



The official Newsletter of the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project.

July 2003

New Format of Newsletter

Welcome to the 1st issue of the Project Newsletter prepared in our new "email" format.

The recent meeting of the Project Coordination Committee which was held in Nadi, Fiji, in mid May reiterated the value of project newsletters and asked us as Managing Contractor to explore options to increase their frequency and distribution. We've explored the various options available and settled on this particular style which is easy to circulate and print off. We'd appreciate your assistance in forwarding it on to your colleagues who may be interested in the project and its outcomes and perhaps also advising us of their email addresses so we can be in direct contact.

We'll continue to circulate hard copies of newsletters via country counterparts but would hope that over time the majority of newsletter recipients will receive their copies via email. This will certainly enhance its timeliness.

We're also intending to issue the newsletter on a quarterly basis and its content will complement the "What's Happening" pages on the project web site, www.pacificsealevel.org.

So again, welcome to the new look newsletter.

We'd like your feedback and any suggestions for subject matter you'd like addressed in future issues.

Successful PCC held in Nadi

The 2nd meeting of the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) was recently held in Nadi at the Tanoa Hotel.

The meeting, and the seminar which preceded it, were scheduled to follow meetings of the High Level Round Table on Adaptation which had been held in Sigatoka the week before. That timing allowed for broader PIC representation than would otherwise be the case given time and cost involved in travel.

Nine PICs were represented at the PCC. Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. Representatives from Regional Organizations, SPREP and SOPAC, also attended as did representatives of AusAID and the Managing Contractor, AMSAT.

The meeting focussed its attention on project progress to date and priorities for the coming 12 months and the balance of this phase of the project which concludes in December 2005.

Major recommendations of the PCC related to priorities for training and for project information products and the decisions of the meeting are already being implemented.

The success of this PCC has ensured that future such meetings will be timed to coincide with other relevant regional meetings so as to increase PIC attendance and hence, awareness of project activities.



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PCC Seminar Presentations Now Available

The Nadi meeting of the PCC was preceded by a project seminar which provided an opportunity for PIC and RO representatives to be brought up to speed on the scientific outputs of the project.

Presentations were given on:

- Sea Levels in the Pacific - Mr Bill Mitchell, acting Director, NTFA, Adelaide.
- Current Status of the Establishment of the CGPS Network and Current Status and Results of the CGPS Data Processing and Analysis - Dr Ramesh Govind, Director, Space Geodesy Analysis Centre, NMDGA, Canberra.

- Estimates of the Regional Distribution of Sea Level Rise over the 1950 - 2000 Period - Dr John Church, CSIRO MR, Hobart.
- Stormtrak - A Modelling and Risk Assessment System for Cyclone Winds, Tides and Storm Surge - Dr Kathleen McInnes, CSIRO AR, Melbourne.

We've prepared a CD of those presentations which, because of their graphics, would be very time consuming to download via the project web site. If you're interested in receiving a copy of the CD please contact the Project Manager at amsatho@amsat.com.au.

Training Workshop – Stormtrak Storm Surge and Tidal Modelling and Analysis System

A training workshop on modelling for extreme event prediction was held at the Fiji Meteorological Service in Nadi, Fiji from 3 - 5 June 2003. The workshop aimed to promote a wider understanding of how computer models are used to predict tides and storm surges and train users in the applications of computer models that have been developed under this phase of the project.

The workshop was attended by participants from those PICs for which modelling products have been prepared (Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu and Fiji) as well as by representatives from the Fiji Meteorological Service, SOPAC and USP. A visit to the Lautoka Seaframe and CGPS monitoring gauges was also conducted during the course of the program.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Kathy McInnes (CSIRO AR), Dr



Training Workshop Targeting Policy Makers/Planners

A second training workshop was held at the Fiji Meteorological Service in Nadi, Fiji from 9 - 12 June 2003. The workshop was designed to enable policy makers and planners to better use data and information from their own monitoring stations and from the broader regional monitoring networks to facilitate policy development. In addition, the workshop was designed to increase awareness of the science, impacts and options for responses/adaptation to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise at both the PIC and regional levels.

The workshop was attended by 13 participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, USP, SOPAC, SPREP and Fiji Meteorological Service. Again, site visits to the Lautoka Seaframe and CGPS gauges were conducted as part of the program.

Presentations at the workshop were made by Dr John Church (CSIRO MR), Mr Bill Mitchell (NTFA), Dr Kathy McInnes (CSIRO

AR), Dr Chalapan Kaluwin (AMSAT), Dr Russell Maharaj (SOPAC), Dr Than Aung (USP), Mr Alipate Waqaicelua (FMS), Mr Simon McGree (FMS), Mr Taniel Kula (SPREP), Mr Bill Teo (Office of the Prime Minister, Nauru), Dr Bill Aalbersber (USP) and Mr Taito Nakalevu (SPREP).





