

SOPAC NewsUpdate #008, 24 June 2002

1. SOPAC Executive Management Workshop, Suva

An executive management three-day workshop was organised in June to continue the process of implementation of the new SOPAC Corporate Plan 2002-2004. The workshop addressed the key elements of the SOPAC Corporate Plan and reviewed and amended the programme area templates derived from consultations with senior staff at the Secretariat. Full story in *SOPAC News 2002 (2)* coming out next month. §

2. Energy Audit of UN Offices in Samoa

The Community Lifelines Programme (Energy Unit) completed energy audits of the four UN offices (FAO, UNDP, UNESCO & WHO) in Samoa, in May. The energy audit recommendations focussed on the immediate and short-term actions to minimise electricity wastage and increase efficiency in energy use. Final reports were dispatched to the UN offices in Samoa. §

3. Regional Biomass Resource Assessment

Tenders were invited in April, closing on 31 May, for the assessment of biomass resource in a number of SOPAC member countries and to prepare a management plan for the future effective use and management of the resource. The assessment of the biomass resource will provide information for inclusion in energy databases and will be useful for energy demand and supply policy decisions. The countries involved are Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. The tenders are currently being assessed. §

4. US Geothermal Consultants visit

US geothermal consultants visited SOPAC and the Fiji Department of Energy (DoE) in May 2002. The visit was for consultations on the geothermal potential in the Fiji Islands. Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are among the first countries being studied in a new Pacific Island Regional Geothermal Assessment and Development Initiative; as areas in the Pacific with high potential for geothermal energy generation as a renewable alternative to the current traditional practices and overdependence on petroleum products. SOPAC's Paul Fairbairn and DoE's Avinesh Narayan accompanied the consultants on a field trip to a potential site in Vatukoula. §

5. JAMSTEC Triton Buoy Sticker

One of SOPAC's most active partners in development in the Pacific, the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center (JAMSTEC) has asked us to use our network to distribute water-proof stickers to fishermen in the western tropical Pacific and Indian oceans for the purpose of identifying Triton buoys. We have sent a package of these each to our representatives in the SOPAC islands member countries. We have a limited amount left at the Secretariat. Please write if you can distribute these to those who need to know. The stickers are for ease of identification of the JAMSTEC instrumentation and an appeal to fishermen to respect its ownership and appreciate the value to the Pacific islanders of data collected by these instruments. §

6. Back Issues and Latest *SOPAC News* link

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<http://www.sopac.org/Data/virlib/reportsindex.html?ss=type&vv=SN>. §

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