Upcoming Events

26-30 Oct, 2009
International Network for Small Community Water Supply Management, Saint Lucia

19-22 Aug 2009
International conference on Rainwater Harvesting & Management, University of Tokyo, Japan

4-6 Nov 2009
Workshop on Developing on Draft Philippine National Sewerage and Septage Management Program, Manila, Philippines

27 Apr – 01 May, 2009
Workshop on Developing Water and Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines, Selangor, Malaysia

2nd June, 2009
Stakeholder Consultations Workshop on Improving Water Governance, Singapore

13-14 July, 2009
Non-pacific IWRM Workshop, East-West Centre, Honolulu, United States

19-22 Aug 2009
Launch of Knowledge Hub on Water Quality Management in River Basins, Incheon and Daejeon, Korea

25th - 26th Feb 2010
Signing of contracts for Patamea & Vaiaata - Independent Water Scheme & site visit with contractors and supervisors

25-26 Nov 09
International Water Sector Support Programme

2-30 Mar 2010
“Water and Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines, Selangor, Malaysia

7-11 Sept, 2009
Workshop of the Center for River Basin Organizations and Management, Solo City, Indonesia

20th Jan 2010
Launch of Rehabilitation & upgrade of Independent Water Scheme - Matautu (Savaii)

29th - 30th Jan 2010
Oriented Monitoring Visit for the EU funded Water Sector Support Programme - Mr. Robert Canessa

13-14 July 09
Asia Pacific Regional Young Water Professionals Conference, Beijing, China

19-22 Aug 2009
Global Water Partnership, Toronto, Canada

26-28 May, 2009
International conference on Rainwater Harvesting & Management, University of Tokyo, Japan

1-3 Sep 2009
International Conference on Remote Sensing and GIS for Water Management, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2nd June, 2009
Stakeholder Consultations Workshop on Improving Water Governance, Singapore

For more information, contact

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Message from the JWSSC

Your last words of advice for Samoa’s Water Sector?

With budget support coming on line in the next six months, preparations for the water sector budget should already be in full swing (…). I would suggest that sufficient provisions are made for capacity building and not that all attention goes to creating new infrastructure as sustainability is far more important than the absorption of funds. Furthermore, on the national level, it would be useful to see a continued and improved cooperation and coordination, including the free exchange of data and information. Surely there are clear differences between ministerial and regulatory functions and functions of service providers, but as long as the objectives and targets are jointly agreed, the next thing to do is to look for win-win situations, of which I am sure there are even so many. On the international level, I would suggest that Samoa carefully listens to what international financing agencies and consultants have to say, but that it decides as much as possible on its own behalf. Nobody will ever understand the Samoan realities better that the Samoans themselves and the Sector Wide Approach for the water sector will only be successful if the Samoan Government is in the driving seat through the JWSSC supported by the WSMU.

What are some of the things you will miss about Samoa?

Since working in Samoa?

What were some of the challenges that I did manage to overcome, there are a few that I have, until my last day in Samoa, not been able to fully deal with. First of all, I found it difficult when people unexpectedly would not be in the office, either because of an overseas conference or training or an in-prinicipo local field trip with or without overnight stay. When the possibility would arise to get out of the office, the opportunity was more often than not happily and immediately taken, irrespective of earlier planned and activities. Secondly, the many times I would enquire and express my concern about something, no effort would be spared to assure me that everything was all right, that there was no reason to be worried. Unfortunately, as I found out, this did not prove to be always correct, leaving me wondering why I as long-term and highly paid palagi expert, whose sole purpose was to help, would not be consulted. 

What is your general opinion on the progress of the Water Sector so far and what more do you see skill needs for Samoa’s Water Sector?

