

Hon. Mr. O'Leve Jacobsen

- SOPAC SPEECH -

IWRM and PACIFIC HYCOS
Meeting in Niue
18th - 25th July 2008

Ko e Lilifu he matua fekafekau he Atua.

Palemia Lilifu ha Niue, tau Ikipule, Ekepule/Fakatonu Fono etc..... Tau tui tau Alagavaka ha Niue. Fakalofa Lahi Atua kia mutolu. Tau hukui mai he tau kautu kehekehe he Pasifika, Matakau SOPAC kua hahamo mo e fua e tau fakaholoaga nei. Oue Tulou

Fakaauue ke he lilifu mo e fuluola he kaina mo e fale nei kua foaki fiafia mai he Ekalesia Niue ke lata mae fono mahuiga nei.

I have greeted the building within which your deliberations will take place and with great pleasure warmly greet you individually and collectively especially those who have travelled from afar. SOPAC is an organisation that have served Niue well and wishes to acknowledge the presence of their distinguished leaders.

Mr Mohammed TAWFIK and Mr Lloyd SMITH as they serve the region in their positions of expertise. The works of this organisation will continue to grow and prosper because of the unfailing support through funding provided by EU, GEF and collaborative partners World Meteorological Organisation. Niue with gratitude acknowledges the dedicated service and unmatched contributions, they have showered us abundantly.

A new person on the job, I am mindful and truly grateful for the hard work that has gone before me by the Former Minister and colleague Bill Motufoou.

This Conference is an important part of sharing information with each other about what we have done in our own countries in order we make progress together.

Niue prides itself in taking the lead to role model its commitment to the theme of the Conference but more importantly their commitment to Niue. With caution I say, Don't be complacent. The forces of change in our environment will threaten to destroy our existence and survival. Manage your water resources with wisdom.

The challenge for our region is very real. As we approach what seem like insurmountable problems, there has never been a greater need for commitment and dedication. A concerned effort on everyone's part will ensure our security.

To this end, Have a successful meeting and may your deliberations bare the fruits of your labour.

The IWRM and Pacific HYCOS Meeting is now open.

Kia Monuina.