 2009



Special Event:

Big Ocean, Small Islands - Addressing Disaster Risk in the Pacific Region

9.30am – 1.00pm, Monday 15th June 2009

Venue: Room 16 - Geneva International Conference Centre
17 Rue de Varembe CP 13, CH Geneva

1. Context and Scope

The “Special Event Big Ocean, Small Islands” is envisaged to raise the profile and visibility of the Pacific region at the GP/DRR and to influence the global policy deliberations on disaster risk management. The Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of a wide range of natural hazards and increasingly also to the impacts of climate change. The opportunities for Pacific island representatives to directly shape and contribute to global policy and strategy development are usually limited in view of the region’s isolated geographic position and lack of resources. The special event is thus an opportunity to enhance the voice of the region in the global ISDR system.

The results and recommendations of the Special Event will formally feed into the reports of the respective High-level Panels as well as the Summary of the Chair of the GP/DRR. The Pacific’s DRM priorities and recommendations will heavily draw from the deliberations of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management which convened for the first time in May 2008 in Nadi, Fiji.

The event is structured around the key themes of the Global Platform relevant to the region (see Event Programme below). Presenters will share a spectrum of region and country specific experiences, practices and approaches to DRM, highlight challenges and gaps, and make policy recommendations to be considered at the regional as well as global level.

The event will also facilitate reaching out and engaging new partners in the work of the Pacific DRM community that otherwise cannot be easily accessed.

2. List of Partners Involved

This Special Event is organized by the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) on behalf of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network. The following partners have contributed to the organisation of the event:

- Representatives of the National Disaster Management Offices: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

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- Representatives of Civil Society: Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) and the Tonga Red Cross
- Members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network:
 - SOPAC
 - UNISDR Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific
 - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
 - Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
 - International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Oceania Regional Office (IUCN)
 - Australian Agency for Aid and International Development (AusAID)
 - United Nations Development Programme – Pacific Centre
 - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Pacific (UNOCHA)
 - The Asia Foundation/Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance
 - Fiji School of Medicine

3. Event Programme

The Special Event will be held in a panel discussion format with presentations and plenary discussion on the key themes of the Global Platform relevant in the context of the Pacific.

The programme for the event is as follows:

Time	Agenda	Sponsor
9.30am	Event Opening, Welcome and Objectives	Chair - Ms. Cristelle Pratt, Director SOPAC
9.40am	Presentation: Disaster Risk Management in the Pacific: An overview presentation on Achievements and Challenges <i>Plenary Discussion (5 minutes)</i>	Chair - Ms. Cristelle Pratt, Director SOPAC
10.00am	Presentation: Bridging the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Gap: The Experience of the Cook Islands <i>Plenary Discussion (5 minutes)</i>	Mr. Charles Carlson, Director, Emergency Management Cook Islands
10.30am	Presentation: Resilience of Communities to Natural Hazards in the Pacific: Challenges, Experiences and Way Forward <i>Plenary Discussion (5 minutes)</i>	Dr. Padma Lal, Chief Technical Adviser, IUCN Oceania
11.00am	Presentation: Good Practice in disaster-proofing critical Health and Education services and infrastructure in the Pacific – The Fiji Experience <i>Plenary Discussion (5 minutes)</i>	Mr. Joeli Cawaki Director, National Disaster Management Office, Fiji

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11.30am	Presentation: Strengthening the Recovery Process: The Solomon Islands Experience <i>Plenary Discussion (5 minutes)</i>	Mr. Loti Yates Director, National Disaster Management Office, Solomon Islands
12.00pm	Closing Remarks and Summary of Key Recommendations	Chair - Cristelle Pratt, Director SOPAC

4. Chair, Moderator and Rapporteur

- Chair: Ms. Cristelle Pratt, Director SOPAC
- Moderator: Ms. Angelika Planitz, UNISDR Sub-Regional Officer for the Pacific
- Rapporteur: SOPAC