



PACE-Net Newsletter

N. 4 – July 2012

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of the PACE-Net newsletter. This edition provides information on key events, noticeable articles, and calls for funding opportunities as well as newly added website links and documents concerning Research, development and innovation about international cooperation activities between Europe and the Pacific area.

In this issue, we would like to draw your attention on the results of the second PACE-NET key stakeholder conference, which was held in Brussels, from the 20th to the 23rd of March 2012. The conference was focused on key challenging research areas for the Pacific region, specifically Climate Change in relation to Water, Agriculture/Forestry, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research, Development and Innovation Policies in the Pacific.

PACE-Net is continuing with its activities aimed at strengthening the bi-regional dialogue between Europe and the Pacific on the main challenges of our time. To this end, we are pleased to invite you to the next and last platform of the project, which will take place in Suva, Fiji from the 12th to the 15th March 2013. The preliminary programme of the conference will be announced soon on the PACE-Net website.

You are invited to contribute to our Newsletter by sending any information or documentation you would like to share. If it is relevant to the project stakeholders we will be pleased to publish it in one of our next issues.

We hope you'll enjoy this issue of the PACE-Net Newsletter!

The PACE-Net Team

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PACE-Net is an INCO-Net (**I**nternational **C**ooperation-**N**etworking) project financed by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme that aims to achieve the following main objectives:

- * reinforce existing dialogues and networks and promote regional integration for these networks
- * identify S&T international cooperation activities and programmes towards the Pacific region
- * strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities and programmes carried out by other Community instruments.

For further information please visit: www.pacenet.eu

If you would like to provide inputs for the newsletter or in case of any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at pace-net@apre.it



www.pacenet.eu

Outlook on the 3rd bi-regional PACE-Net Stakeholder-Conference Suva, Fiji, 12th-15th March 2013

The third and last PACE-Net Stakeholder-Conference will take place in Suva, Fiji from the 12th to the 15th of March 2013. The event will take place at the University of South Pacific (USP) campus.

Building on the results of the various successful PACE-Net activities, the outcomes of the PACE-Net project will be presented to and dialogued with key country and regional policy makers, research managers, researchers, innovators, development and finance

stakeholders from the Pacific as well as from Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Concrete pathways and opportunities for strengthening EU-Pacific collaborations in science, technology and innovation beyond PACE-Net will be elaborated. The conference will consist of interactive dialogue platforms and workshops.

Additional information such as the preliminary programme of the conference will be announced soon on the PACE-



Net website.

For further information on the conference, please contact Mr. Sheikh Azid (sheikh.azid@usp.ac.fj) or Dr. Gerd Ruecker (gerd.ruecker@dlr.de) and check the PACE-Net website at <http://www.pacenet.eu>

International Learning Network Workshop on the Valorisation of Project Results and Experiences

The 6th Workshop of the International Learning Network (ILN), the network of FP7 INCO project coordinators, took place in Athens on 10-11 May. With the end of FP7 in sight and the international activities of Horizon 2020 to be shaped, 35 project coordinators from all over the world discussed how best to valorise project results and experiences.

They recommended concrete

strategies for the dissemination of project results and experiences to relevant stakeholders in European Member States, and suggested providing more focused information to policy makers about on-going projects.

Participants also discussed issues on joint programming, co-funding and reciprocity.

For more information, please contact Susanne Madders Susanne.MADDERS@ec.europa.eu



ILN - Connecting the world
www.iln4world.eu

Review of the 2nd bi-regional PACE-Net Stakeholder-Conference, Brussels, 20th-23rd March 2012

The Pacific - A region of innovative people with a high natural resource potential - facing global and climate challenges: PACE-Net Conference strengthens research, development and innovation partnership between Europe & the Pacific

The Pacific is too important for Europe and the world to be left out. This was one of the main conclusions of the PACE-Net Conference held in Brussels, from March 20th to 23rd 2012. The conference brought together more than a hundred senior researchers and officials from Europe, the Pacific Island States such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Tuvalu and Kiribati, as well as New Zealand and Australia.