Apart from the challenges that I did manage to overcome, there are a few that I have, until my last day in Samoa, not been able to fully deal with. First of all, I found it difficult when people unexpectedly would not be in the office, either because of an overseas conference or training or an in-prinicipo local field trip with or without overnight stay. When the possibility would arise to get out of the office, the opportunity was more often than not happily and immediately taken, irrespective of earlier planned and activities. Secondly, the many times I would enquire and express my concern about something, no effort would be spared to assure me that everything was all right, that there was no reason to be worried. Unfortunately, as I found out, this did not prove to be always correct, leaving me wondering why I as long-term and highly paid palagi expert, whose sole purpose was to help, would not be consulted. 

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The tremendous efforts of the water sector stakeholders in the preparation of the Water for Life document, culminating in the approval by the JWSSC and CDE have undoubtedly been a few of the main achievements during my stay in Samoa. The subsequent formulation of the different policies on water services, sanitation and the water resources has also been great strides forwards in establishing a solid framework for the water sector. Similarly, the establishment of the Independent Water Supply Schemes Association has been a major achievement, and with the recognition of Government, it has both a promising and a challenging future ahead of it. I am also particularly proud of the JWSSC and the WSMU who have matured so far and are now recognized as permanent structures rather than project related organisations to manage Samoa’s water sector.

International Events

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Pacific and European Union Cooperation and Relations updates

The flow to budget aid:

Samoa is in line to be one of the first Pacific countries where EC aid will be channeled directly to the government’s budget, specifically the water and sanitation sector where the EC has already allocated budgetary aid for the current programme. The flow of budget support is now envisaged as an expansion of the ‘Water for Life: Sector Plan and Framework for Action’ and the ‘National Water Resource Management Strategy 2007-2017’.

The EC has become the lead donor in the water and sanitation sector. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also providing finance. The 8th EDF (1995-2000) funded a Rural Water Supply Project (RWSP); a mix of water infrastructure and was followed by the 9th EDF’s €20.1 M Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) where funds were used for construction of pre-fabricated water storage facilities, installation of chlorination plants and for the rehabilitation of distribution systems to connect household and public sanitation services to both schemes of the Samoa Water Authority (SWA) and those run by independent communities which currently supply 15 percent of the country’s population.

The next logical step is to give increased ownership to the government, and to root the sector in a favourable public finance management and macroeconomic environment through budget support”, explains Thomas Opperrer, Head of the EC’s Office in Samoa. The 9th EDF (2000-2007) paved the way for the transition from a project to sector approaches which will also target EDF’s institutional cooperation, improved planning and water resource management whilst continuing to fund infrastructure for water and sanitation schemes run by both the SWA and independent communities, says Nick Roberts, and EC-funded technical expert working in Samoa’s Ministry of Finance. Naomi Simi, Samoa’s Deputy National Authorising Officer who manages donor projects says that the running of the 9th EDF programme ahead of budget aid had “made us look in depth at our own public management systems”.

The institutional framework in the sector has been established under national leadership supported by the 9th EDF Programme. The Joint Water Sector Steering Committee involves government, civil society, service providers and development partners. It guides and coordinates sector development effectively and is the engine of Samoa’s integration approach towards water resource management as well as capacity building for all implementing agencies including the independent water schemes associations.

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Civil society’s key role:

The 10th EDF’s €3M four-year Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), due to get off the ground in 2010, will build on others finance by the EC since 1995, backing small income generating and social projects run by community-based organizations and NGOs. In an interview, Deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni told us that he sees such income-generating micro-projects as one of the country’s priorities for economic development. They work particularly well in Samoa where there is a strong sense of community.

According to a 2002 household survey, 7.6 percent of Samoans live below the food poverty line and 20.3 percent below the basic needs poverty line, lacking access to employment opportunities and basic services such as education.

Under previous EDFs, the recipients of EC funds contributed 25 percent of the total cost of income-generating projects and for social projects, 10 percent. At the time of going to press, finishing touches were being put to the outline of the new four-year 10th EDF CSSP programme which is also expected to permit contributions in kind from recipients such as building materials or labour, as well as cash. The new CSSP also aims to strengthen the management and business orientation of recipients as well as assisting dialogue of NGOs with government and networking.

