

GOVERNMENT OF TONGA



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MEDIA RELEASE

Building capacity in climate information services to support decision making in all levels of society.

The understanding of climate and its influence on every aspect of our lives is an essential, particularly in the Pacific region, where our islands and expansive ocean are exposed to numerous natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, droughts, storm surges, and flash floods. As the climate continues to be less predictable and extreme weather events become more frequent, the importance of our meteorological and climate services grows increasingly significant.



Figure 1: Representative from National Meteorological Services - Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tonga with coordinator (Mr. Tile Tofaeono) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

This workshop training was aimed at building the capacity of National Meteorological Services to provide climate information services to support decision-making in all levels of society which hosted participants from the Meteorological Services of Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tonga.

The Korean project provides a regional-specific downscaling methodology and established a climate prediction
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system for National Meteorological Services to use called CLIK-P (or Climate Toolkit for the Pacific) and PICASO (or Pacific Islands Climate Advanced Seasonal Outlook). The objective of the project and provision of CLIK-P and PICASO featuring CoCO function climate prediction tools, is to ensure seasonal climate forecasts play an important role in resilience development to Pacific SIDS and reduce the vulnerability of our Pacific communities to the changing climate. This will be achieved by strengthening Meteorological Service's capacity to deliver sustainable and targeted climate services to vulnerable communities and users of climate information that need them.



Figure 2: Introducing of climate tools for the participants.

Seluvaia Vea (Chief Scientific Officer, Tonga Meteorological Services) stated “We must remind ourselves every time we use these tools; of our end users who are the recipients of this information and to ensure the content, packaging, and the tone which we use to communicate the information allows for easy uptake; and translation of information into meaningful actions to increase preparedness and to save lives.”

The Republic of Korea-Pacific Island Climate Prediction Services Sub-regional workshop conducted at Tano’a Hotel which was funded by the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project, managed by SPREP through the Pacific Meteorological Desk. The training was held from 27-31 March 2023 at the Tano’a Hotel. For more information contact Tile Tofaeono (Climate Prediction Services Coordinator, SPREP), tilet@sprep.org.