Climate change has been identified as one of the major societal challenges of our time, not just for Europe, but also for other regions, including the Pacific. As climate change associated risks directly affect people and ecosystems of the Pacific, the event's main topic was Climate Change: in relation to Water, Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research & Innovation Policies in the Pacific.

As input to the conference, high-level representatives from the EEAS¹, EIB², EC DG

¹ EEAS (European External Action Service (EEAS))
² EIB (European Investment Bank)

DEVCO³, UNIDO⁴, UNESCO⁵, USP⁶, SPREP⁷, CTA⁸ as well as from Germany, presented their organisations in detail along with options for strengthening the Pacific-European collaboration in research, development and innovation.

Central to the event was two days of interactive workshops relating to 1) water, 2) agriculture & forestry, 3) natural hazards, and 4) fisheries and aquaculture. Each workshop developed integrated research, development and innovation framework drafts for equitable Pacific-EU partnerships. These drafts address the sectors and cross-cutting theme from their significance for both the EU and the Pacific, existing and required policies, a strategic needs assessment for research, development, and innovation, as well as the required actions and corresponding funding strategies. On the final day, the

³ EC DG DEVCO (Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid)

⁴ UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation)

⁵ UNESCO (the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation)

⁶ USP (University of the South Pacific)

⁷ SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme)

⁸ CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation).

framework drafts, presentations and feedback from the high-level panel were discussed with the workshop participants and fed into the cross-sectoral discussion on mid-term research, development and innovation policies.

Based on post-conference consultations with the EC, the EEAS, further key stakeholders, and public discussions these drafts are presently refined and will serve as input into the PACE-Net conference in Suva, Fiji (March 2013) – the 3rd PACE-Net dialogue platform - for the discussion with key country and regional policy, research, and development stakeholders especially from the Pacific contributing to an EU-Pacific research, development, and innovation mid-term partnership agreement. The policy briefs on climate change and freshwater in the Pacific and climate change, fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific are now ready and accessible on the PACE-Net website.

These briefs are currently available on the PACE-Net



website (as above) for public consultation, along with an online questionnaire to provide feedback. Further policy briefs on Agriculture/ Forestry and further topics, as well as policy briefs from the first stakeholder conference (on Health and Biodiversity) will also soon be made available for consultation.

In order to intensify the dialogue and action on mid-term research, development and innovation policies, a workshop with experts from the Pacific regional and national research and technical institutions is planned by CTA, UNESCO, PACE-Net, USP, and UPNG in Noumea, New Caledonia, in early November 2012 and linked with the SOPAC Science Technology and Resources (STAR) Meeting. The tentative objectives of this workshop will be to develop a Pacific Islands university network to support intra and inter-regional knowledge



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sharing to strengthen/enhance programmes and wider science, technology and innovation (ST&I) collaboration as well as influence ST&I policy in support of socio-economic development. Further information on this workshop will be announced soon on the PACE-Net website.

Important links:

List of participants: <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/list-of-participants>

Presentations: <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/presentations>

Video recordings: <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/all-videos-o>

Photos: <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/node/618/>

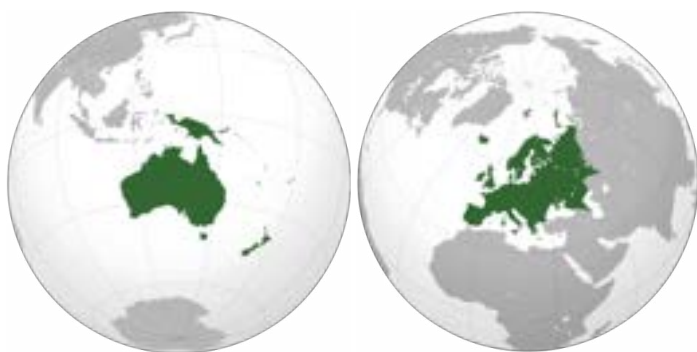
Policy Briefs with online-consultations http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/policy_briefs

