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## Climate Change and Disaster Joint Platform

2 November 2016



*Platform audience. PC: Tessa Tafua*

The purpose of the 2016 Platform was to bring together the Disaster Management Office's stakeholders and partners to discuss and identify where they are in terms of progress on fostering and promoting knowledge and practical approaches to mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). In addition, it was an opportunity for the selected speakers to bring to view their efforts towards aligning the recent global and regional advancements in DRM and CCA with the SDS and sector strategies.

The theme of the platform was "be prepared to be spared" and the main objectives were:

- To review global and regional trends and consider how they shape DRM and CCA in Samoa;
- To 'prepare to be spared' by strengthening partnerships between government sector co-ordinators, including DMO;
- To identify ways for the sectors to advance the theme of 'Prepare to be spared' and the strategies, plans, policies and implementation frameworks to take us forward to 2020;
- To showcase progress within selected government sectors in mainstreaming DRM and CCA
- To improve programming for mainstreaming of DRM and CCA, including capacity to monitor and evaluate results and build a portfolio of lessons learned from the 'real-life' experiences of development partners;
- To foster inter-generational awareness and knowledge sharing about the importance of 'being prepared to be spared'.

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There were two main sessions of the day; the first session focused on the national level approaches to mainstreaming of DRM and CCA and highlighting Samoa's 'home-grown' approach to advancing sustainability and resilience for all Samoans. The second session being the sharing of lessons learned were the theme of these discussions, led by government Ministries, community and as well as the private sector partners.

# First Aid Competition

In a parallel even for the 2016 Platform Day the Ministry together with the assistance of the Disaster Response Agencies held a first aid competition between selected villages. The focus of the competition was to hold a platform whereby communities (villages) that were trained under the CDCRM program can display their skills and knowledge in the application of the first aid during various emergency scenarios during a tsunami disaster. It was also an opportunity for the communities to interact with each other and gain more knowledge from each other as well as from the directions and advice of the Response Agencies.

The selected villages were Laulii, Leauvaa and Letogo from Upolu while Lefagaoalii and Satufia represented Savaii. The DMO and Samoa Red Cross Society formulated a Disaster Plan whereby 6 scenarios were derived from a Tsunami experience for the villages to equally compete in.

The following are the scenarios and details:

| Scenario | Condition                        | Time       |
|----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1        | Unconscious and not breathing    | 10 minutes |
| 2        | Drowning                         | 10 minutes |
| 3        | Bleeding and shocking            | 10 minutes |
| 4        | Open fracture and embedded wound | 10 minutes |
| 5        | Spinal injury                    | 10 minutes |
| 6        | Psychological support            | 10 minutes |

Each village was required to provide one team of eight (8) persons to compete. The teams then were required to start from a chosen scenario and then rotate to others until all six scenarios were completed. The team were judged on how they carried out the tasks in accordance to the DRSABC action plan for first aid.

Each team received prizes in the form of first aid kits, safety vests and hats, emergency grab bags with battery-less radios. Only the top three teams received plaques for their respective positions.

The overall results were as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Runner up: Laulii
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner up: Leauvaa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up: Satufia
- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner up: Lefagaoalii
- OVERALL WINNER: Letogo



*The competing teams, facilitators and evaluators of the competition*

# School Poster Competition

A Resource Kit Theme and Icon-School Poster Competition that targeted Early Childhood and Primary schools were organized to reflect the overall Disaster Preparedness Day theme, 'Be Prepared to Be Spared'. The ultimate goal of the competition was to get Samoa's younger generations realize and appreciate the importance of Preparations in the context of DRM. The young minds are the most open to new and innovative ideas thus need to be trained and made aware of certain basic principles that would not only save their lives but also being future citizens they play an important role towards building resilience of the nation.

5 Primary Schools and 5 Early Childhood Schools were particularly invited to participate and compete. It was a great medium of exposure for not only the competing schools but for the students themselves whereby the students were given the opportunity to utilize and showcase their natural talents and gifts in artwork.

The winning theme and Icon is designed to model the Schools Emergency Resource Kits.

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The Top 5 Schools for the Pre-Schools Competition were:

| Rankings              | Primary Schools  | Early-Childhood   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Overall Winner        | Marlene Lameta<br>(St Mary's Primary School)                         | Selaia Kelemeke<br>(Moataa Pre-School)  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Pekina Maualaivao<br>(St Mary's Primary School)                      | Anonymous (Faleasiu Pre-School)   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Salavalu Brown (St Mary's Primary School)                            | Tiara Elielia Victoria<br>(Moataa Pre School)                                     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Place | Finau Ott, Aron Rasch, Nathan Levi, Tuga Kerslake<br>(Samoa Primary) | Jiteh Faasoa, Werner Vaifale, Panapa Mareko, Lusua Avau, Miriama Maualaivao (Holy |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Place | Poto Isitolo (St Mary's School)                                      | Trinity Pinati (Sogi Pre School)  |

a brief presentation on the overall Status Samoa's preparation when in the event of a Tsunami. In all, the Summit outcome was in the form of the *Kuroshio Declaration* to encourage the students to commit to actions as World Tsunami Awareness Day Youth Ambassadors.



