



Second Announcement



3rd Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

1st – 5th August 2011 Auckland, New Zealand

Hosted by the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management

*“Working together to protect Pacific communities from the risks posed
by natural and climate related hazards.”*



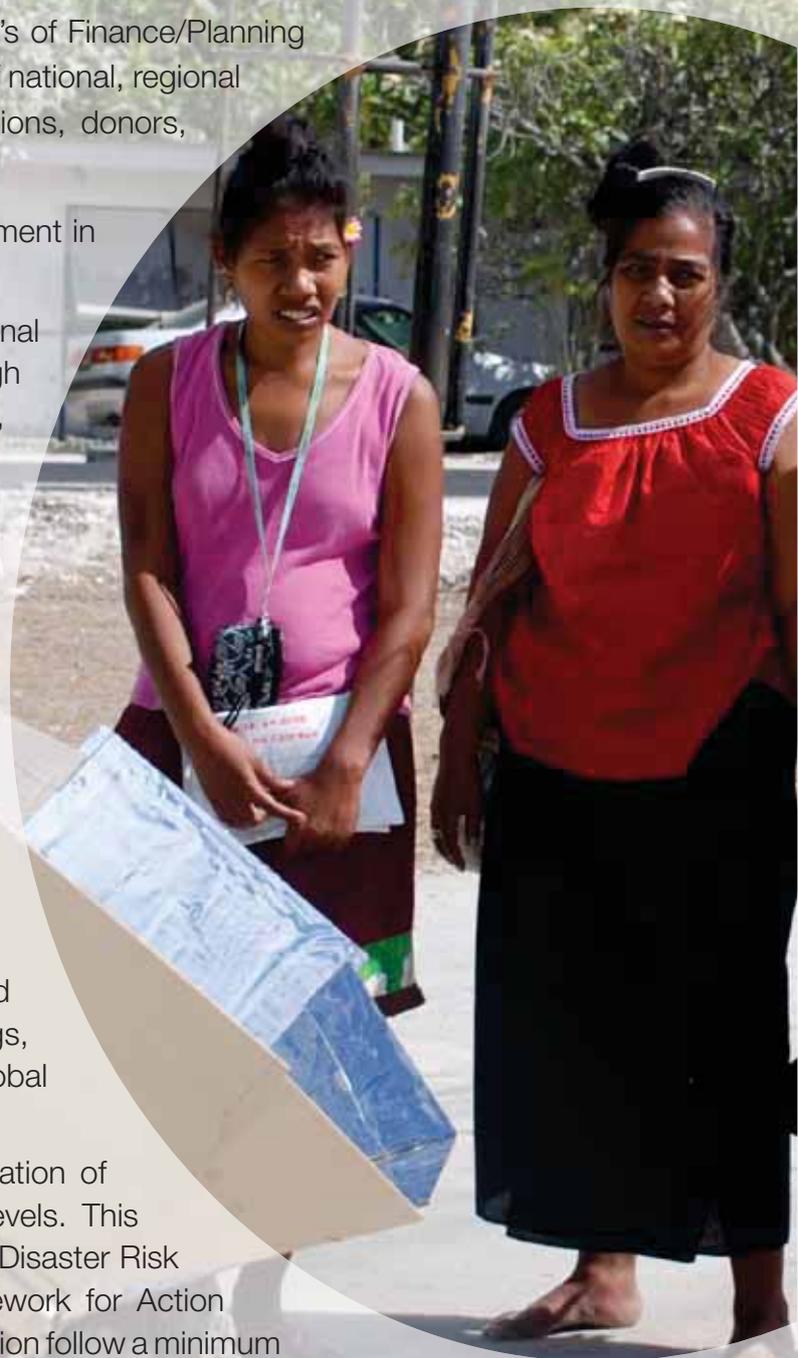
Introduction

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2011 (Platform) is an opportunity for the sharing of experiences and knowledge in relation to initiatives that are being implemented by Pacific island countries and territories to strengthen resilience to disasters.

The Platform will bring together disaster managers of 22 Pacific island countries and territories, chief executive officers of Ministry's of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management, and representatives of national, regional and international development partner organisations, donors, civil society and the private sector.

The functions of the Platform as per its establishment in 2008 are to:

1. Strengthen coherence and coordination of regional disaster risk management support through joint initiatives and joint work programming, especially in relation to National Action Plans.
2. Exchange information and lessons learned in key thematic and technical areas that have formed for DRM such as Climate Change Adaptation, education, safer hospitals and early warning.
3. Influence and establish policy through advocacy and informed dialogue by recognising and realising the essential links between science and technical levels to the political and policy level. This will contribute to the setting of regional DRM priorities and policy and, establishing linkages between it and National Platforms, various regional meetings, inter-governmental processes, and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
4. Improve reporting and monitoring and evaluation of progress in DRM at regional and national levels. This will ensure that implementation of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and the Hyogo Framework for Action follow a minimum set of indicators and benchmarks and will allow an accurate gauge of progress against the objectives set under the regional and global frameworks, respectively.



