

# NEWSLETTER I

## Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

**Dear Colleagues,**

This is the first official mail-out regarding the **Type II Initiative** on Pacific Strategies for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Regional Consultation on Sustainable Water Management. In an attempt to ensure that this reaches the widest possible audience, I would appreciate it if you could forward this to colleagues who may also be interested in this initiative.

### INTRODUCTION

The global water community acknowledged the special vulnerability and particular needs of small islands by the inclusion of "**Water in Small Islands Countries**" as a special theme at the 3rd World Water Forum that was held in Kyoto, Japan from 16-23 March 2003. SOPAC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly led this Water in Small Island Countries session as well as its preparations through a regional consultation in the Pacific.

A major outcome of the Pacific regional consultation was the **Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (PRAP)** which details priority actions of the water sector in the region. This action plan, endorsed by 18 countries, 14 at ministerial level, has been incorporated in the Type II Water Initiative and was submitted by the Pacific Island Countries to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in Johannesburg during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August 2002.

You have probably received information on the outcomes of the regional consultation by e-mail and a hardcopy of the Regional Action Plan is currently being distributed to all attendees of Sigatoka and Kyoto. Please find attached a circular on the outcomes of the Water in Small Island Countries session at the 3rd World Water Forum. In addition you can obtain more information from the following website: [www.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd\\_world\\_water\\_forum](http://www.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum).

### THE PACIFIC TYPE II PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

The overall aim of the Pacific Type II Initiatives is to ensure coordination and increased partnerships in meeting the WSSD goals through its Plan of Implementation.

The Pacific has 14 such initiatives and each Initiative has a facilitator - an individual tasked with the role of "facilitating" its progress. The main purpose of the Water initiative is to provide a platform to share information and ensure collaboration among a large number of committed partners to implement the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management.

We therefore have renamed the rather clumsily worded "WSSD Type II Initiative Pacific Strategies for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Regional Consultation on Sustainable Water Management" to the more appropriately titled "**Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management**".

I have been assigned as the Facilitator for this Type II Initiative but by no means does this suggest that the implementation of this initiative lies solely with SOPAC or myself in any way. I am essentially acting in a capacity to facilitate the progression of the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on sustainable water management which originated from the needs expressed by the region for the region. The Type II initiative is attached to this e-mail and the Pacific Regional Action Plan on sustainable water management is available from the SOPAC Secretariat if you have not yet received a copy.

A working group of CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) and NGO representatives has been set up to act as the overall coordinating body of the Pacific Type II Initiatives. Facilitators are asked to report to this Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) group on a regular basis also in the preparations for Barbados +10.

### **INITIATIVE PROGRESS AND ACTIVITIES SINCE JOHANNESBURG**

The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management needs to be implemented at the local, national and regional level, involving different stakeholders in these actions.

Exactly which of the actions get implemented and when, depends on the priorities of the governments as well as donors who have expressed interest in supporting them.

There are several regional actions that have received support by donor organisations since WSSD:

- NZAID will support a programme on hydrological training and integration of climate information (themes 1 and 2 of the PRAP);
- EU has developed a water governance programme, to which SOPAC is in the process of securing funding (theme 5);
- ADB continues to support utilities (theme 4).

In March 2003, the Pacific RAP was advocated strongly at the 3rd World Water Forum, attracting considerable attention from the development and donor community, themselves refocussing and recommitting themselves to sustainable water management. The Pacific, part of a larger SIDS representation, were also able to explore opportunities for collaboration with the other SIDS regions in implementing the actions identified within the Pacific RAP, and obtain further endorsement of specific priority actions for SIDS from the other SIDS regions.

In April 2003, the SDWG group of CROP, requested proposals for consideration at the CSD 11 Meeting in New York. SOPAC submitted six priority actions agreed by small island countries from the Indian Ocean, Caribbean and the Pacific at the World Water Forum, and found within the Regional Action Plan. These proposals included:

water resources management (HYCOS); Water Demand Management; Water Quality and Water Governance.

The above actions were also provided to the Forum Secretariat along with appropriate briefs on the Pacific RAP, to take with the Forum Leaders to the Pacific-Japanese summit (PALM) to be held in May 2003.

Documentation is now being finalised by SOPAC for briefs and proposal submissions to For Sec for consideration by the Forum Organising Committee (FOC) in July 2003, as part of the preparatory work for the Forum Leaders Summit, to be held in August 2003.

### **NEXT STEPS**

We anticipate that much of the future discussion will be through e-mail which encourages an open dialogue. We will continue to actively seek further partnerships and funding to carry the Regional Action Plan forward.

Would you please review the Type II attached to this e-mail, specifically where you have been listed as potential partners. We would like to state that this partnership is open and voluntary and invite you to confirm whether or not you wish to be included in this informal arrangement.

Additionally, if you have any current and proposed regional and national activities relevant to this initiative please let us know. Information on the type of activity, it's funding arrangements, individuals responsible and timeframes would be appreciated. Also if you have comments on this Type II Initiative or would like to make contributions and be further involved please do not hesitate to contact me on the following e-mail: [rhonda@sopac.org](mailto:rhonda@sopac.org).

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Regards,

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