*Youth Summit participants*

## Disaster Preparedness Outreach at Leauvaa Primary School

Raising Awareness and Information sharing around Disaster Preparedness and Resilience is everybody's responsibility. This was the focus of an outreach programme for Leauvaa Primary School, on the 08<sup>th</sup> of November, upon receipt of a special request conveyed by the Leauvaa village school committee. The Disaster Management Office was accompanied and supported by the Meteorology Division to deliver presentations on the importance of 'being prepared and resilient' in terms of having a School Disaster Management plan in place and the importance of being 'well-informed' of potential geo-hazards and their impacts, respectively.

The young minds are the most open to new ideas thus need to be trained and made aware of certain basic principles that would not only save their lives but also being future citizens, they play an important role towards building the resilience of a nation. It was a programme that was immensely supported by the staff and students of Leauvaa PS who saw, heard and acknowledged the value of being well informed and well prepared at all costs regardless of age in order to protect and saves lives, hence contributing to resilience building.

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## Samoan Youth Ambassadors for World Tsunami Awareness Day 22—29 November, 2016

The Government of Japan organized a High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day from 22 to 29 November 2016 in Japan to commemorate the establishment of World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November at the UN General Assembly. A total of 30 countries were invited to participate in the Summit as Youth Ambassadors and Samoa was one of the invited countries to take part in this prestigious event. The purpose of the program was to enhance understanding and awareness of potential future leaders who will be responsible for mitigating the effects of earthquakes and tsunamis and building national resilience.

As part of the preparations for the Summit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade invited the Disaster Management Office to meet with the selected preventatives from Aleipata College and to deliver



Raising awareness on DRM is critical and to ensure that the message gets across, the Education Sector is a fast and effective medium to have it done through these young minds that are always open to new and innovative ideas. DRM Outreach programmes for all schools will always be an ongoing initiative welcomed by DMO.



*Students of Leauvaa Primary School*



*Katie Pogi from Meteorological Services presenting*

## **AIIMS training targets Response Agencies**

The Disaster Management Office in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades conducted a two day course from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of November to Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 primarily targeting the response Agencies. The Training Course titled “AIIMS – Australian Inter-Agency Incidental Management System” was divided into a two days course ; Course 1 (Day 1 & 2) focused on “Training the trainers” targeting the senior level officers on how to effectively deliver and implement

incident management systems using the Australian Interagency Incident Management System approach. Course 2 (Day 3 & 4) on the other hand, targeted the staff in general which looked at enabling them to be well equipped with managing incidents in a systematic way which thus allows for individuals to work effectively in an event of a disaster.

The DMO intends that the introduction of AIIMS in Samoa will bring about a more robust incident management system that will allow the integration of activities and resources of multiple agencies to be more resourceful and manageable when applied to the resolution of any emergency situation.

## **Exercise Writing and Management Course**

The NZ Ministry of Civil Defense & Emergency Management (MCDEM) together with the Disaster Management Office (DMO) held a workshop on 5 - 6 December at the TATTE building focusing on skills in developing simulation exercises for response agencies.

This exercise writing and management course was developed to build and maintain national consistency and quality standards for Emergency Management exercise development in Samoa. With the upcoming Pacific Wave exercise in early 2017, the course came at a time where there is a need to upskill agencies in exercise writing and management, particularly government agencies and NGO's who will conduct in house exercises in the future.

Delivered by Jo Guard and Peter Cameron of the NZ MCDEM, this course gave the participants a chance to actively develop their own exercises manual and increase their understanding of the planning and logistics as well as the coordination that is needed for any emergency management exercise to be successful.

## **Logistics Training Needs Assessment Training**

The first initial workshop for the Regional Logistic Cluster held in Suva Fiji early in 2016 determined 7 main areas of strategic engagement and capacity building in 5 priority Pacific Island Countries (PIC) (Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and the Solomon Islands). One of these strategies was to apply a training needs assessment (TNA) to develop and implement logistics training for the priority PICs.

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On December 20th, the World Food Programme (leading UN agency in the Logistic Cluster) with assistance from DMO organized and facilitated a half day workshop in Apia where associated government agencies, NGO and interested private sector organizations engaged to develop an emergency logistics framework for Samoa.

Major objectives of the workshop were as follow:

- Identifying of emergency logistics strengths and gaps,
- Determining the emergency logistics training needs of organizations and individuals,
- Discussing the methodology to review the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA),
- Explaining the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for logistics,
- Provide an overview of the need for a logistics concept of operations.

