



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

"AT THE FRONTLINE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER, AND OCEAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC"

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"At the Frontline of Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Action in the Pacific"

17-19 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon-Vanuatu Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda Item 14.1: PICI Panel Progress and Updates

Purpose:

1. Inform the meeting of the progress to date of the Panel's work 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 (TOR) 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 the PICI workplan and aligning activities to the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) and national strategic frameworks.
4. Develop a Strategic framework, roadmap and an implementation plan for the PICI Panel.

Background:

The Pacific Island Communications Infrastructure (PICI) Panel is established to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on matters concerning the 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 advise on resilient and redundant communication infrastructure systems.

The purpose of the PICI Panel is to provide technical advice and coordinate the implementation of activities recommended by the PMC and related to:

- a. infrastructure supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings.



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- b. identifying priorities and coordinate work related to planning and implementation of communications facilities and equipment.

PICI Panel TOR and Membership:

1. Since the last PMC-6, the PICI Panel has met four (4) times both virtually and face to face and has changed leadership with Leonard Bale replacing Adarsh Kumar (Fiji) as the new Chair and Rossylynn Mitiepo (Niue) as the Vice Chair.
2. The Panel Reviews 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.

- b. Section 4.1, names of countries deleted and added 'PICI Panel core membership is comprised of the PMC-member countries, territories and partners'.
- c. A request for new membership was also tabled at the meeting by media, Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Limited (PBCL).

Progress and update:

1. Since 2023, there has been numerous developments relating to current compliance for the region using WMO tools. These include work implemented through GBON Implementation and Compliance monitoring, WMO Integrated System 2.0 (WIS2.0), WIGOS, Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) and other activities.
2. PMC country members, donors' partners and the PICI panel continued to implement and advance the work of the panel through national and regional activities supported by CREWS, NOAA, COSPPac and the GCF UNEP CIS-Pac5 in addressing infrastructure, compliance and preliminary inventory of current infrastructure, capacity development training, operations and maintenance.
3. The PICI Panel recognised the need to review its workplan and align closely to programs that are of similarity like the Weather Ready Pacific Programme in relation to observing technologies and communication infrastructure and would need to work closely moving forward.



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4. The Panel setup a taskforce and met three (3) times to develop a Terms of reference for the ICT Gap Analysis that was recommended at PMC-6.
5. The existing and growing investments and development in the Pacific hydro-meteorological infrastructure space calls for an urgent need to further develop a Pacific regionalized standardized approach for observing technologies and communication infrastructure aligned with initiatives, such as the Weather Ready Pacific Programme. In addition, to conduct a current and time-bound ICT survey of communication systems, where they are operational, and the standards they meet.
6. The Panel recognized the need to facilitate 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, and ensure alignment with other related regional plans and frameworks on communication technology infrastructure.
7. Inclusion of mass communication platforms in relation to Early Warning messaging, communication redundancy and the need to work with Communication (Media) forums at the region and national level to coordinate and address some of the challenges facing NMHSs.
8. The Panel discussed emerging opportunities such as the Regional WIGOS Center, SOFF, Pacific Regional Calibration center and other regional facilities that needs to be aligned to the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and ensure consideration of issues such as benefit sharing, coordination spare parts, compatibility, documentation, equipment, and resilient and redundant communication systems and technical solutions.
9. In the last 12 months, the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) training was held in Vanuatu focussing on the practical aspects of the CAP implementation, operation and management within respective states.
10. SOFF Gap Analyses, SOFF Contribution Plans and Country Hydromet Diagnostic Reports were developed for some of the Pacific NMHS as part of the global efforts to supporting countries in achieving compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) requirements



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11. The Panel at its fourth meeting were updated by Fiji Meteorological Services on progress made to establish the Regional WIGOS Center as well as the Regional Instrument Calibration Center.
12. In addition, the meeting was also informed of the planned installation of observing technologies and ICT Infrastructure through existing projects such as UNEP CIS-Pac5.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- Acknowledge the contributions from COSPPac , NOAA, CREWS, UNEP CIS-Pac5, VanKirap, Weather Ready Pacific, technical partners and all other projects and programs that have contributed to implementing 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 for the PMC-Panel Chairs to meet regularly and discuss issues arising from the Panel Meetings including other crosscutting issues and activities, and is encouraged to do so before the next session of the PMC.
- Request the Review of the PICI panel workplan and aligning activities to the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and national strategic frameworks, and is encouraged to do so before the next session of the PMC.
- 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.

Att.1 PICI Panel Updated TOR

Att.2 PICI Panel Workplan

Att.3 PICI Panel List of Members