

SOPAC NewsUpdate #016, 20 January 2003

1. Community Risk Seminar, Port Vila

A three-day Community Risk seminar is organized in Port Vila during 3-5 February 2003, as part of SOPAC project : *Disaster Risk Management in Marginal Communities of Port Vila, Vanuatu*. The project is expected to help beneficiaries and authorities better prepare for and cope with future disasters, and assist them in setting a standard for self-managed risk treatment by the at-risk communities with the aid of central Government. It is hoped that by the end of the seminar a range of practical solutions would be forthcoming for improving security from natural disasters, improving quality of life, and improving opportunity for peri-urban dwellers (particularly in the Mele-Blacksands area of Port Vila). The seminar will also identify organizations or individuals most suited to undertake the work. For more details see <<<http://www.sopac.org.fj/nuke/article.php?sid=60>>>.§

2. Effective Communications identified as key to community risk management

Following the two most recent tropical storms that ushered in the new year in the SOPAC region, i.e. Zoe in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; and Ami in Fiji and Tonga, effective communications with every outer island in the Pacific, regardless of remoteness, has been identified as key to disaster preparedness and responsiveness for and within all communities. This was highlighted in both SOPAC's offers of assistance to the governments of Fiji and the Solomon Islands, following cyclones Zoe and Ami. Radio technology being provided by Emergency Management Australia through SOPAC has been put forward as a possible model. See the offers of assistance at <<http://www.sopac.org.fj/nuke/article.php?sid=58>> and <<http://www.sopac.org.fj/nuke/article.php?sid=61>>.§

3. Ireland injects more funds into EVI Project

The Government of the Republic of Ireland recently injected about US\$100,000 of additional funds into the Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) Project. This provided a much-needed boost to the efforts of the team in supporting the collaborating nations in their data compilation activities. At the end of 2002, the EVI Team has collected data for at least 100 countries for 30 out of the 54 indicators; and to date the minimum 80% data requirement has been secured for 21 country data profiles. The EVI Team continues to aim for 100% data coverage. To assist the Team in their fundraising efforts, a "Demonstration EVI" is planned for March 2003 to show the international community how the EVI will look when it is completed. More details can be found in the "EVI Going Global" update in the next SOPAC News. §

4. Marine affairs education at Dalhousie University (Canada)

The Marine Affairs Program of the Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, has asked us to pass on information on their one-year Master in Marine Management (MMM) degree programme. It is a professional, non-thesis and interdisciplinary programme offering classes in the marine, social, management and political sciences. The MMM is well suited to mid-career professionals and those holding first degree and experience in a relevant discipline. Financial assistance is available to nationals in the developing world from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Marine Affairs Program. Deadlines for applications are 31 January 2003 for those requiring assistance and 28 February for all others. Contact addresses are Marine Affairs Program, 1234 Seymour Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA B3H 3M3, Tel: 902.494.3555; Fax: 902.494.1001; e-mail: Marine.Affairs@Dal.Ca; website: <www.dal.ca/mmm>.§

5. Proceedings of the 31st Session published

The Proceedings volume for the SOPAC 31st Session hosted by the Republic of Nauru in Suva last year is now published. You can find it online using the link at the end of this item, and you can also request a paper copy. <<<http://www.sopac.org.fj/Data/virlib/reportsindex.html?ss=type&vv=PS>>>§

6. SOPAC News

For the latest and all the back issues of SOPAC News, check our website <www.sopac.org>. For those of you already asking, the last issue for 2002 (SN0060) will most likely be out at the end of January. Happy hunting. §

For more information on any item in this NewsUpdate please visit <<http://www.sopac.org/nuke/>> and post your comments and stories or contact the SOPAC Director: director@sopac.org