



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

COPING WITH AND ADAPTING TO OCEAN THREATS FOR RESILIENT SIDS COMMUNITIES

SIDE EVENT

1 SEPTEMBER 2014 – 17.00/18.30

FALEATA SPORTS COMPLEX, ROOM CR1



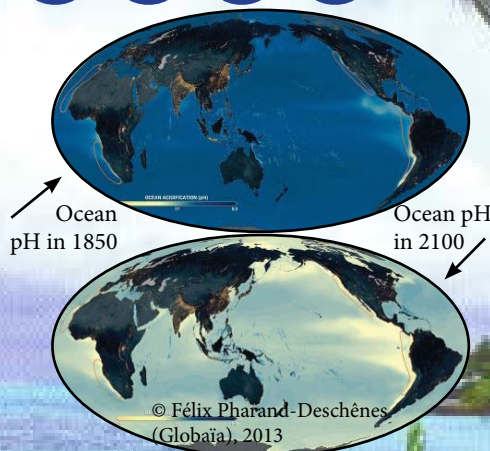
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

With the support of Barbados and Samoa

SIDS are large oceanic states that live in general harmony with the ocean, providing livelihood to communities that reside on the coast where economic and social activities are usually the greatest. SIDS have characteristics which make them especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, **sea-level rise**, extreme events such as **Tsunami**. **Ocean acidification** is also impacting marine ecosystems and the resource base that communities rely on for their livelihoods. Much can be done to reduce disaster risk and threats by proactively reducing communities' exposure and vulnerability to harm. Building on the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and partners, this event will address how science and observation can improve the use of warnings and early warnings system and guide the development of coastal adaptation measures in SIDS, discuss common strategies for reducing vulnerability to these type of risks; and identify mitigation measures that have been successful in protecting people whilst building ecosystem resilience.

Backdrop: Upolu Island, Samoa.
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KEY ISSUES



Increasing SIDS participation in existing sea-level and related ocean observation networks and access to related data products to support decision-making

Translating sea-level data and information into the development of coastal adaptation measures with an emphasis on the capacity development that SIDS require.

Developing an Ocean Acidification Observing Network strategy for the Pacific and possibly for other SIDS region.

Building capacity of SIDS scientists in conducting research on ocean acidification and related ecosystem impact studies and awareness of public and decision makers.

Highlighting the particular challenges faced by SIDS to effectively manage and mitigate the impacts of tsunamis

Underscoring the efforts and activities undertaken at the national and regional level to address these challenges, and point out the way forward for a safer Pacific SIDS.

PROGRAMME OF SIDE EVENT

FALEATA SPORTS COMPLEX, ROOM CR1

17:00 - 17:15 Opening

Honorable Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Taito Dr. Faale Tumaalii, *Minister of Natural Resources and Environment*, Samoa

Ms Irina Bokova, *Director-General*, UNESCO

17:15 - 17:20 Introduction by Facilitator

Wendy Watson-Wright, *Executive Secretary*, IOC

17:20 - 17:40 Theme 1: Coping with and adapting to Sea-Level rise

Netatua Pelesikoti, *Director Climate Change*, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Lorna Inniss, *Coastal Zone Management Unit*, Ministry of Environment, Barbados

Questions/discussions

17:40 - 18:00 Theme 2: Mitigating the impacts of tsunamis

Filomena Nelson, *Chief Disaster Management Officer*, Samoa

Laura Kong, *Director*, International Tsunami Information Center, Hawaii, US

Questions/discussions

18:00 - 18:20 Theme 3: Building capacity for ocean acidification research, observation and awareness

Jan Newton, *Senior principal oceanographer*, University of Washington, USA

Tommy Moore, *Coordinator*, Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS), SPREP

Questions/discussions

18:20 - 18:30 General discussion & Closure

PANELIST PROFILES



Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti from Tonga is the Director of the Climate Change Division at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). She is also a lead author to Chapter 29 on Small Islands in the 5th Assessment Report. A coastal ecologist by profession, Neta has over 20 years worth of experience in climate change, coastal management and disaster risk management.



Dr Lorna Inniss has served as Acting Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit in Barbados for the past two years, having served as Deputy Director for the 10 years. Her research spans topics from innovative coastal resilience measures to coastal climate change adaptation. She chairs the Natural Sciences Committee of the Barbados UNESCO National Commission.



Filomena Nelson is the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Samoa's Disaster Management Office (DMO), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Filomena has continuously contributed to draft and implement Samoa's National Disaster Management Plans, and acted as facilitator in a number of international workshops and trainings.



Dr. Laura Kong has been the Director of the International Tsunami Information Center since 2001, during which time she has been actively involved in IOC's coordination and development of tsunami alert systems. She also serves as the Hawaii State Tsunami Advisor, and as a Chair of the Mitigation and Education Subcommittee of the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.



Dr. Jan Newton is a Principal Oceanographer with the Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington and affiliate faculty with the UW College of the Environment. Jan is the lead author of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) Plan, and serves as Executive Director for the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS).



Dr. Tommy Moore is the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) officer at the Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environmental Programme (SPREP), based in Apia, Samoa, where he also serves as a member of the Pacific Meteorology Desk. His main academic research focus is marine chemistry and biological productivity.

LEAD ORGANISER

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