



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

PMC-7 Agenda Item 14.1

PICI Panel Progress and Updates

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Purpose of the Paper

1. Inform the meeting of the progress and updated work of the Panel and other items since the Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) in August 2023.
2. To seek the Meeting's guidance and invite comments and endorsement of the proposals and recommendations of the PICI Panel.



Objectives

1. Review the Terms of Reference of the Panel and how it organises its work and governance structure
2. Encourage PMC Inter-panel coordination for crosscutting issues and activities
3. Review of the PICI workplan and aligning activities to the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) and national strategic frameworks
4. Develop Strategic framework, roadmap and implementation plan for the PICI Panel



Background

The Pacific Island Communications Infrastructure (PICI) Panel was established to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on matters concerning infrastructure, observations and instrumentation supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings in the Pacific region including advice on resilient and redundant communication infrastructure systems.



Updates

PICI Panel TOR and Membership:



1. Panel meeting regularly and has changed leadership with Leonard Bale replacing Adarsh Kumar (Fiji) as the new Chair and Rosslyn Mitiepo (Niue) as the Vice Chair.
 2. The Panel Reviewed its TOR and made changes to the following;
 - a. Section 3.4 Para (b) to read ‘The PICI Panel Chair and Vice Chair will hold the position for two consecutive PMC meetings and phase the changes of leadership leading up to the next PMC.
- This section was added to reflect the terms for the panel chair and vice chair.
 - a. Section 4.1, names of countries deleted and added ‘PICI Panel core membership is comprised of the PMC-member countries, territories and partners’
 - b. A request for new membership was also tabled at the meeting.



Updates

- Multiple developments relating to encouraging regional compliance with the use of current WMO tools
- PMC country members, donors, partners and the PICI panel members continued to implement and advance the work through programs and projects
 - COSPPAC, CREWS, NOAA, GCF UNEP CIS Pac5, JICA, Meteo-France, UKMO and other projects and programs
- Developed TOR for the Gap Analysis
- National level
 - Installation of backup power supply technologies to supply autonomy to some of the observing stations
 - Increase in number of AWS and AWOS
 - Deployment of spotter buoys
 - Relunched of the Tide Gauge hut
 - Mobile applications



Challenges

Recognise the need for;

- Alignment of workplans with the observing technologies and communication infrastructure goals of regional programmes such as the Weather Ready Pacific Programme.
- Urgent need to develop a Pacific regionalized and standardized approach to observing technologies and communication infrastructure
- Processes for seeking financial and technical support to strengthen the basic and core functions of observations, communications and sustainability of Pacific Islands National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and
- explore options/opportunities, deploy appropriate modes of communications and feedback



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Acknowledge** the contributions from member countries, donors and technical partners who COSPPac, NOAA, CREWS, UNEP CIS Pac5, VanKirap, Weather Ready Pacific, technical partners and all other projects and programs that have contributed to the work of the PICI Panel.
- **Note** the Progress of the PICI panel in collaboration with national, regional and international partners towards strengthening observations and communication infrastructure.
- **Request** the meeting to endorse the revised PICI Panel Terms of Reference (TOR)
- **Request** for the PMC-Panel Chairs to meet and discuss regularly issues arising from the Panel Meetings including co-ordination of other crosscutting issues and activities.
- **Request** the Review of the PICI panel workplan and aligning activities to the Pacific Weather Ready Programme and national strategic frameworks.
- **Request** for the inclusion of the PMC Inter-Panel coordination forum in the WRP Liaison Platform.
- **Recommend** the development of a Pacific Infrastructure and Communication Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan to guide the work of the PICI Panel.