Local agencies part taking in this very significant workshop were; CARITAS Samoa, Samoa Red Cross, Ministry of Finance, Audit Office, Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development, Samoa Airport Authority (SAA), Samoa Ports Authority (SPA) and Ministry of Health.

## Pacific Resilience Program (PREP)

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are also among the most physically vulnerable nations in the world. Disasters, climate and weather extremes and projected changes in climate, are increasingly recognized as a core development challenge, which adversely impact social and economic development.

Pacific Resilience Program (PREP) Implementation Phase 1 to be implemented over five (5) years from October 2015, was launched in June 2016 overarching aim, to strive strengthen early warning systems, contribute to resilient investments and the financial protection of participating Small Island Countries (SIC) namely: Samoa, Tonga, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

PREP aims to contribute to the resilient and sustainable economic and social development of the participating countries and of the region as a whole. The program is aligned with the strategic documents and frameworks that identify needs and priorities to respond to the extreme vulnerability to the effects of climate change and natural hazards with respect to each country Governments, the World Bank

and the region. The PREP also focusses on regional level interventions that are supported by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) responsible for the overall support coordination of the PREP and the Secretariat Pacific Community (SPC) housing the newly set-up Pacific Support Unit (PSU) providing technical support to SIC.

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa and the World Bank are the co-financier of the Pacific Resilience Program (PREP) for Samoa. PREP implementation agenda advocates long-term resilience however should a natural disaster occur during this phase, a Contingency Emergency Response Component has been built-in to the program that aligns with the Disaster Management Divisional promotion to 'Plan,' 'Prepare,' and 'Protect' for a natural disaster.

PREP component 1 and 2 is an inclusive program, cutting across all genders and youth within a community with the aim to empower, assist improve preparedness and resilience of Samoa in dealing with natural disaster event, aftermath injuries or casualties, activities that may reduce the likelihood of damages to valuable assets and also economic losses. The component activities permits adequate provision for the necessary ongoing Operational and Maintenance (O&M) requirements to ensure the sustainability of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).

While component 3 will provide immediate, yet limited post-disaster support to help Samoa and the region as a whole to improve post-disaster financial response capacity. Component 4 will strengthen the GoS's capacity for project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

**IA MALUPUIPUA LOU AIGA**  
**PLAN**  
**PREPARE**  
**PROTECT**  
**KEEP YOUR AIGA SAFE**



Ministry of Civil Defence  
& Emergency Management  
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru



## NEW RECRUITS



**Meresaini Siaosi-Laulua**

Ms. Meresaini Siaosi-Laulua started working for the Ministry through the Disaster Management Office as the Project Manager for the Pacific Resilience Project funded by the World Bank in late October 2016.

She is a civil and environmental engineer by profession, a member of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA), Institute of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) and Women In Engineering New Zealand (WIE).

She worked for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for 9 years and 3 years for Auckland Transport in New Zealand. She has more than 10 years of experience in complex civil and environmental project management including the road widening of the Vaitele Street from Loto Samasoni to Lepea Bridge to name a few.



**Stuart Brown**

Mr. Stuart Brown is the Australian Civilian Corp for the six months commencing on 24 November 2016 to the 30 June 2017. Mr. Brown is an engineer by profession and has over 20 years' of experience in civil/environmental engineering, disaster risk management and planning, infrastructure program development, project management. He has worked in North East China for the Heilongjiang Coal Rich Cities Redevelopment Project, the Typhoon Haiyan Post Reconstruction Program as the Regional Infrastructure Advisor, Project Environmen-

tal and Regulatory Manager for PNG LNG Hides Gas Plant construction Project for Exxonmobil, and Principal Environmental Engineer for KBR across the Asia Pacific Region and South Asia.

Mr. Brown is being deployed to work in the DMO to assist with the development of Samoa's national multi-hazard risk assessment standard including a multi-hazard exposure and risk assessment matrix, comprehensive hazard and vulnerability mapping and a training guide for implementation and integration of the standard. His experience, level of expertise and contribution to the development of this standard will help achieve one of the key outputs of the Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan 2017-2021.

**Disaster Management Office - Samoa**

**PLAN**  
ahead for emergencies

**PREPARE**  
your essential emergency items

**PROTECT**  
your family during an emergency

**5 Steps to a safe AIGA**

1. Have an emergency plan for disasters
2. Prepare an emergency grab bag
3. Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes
4. Tune in, stay informed
5. Get everyone involved

**Essential emergency items**

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Important documents    |
| Drinking water         |
| Canned & dried food    |
| Essential Medicine     |
| First Aid Kit          |
| Torch & Portable radio |
| Spare batteries        |
| Extra clothing         |

**IA MALUPUIPUA LOU AIGA**

**PLAN**

**PREPARE**

**PROTECT**

**KEEP YOUR AIGA SAFE**

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