CGPS Stations Nos 9 and 10 Now Operational

During May and June, two more of the project's new Continuous Global Positioning System stations (CGPS) were installed and commissioned at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru. This extends the CGPS network to 10 with only facilities at Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands to be installed to complete the network which complements the existing Seaframe tide gauge network.

The Pohnpei CGPS station was opened on Friday 3rd May 2003. The Australian Ambassador, His Excellency, Mr Brendan Doran represented the Australian Government, with the Secretary, Dept of Economic Affairs, Mr Patrick Mackenzie, from the FSM Government officiating at the commissioning.

The Nauru station was opened on Friday the 27 June with some 45 official guests attending. The Australian Consul General to R.O.N, Mr Mohan Mathews and the R.O.N Acting President, the Honourable Dogabe Jeremiah, officiated at the opening.

Both openings were well attended by senior officials and guests and field training was provided to local counterparts during the course of the installation programs.

Data from these and the other project stations is available on the project web site at "CGPS Data" under "Monitoring Technologies and Technical Projects" and is also issued via Monthly Data Reports.



3 New Fact Sheets Available

Three new fact sheets have recently been prepared and circulated. They relate to:

- **Ocean Variability and Fishing** – which discusses the impacts of ocean variability such as upwelling, tides and sea levels, currents and water temperatures on regional fisheries.
- **Fish: The "Inner Oceans – Outer Space" Connection** – which discusses the use of satellite technology to acquire ocean data to determine productivity which in turn assists in determining likely fishing areas.
- **Ocean Modelling for Extreme Events** - which discusses the development of computer modelling to assist in marine and maritime management and the modelling outputs of the project.

Fact sheets are regularly prepared and distributed via local project contact points and directly from our distribution database. If you haven't been receiving fact sheets or other project information products please let us know so that we can ensure you and your colleagues are included on our distribution lists.

Contact the Project Manager at amsatho@amsat.com.au or Project Coordinator amsatck@connect.com.fj.

During this phase to date the following fact sheets have been prepared:

- A Decade & Beyond *
- Precision Monitoring with the Continuous Global Position System (CGPS) *
- Seaframe Sea Level and Climate Variability Network Fact sheet *
- El Nino and La Nina: Important Ocean Phenomena
- Coastal Erosion
- Background and Key Conclusions on the Science of Climate Change
- South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project Web Site *
- Extreme Events *
- Tsunamis and their Impacts

We have back copies of these fact sheets and complementary posters (*) available.

All fact sheets can be downloaded from the project web site.



Contact Details

For more information on project activities,
please contact either:

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Pacific Island Forum

The next meeting of the Pacific Island Forum is to be held in Auckland from 12 to 19 August 2003.

The project will be represented at the meeting and will mount a display of project information products. NTFA Acting Director, Mr Bill Mitchell, will deliver a presentation to officials on the current status of regional sea levels and will present updates of the Country Specific Sea Level Status reports which were very well received at last year's meeting.

The 2002 Status Reports are available from the project web site at <http://www.pacificsealevel.org/picreports.htm> and the 2003 Reports will be uploaded to the web site in late August.

Project Personnel Profiles

This section of the newsletter will provide the opportunity to briefly profile key personnel involved in project implementation.



Andrick Lal

Formerly a Senior Technical Assistant (Surveys) with the Department of Lands and Surveys, Fiji, for four and a half years, Andrick has worked with a wide range of survey instruments and surveying software. He is a registered survey technician with the Lands Department of Fiji and a technical member of the Fiji Institute of Surveyors. Prior to joining the Fijian Lands Department, Andrick was a civil engineering student at the Fiji Institute of Technology, and graduated in Geographical Information Systems from the University of the South Pacific. Andrick is now Assistant Surveyor with SOPAC and provides much appreciated counterpart support to the surveying and CGPS field teams from NTFA and NMDGA. He is also playing an important resource person role at project workshops.



Miriama Turavaga

Miriama joined the SPSLCMP in July 2002 as the new Executive Assistant at the AMSAT office in Suva. Miriama provides administrative support to the Regional Office and project staff from Australia and regional organisations. She will also be working closely with the Regional Coordinator to address the Pacific Island governments' requests relating to the project and its outputs. Miriama joined us from SOPAC Secretariat where she worked with the Disaster Management Unit and later the Administration and Finance Unit.