For further information about the PACE-Net project and PACE-Net's conferences, please contact:

Prof. Claude Payri, PACE-Net Project Coordinator (claud.payri@ird.fr)

Dr. Gerd Rücker, Coordinator - PACE-Net Key Stakeholder Conferences (gerd.ruecker@dlr.de)

More on the outcomes of this conference can be found at <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/>



The EU's relations with the Pacific

French and Kiwi scientists say “oui!”

French and Kiwi scientists say “oui!” to stronger scientific cooperation in the South Pacific. Next week, in New Caledonia, representatives from NIWA and French science agency GOPS will join forces to sign a significant agreement for closer scientific collaboration in the South Pacific region.

GOPS is the short name for the Grand Observatoire de L'environnement et de la Biodiversité Terrestre et Marine du Pacifique Sud. In English that translates to South Pacific Integrated Observatory for Environment and Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity.

GOPS works to coordinate and support robust environmental research by 17 universities and research organizations of France and French overseas territories present in the Pacific to observe and monitor environment,

ecosystems and biodiversity affected by environmental changes and human pressure and to help underpin sustainable development, conservation and effective management of natural ecosystems. Created in 2009, GOPS provides an integrating mechanism to increase French and European Union environmental science

support to the South Pacific as well as to facilitate local and international scientific partnerships.

The Pacific region faces ever-increasing challenges around the sustainable management of marine and land ecosystems, increasing populations, urban development and community



and economic vulnerability to natural hazards. It must adapt to the impacts that climate and global economic change will increasingly cause. In this context, the need for sound, evidence-based information to enable effective decision-making is critical.

New Zealand and NIWA have a long history of working with our Pacific Island partners to help understand and address these challenges, and in contributing to good, sustainable development outcomes for the region.

NIWA's French 'Kiwi' Principal Scientist Geoffroy Lamarche and colleague Bernard Pelletier from Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in Nouméa have been central to facilitating the relationship and contract between the organisations.

Dr Lamarche says, "Our ties with all nations in the Pacific are strong, as are our ties with the French research community working in the region. This agreement is a natural extension of that relationship, building on what has gone before, to realise increasing benefits for the countries and territories of the Pacific".

NIWA and GOPS share many areas of mutual science interest. These include marine ecosystems, natural hazards,



L to R: B. Pelletier (GOPs), M. Laurent (IRD), L. Te Puni (NZ Consul to NC) and B. Cooper (NIWA). © IRD / R. Hocde

climate variability and change, water quality, resource management and marine and freshwater biodiversity and biosecurity. They share the view that evidence-based understanding of the challenges facing these areas is critical to underpin robust, sustainable development outcomes.

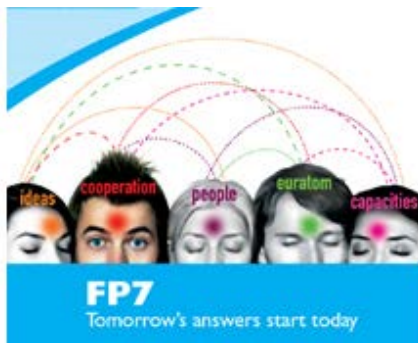
The signing of this agreement between GOPs and NIWA will enable a large community of researchers to benefit from the sharing of considerable data, knowledge and expertise, says Dr Pelletier.

"A good example of the collaboration between NIWA and IRD is our ongoing work to define tsunami hazard zones in Wallis and Futuna. This is to be used to inform land-use planning and develop

emergency evacuation routes and procedures within these islands. Both NIWA and IRD brought different datasets and skills which, when combined, enabled a much better outcome for Wallis and Futuna."

