

Concept Note on 1st Expert Group Meeting (1st Draft)

1. Title:

Strategy for Pacific knowledge hub on early warning system
– focusing on use of spatial data by the Pacific Island countries

2. Background:

Many regional knowledge hubs exist in the Pacific, but access to verified and up-to-date geospatial data still remains as a challenge. By strengthening the existing Pacific knowledge hubs, countries in the region can benefit for more effective and efficient early warning and disaster risk reduction.

In this connection, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), in collaboration with Pacific organization and Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), organizes the 1st expert group meeting to identify current status and network of existing knowledge hubs in the Pacific and to discuss how to reinforce these knowledge hubs on use of spatial data for the Pacific Island countries.

3. Objective:

To develop a strategy for knowledge hub on early warning system – focusing on use of spatial data by the Pacific Island countries

4. Scope of the Strategy:

This strategy will focus on how the Pacific countries can use better spatial data for early warning system in collaboration with regional organizations

5. Date: 7-8 June 2017 (TBD)

6. Venue: Denarau, Fiji (TBD)

7. Expected Output:

First draft of the strategy, through:

- Mapping current status of existing Pacific knowledge hub
 - Pacific data sharing flow/mechanism through the existing knowledge hubs (e.g., all relevant stakeholders, networks of knowledge hubs)
 - Challenges from the current data sharing flow/mechanism
- Identifying necessary actions
 - Regional cooperation aspects: stakeholders and discussion process; format of the knowledge hub (e.g., single gateway vs. diversified data sharing channels);

cooperation framework among relevant regional and national agencies/organizations;
standardized/integrated process for data sharing and accessing

- Technical aspects: data standardization (e.g., data to be shared, data format, metadata); tools for analysis
- Structuring the outline of the suggested strategy
 - Objective and scope
 - Key actions
 - Expected benefits: reduced cost; faster response; improved usage of shared data by the recipient countries

8. Participating Organizations and Country (10 – 12 experts):

- UN Agencies: ESCAP and EPO
- Partner organizations: JAXA, KRIHS, SPC, SPREP, University of South Pacific, and WMO
- Governments of the Pacific Island countries

9. Schedule:

- By 20 May: Develop the zero draft of the strategy as a feeding document for EGM
- By 2 June: Circulate and collect feedback from the experts
- For 7-8 June: Organize the 1st expert group meeting
- For June - October 2017: Update draft strategy, based on discussion from EGM
- November 2017: Organize the 2nd expert group meeting for finalization of the strategy