Other donors who have pledged funds to the CSSP are: NZAID €950,000.00, (New Zealand), and AUSAID €1.41M (Australian) and the GEF Small Grant Scheme €380,000 (Global Environment Facility). D.P.

Report on the environmental integration including climate change in EC Development co-operation seminar, Fiji, 26th – 29th October 2009

Course title: Environmental Integration including Climate Change in EC Development Co-Operation

I. Course Objectives:

The aim of the seminar is to integrate or mainstream environmental (including climate change-related) issues into support build-up and support project development. The main objectives of the seminar include:

- To identify how the environment relates to your work/sector of activity.
- Overview of the main environmental integration tools (in the cycle of operation) and Know how to access further support.

II. Course Coverage:

- We started off with the definition of what ‘mainstreaming’ meant and in this seminar we specifically looked at the environmental aspects and how this is mainstreamed into the EC Development Co-operation. 
- The process of systematically integrating a value/idea/theme into all domains of EC development co-operation.
- In this seminar, the “selected value/idea/theme” became the Environment including Climate Change-related issues being integrated into EC’s DC.

Why Integrate the Environment?

It is important to integrate Environment because of:

1. The links between environment and poverty (2). The links with human development, economic activity, health, peace and security, vulnerability etc. (3). Its importance for the sustainable development of partner countries and (4). By addressing environmental issues through environmental projects only is not enough!

Sectors with Direct and Indirect Impacts (on Environment and CC), Sectors with Direct Impacts: Trade, Macro-economic reforms, Institutional strengthening, Social Programs. All these sectors whether having direct or indirect impacts on the environment are also interlinked to each other in some way or the other. Tools for Integra-
ing Environment into Development Programs:

- This training program introduced the tools used in EC development cooperation to ensure support to climate change is mainstreamed into all stages of development cooperation programmes.
- The main tools that are used are guidelines and tools or programmes to decide whether further more detailed assessments need to be undertaken. Projects with significant potential impacts on the environment and/or implications of climate – full environmental impact assessment (EIA) should be undertaken. This has become standard practice in most countries.
- For programmes and policies the EU is now introducing strategic environmental assessments (SEA), which allow an early review of potential negative impacts and the opportunity to make adjustments at the sector planning stage. This is a relatively new approach which will shortly be introduced as a requirement for EU projects. There is currently draft guidelines for integration of environmental issues in development programmes, which are due to be formally approved. In future project/programme proposals will be required to follow these guidelines and the proposal documentation will require a summary of the findings from the environment/climate change screening process at the identification stage.

III. Findings and Recommendations:

- We found that the course was useful in ways that we also discovered that there were some tools/requirements that EU had used before and which are used by our country such as the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Climate Risks Assessments, Environment Management Plan, Ex Post EIA’s amongst other Assessments. We would recommend extensive reading and updating on our knowledge base of EU procedure and process as they tend to change/amend/update on their policies every now and then without necessarily notifying partner countries (Handbook into the recent Guidelines – Draft) (external capacity building issue). (3). It is also recommended to arrange additional spaces for senior staff that are involved in EDF’s €20.1 M Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) to the NAO for the staff that are involved in EDF’s €20.1 M Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) as well as the outline of the new four-year 10th EDF CSSP programme which is also expected to permit contributions in kind from recipients such as building materials or labour, as well as cash. The new CSSP also aims to strengthen the management and business orientation of recipients as well as assisting dialogue of NGOs with government and networking.

Mr. Nicolas Roberts: TA to NAO, MoF, Ms Lita I’amafana:Principal Officer, Aid Coordination & Loans Management Division, Mr Mataia Mataia: WASSP Programme Manager & Deputy Coordinator, Water Sector Support Management Unit, MoF

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