Purpose, Objectives and Focus in 2011

A range of daunting challenges face Pacific island countries and territories in terms of improving preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters and as well in terms of mitigating the potential impacts. The Platform provides an opportunity to build capacity to deal more effectively and efficiently with these challenges.

Purpose

In sharing experiences, issues and challenges facing the Pacific in terms of its vulnerability to the impacts of disasters posed by a range of natural hazards, the 2011 Pacific Platform for DRM will consider and endorse a 'roadmap' for the integration of the current and separate regional policy frameworks for disaster risk management and climate change

Objectives

The specific objectives of the 2011 Platform are:

1. To galvanise the leadership and support of CEOs for mainstreaming disaster risk considerations into national planning and budgetary processes
2. To strengthen the regional DRM partnerships by establishing stronger linkages between representatives of Pacific island countries and territories with partner organisations
3. To examine progress in DRM in the Pacific and globally in the period 2009 – 2011
4. To endorse a 'roadmap' for the integration of the regional policy frameworks for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in 2016



Focus

The strengthening of this community of support will be centred on a range of topical issues/presentations such as:

- Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Mainstreaming of Natural Hazard Risk Considerations in Development Planning and Decision-making processes
- Resourcing Opportunities for Disaster Risk Management
- Natural Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Community-based Disaster Risk Management
- Risk Information
- Knowledge, Training and Education
- Early Warning Systems

Duration and Format

The Platform will be a week-long event. On the first day the Platform will commence with an initial open plenary followed by a series of follow up plenary presentations and as well parallel panel discussions on topical issues. These will then feed back into a special plenary session to consider and endorse a 'roadmap' for the integration of disaster risk management and climate change policy frameworks and ultimately into the closing plenary which will discuss and endorse a key outcomes statement for the Platform.

In addition to the parallel events, the Disaster Managers will also benefit from a closed session with the SOPAC Disaster Reduction Programme to discuss priority areas for SOPAC programming for 2011/2012.

The Disaster Managers and CEOs will further benefit from an opportunity to engage in bilateral [or one-on-one] meetings with representatives of partner organisations over the course of the Platform to discuss bilateral assistance programmes and areas of mutual interest. This new feature will allow participants to participate in such discussions and at the same time ensure that these are not conducted at the expense of main sessions which are offered throughout the Platform.



Finally the Platform will also provide time for the various Working Groups of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network to follow up on discussions from the 2010 Platform meeting and to review progress of commitments undertaken to date.

The draft timetable for the week-long Platform is annexed.

Participants

The expected participation at the Platform will comprise:

- Disaster Managers/Heads of NDMOs in PICTs
- Chief Executive Officers of PICT Ministries responsible for Finance/Planning and Disaster Management
- Representatives of Environment/Climate Change Ministries
- Representatives of Local Government and Civil Society Organisations
- Representatives of member organisations of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network including development partners and donors at regional and global level
- Invited guests

The organisers are committed to having balanced gender representation at the Platform and encourage all attending delegations from Pacific island countries and territories and also partner organisations to help ensure this.

Location/Venue

Holiday Inn

Auckland Airport

2 Ascot Road

Airport Oaks

PO Box 73017

Auckland 2150

New Zealand

Ph: +64 0871 423 4896

www.holidayinn.com/hotels/gb/en/auckland



Registration

Registration for the Platform must be completed by all participants by the close of business on Monday 11th July (Fiji time). Forms for registration are attached to this Second Announcement.

Any queries related to this registration and/or completed forms should be sent to:

Ms. Stephanie Zoll

Facsimile: (+679) 337 0040

E-mail: s.zoll@sopac.org

and copied to:

Ms Laisa Baoa

Email: laisa@sopac.org

Accommodation

Accommodation for the Platform meeting will be at the Auckland Holiday Inn and Travellers International Hotel for SOPAC-funded representatives of Pacific island countries and territories.

Representatives of other organisations and other individuals are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. Bookings can be made directly with the Auckland Holiday Inn (using the above contact details).

Working Arrangements

Working Arrangements for the meeting are being issued separately for SOPAC-funded and also for other participants.

Timetable

The Platform Timetable including details on sessions is being issued separately. This will be available in early July 2011.

