



Official Launch of Climate Early Warning Systems in Seven Pacific Island Countries

A project funded by Government of India through India-UN Development Partnership Fund
(Friday 1st September 2017, Novotel Hotel, Lami 5:00 – 7:00 pm)

Press Release

High Commission of India in Suva and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva officially launched the *Climate Early Warning Systems in Seven Pacific Countries* Project on Friday, 1st September 2017 in Novotel Hotel, Lami, Suva. This is the first such project launched under **the India-UN Development Partnership Fund** which will be managed by the UN Office of South-South Cooperation and implemented through UNDP, Fiji.

His Excellency Mr. Vishvas Sapkal, High Commissioner of India to Fiji, The Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu was also present at the event. While speaking at the event, High Commissioner Sapkal invoked “*Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam*”, from the Indian philosophy which is the key principle underlying India’s Diplomacy and which means, “whole world is one family”. He affirmed that India is a committed partner in development of Pacific Island Countries and expressed hope that the project will increase resilience of the partner countries against natural disasters and will be catalytic towards achieving the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda and Goal 13 in particular which relates to action against Climate Change. High Commissioner Sapkal also outlined some of development assistance projects India has undertaken in the region and conveyed his best wishes to the UNDP project team for an efficient and timely completion of the Project. A Powerpoint Presentation focusing on ‘India: A Development Partner’ was also shown at the event as well as the introductory video on India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Mr. Arona Ngari, Director, Cook Island Met Services, Country Representative welcomed the project and thanked the Government of India for generous support to the project. He highlighted the fact that the timing of such a project couldn’t be better, a fact which was also endorsed by Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, Country Director, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and Head of Regional Programmes & Policy who affirmed that the

generous aid from the Government of India came at a very timely moment as this project adds a valuable supplement to the set of schemes already in place by the UNDP in the Pacific. While providing the contours of the project implementation, Mr. Burkhanov informed that the hydrologists and meteorologists from partner countries will receive technical training in Regional Training Institutes in India including in the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for their generous support to the project and admired the speed with which the Fund has become active and the project has been launched.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund has been established in 2017 and was launched on the occasion of World Oceans Day on 8 June 2017. The main objective of the Fund is to implement country-level projects that are catalytic towards achieving the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda. The Fund will support Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on select small island developing states (SIDS), and least developed countries (LDCs).

The Fund underscores the importance of the capacity-building impact of its projects; favours local procurement; and promotes the use of Southern expertise. The Fund imposes no conditionalities on the partner countries. The key principles of the Fund are that cooperation projects should be need-driven as well as locally owned and managed to ensure sustainability and continuity of development outcomes on the ground.

'Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries' is the first project from the Fund. It is a multi-country project. The Cook Islands, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Nauru, the Solomon Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga are the partner countries. The project aims to increase resilience from natural disasters of these seven Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Representatives of partner countries were present during the launch of the Project.

High Commissioner of India, H.E. Mr. Vishvas Sapkal officially launched the project by shaking hands with Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, Country Director, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and Head of Regional Programmes & Policy, and Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.

Photos of the launch of the project and a video on the Fund can be accessed from:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB0yDSQVLRtadUmFwWnZvTmPwX1U?usp=sharing>

1 September 2017
