



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

PMC-7 Agenda Item 14.3

Proposed Regional Instrument Centre in Fiji

Harish Pratap. Fiji Met Service



Purpose of the Paper

1. To report on the progress of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) hosting a WMO Regional Instrument Centre (RIC).
2. To outline steps taken towards the establishment of the RIC.



Background

1. Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) has been conducting group training courses on instrument maintenance and calibration for Pacific Island Countries since 2012.
 1. Supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and RIC Tsukuba of Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), including the one jointly funded by JICA and WMO in 2017.
2. PMC-5 endorsed FMS to advance a proposal for a RIC in collaboration with the President and the Management Group of RA V, coordinating with the Commission for Instrument and Methods of Observation (CIMO) and other relevant departments of WMO.
3. At 17th session in 2018, WMO RA V encouraged Fiji to apply for designation as a RIC once it meets the RIC Terms of Reference.
4. Leveraging existing facilities and capabilities, FMS supports NMHSs by providing calibration services and offers calibration training.
5. The hands-on calibration training has enhanced observation quality and improved the traceability of measurements across the region.



Progress

1. Efforts to meet WMO RIC and ISO17025 requirements are ongoing, with additional technical and financial support being explored by JICA in collaboration with RIC Tsukuba - JMA.
2. Fiji Met Service and JICA, in collaboration with the RIC Tsukuba – JMA, conducted a training course on instrument maintenance and calibration for PICs in October/November 2023.
3. JICA will initiate a three and a half year technical cooperation project with Fiji Met Service starting October 2024..
4. JICA, FMS, and the Ministry are in the process of finalising
 - i. Signing of Minutes of Discussions for activities to be undertaken by FMS.
 - ii. Agreement on the building plan and design, with equipment provision which is planned to be completed by 2027.
 - iii. The JICA preparatory survey team visited Fiji three times to address all pending issues related to the facility and equipment for RIC.
 - iv. RIC Melbourne – BoM also accommodated visit of FMS and JICA survey team and provided advice for RIC in December 2023.



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Acknowledge** the support from the government of Japan through JICA.
- **Note** the ongoing efforts by Fiji Met Service, NIWA, JICA, Australia (BoM), and other partners to provide instrumentation and calibration services and capacity development training to the region and to FMS.
- **Request** additional technical and financial support for FMS to enhance its technical capacities and systems to meet WMO RIC criteria and ISO standards (ISO/IEC 17025; 17) and acquire competency certification in order for accreditation as a WMO Regional Instrumentation Calibration Centre (RIC).
- **Request** WRP to include RIC assistance in regards to attaining ISO 17025 certification activities.