The signing ceremony will be hosted by the New Zealand Consul General to New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna, Linda Te Puni, at the New Zealand consulate in Nouméa.

NIWA's General Manager of Strategy Bryce Cooper will sign the MOU with Michel Laurent, President of IRD, one of the partners and at the initiative of GOPs, in the place of the President of GOPs Steering Committee, Jean-Charles Pomerol from University Pierre and Marie Curie (Paris VI).



7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

€8.1 billion investment in research and innovation to create growth and jobs

The European Commission has today announced the final and biggest ever set of calls for proposals for research under its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). In total, €8.1 billion will support projects and ideas that will boost Europe's competitiveness and tackle issues such as human health, protecting the environment and finding new solutions to growing challenges linked to urbanisation and managing waste. The funding – which is open to organisations and businesses in all EU Member States and partner countries - makes up the lion's share of the EU's proposed €10.8 billion research budget for 2013. This announcement comes just days



after EU leaders emphasised the importance of research and innovation in the Compact for Growth and Jobs.

European Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: “Knowledge is the currency of the global economy. If Europe wants to continue to compete in the 21st century, we must support the research and innovation that will generate growth and jobs, now and in the future. The high level of competition for EU funding makes sure that taxpayers’ money goes to the best projects that tackle issues that concern all of us.”

The calls target both innovation and a range of societal challenges, building a bridge to Horizon 2020, the next funding programme for EU research from 2014-2020. In total €4.8 billion is dedicated to thematic research priorities. Industrial innovation will be supported through close-to-market activities such as piloting, demonstration, standardisation and technology transfer. Special attention will be given to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in a package worth up to €1.2 billion. Around €2.7 billion will help cement Europe’s place as a world class destination for researchers,

mainly through individual grants from the European Research Council (€1.75 billion), and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (€963 million) for research training and mobility.

To help spread excellent research more widely, a new “European Research Area Chairs” initiative is being prepared. A €12 million pilot call will select a total of five ERA Chairs, to be hosted by universities or other eligible research institutions in less developed regions in five

different EU countries. To host an ERA Chair, institutions must demonstrate their ability to support excellence through providing the necessary facilities and complying with European Research Area principles such as open recruitment.

Most of the calls for proposals (invitations to bid for funds) were published on the 10th of July 2012., with some further specific calls to follow in the autumn.



Useful links

Opportunities for Australia	http://download.apre.it/pacenet/australia.pdf
Opportunities for New Zealand	http://download.apre.it/pacenet/New%20Zealand.pdf
Opportunities for Pacific_OCT_ACP	http://download.apre.it/pacenet/Pacific_OCT_ACP.pdf
Participant Portal	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls



Pacific research news

Dr. Claude Payri, (Pace-net Project Coordinator) was presented with the Legion of Honor insignia

On June 12th, Dr. Claude Payri, (PACE-Net Project Coordinator) was presented with the French Legion of Honor insignia, in recognition of her valuable contribution and eminent merit to research in her field; this award crowns her whole career. Having graduated (MS & PhD) in marine ecology from the University of Sciences and Technology (Montpellier, France), she was formerly Professor at the University of French Polynesia (1989-2004) and leader of the Master of coral reef and marine environmental science programme at UPF.

She is currently senior professor at the Institute of Research for Development in New Caledonia. Her research activity includes supervision of PhD students from University of Pierre & Marie - Curie (Paris) and studies of coral reef ecology (marine plant communities) for over 30 years in the Indo-Pacific region.

She coordinates or participates in local, regional and international scientific programmes and also coauthored 60 scientific publications and a book on Marine flora from French Polynesia. She also co-edited the 2006 Compendium of marine biodiversity of New Caledonia and carries out extensive field work in the Indo-Pacific region.

Her research, innovation, capacity development and other collaboration interests include the diversity and biogeography of macroalgae and seagrasses associated to Indo-Pacific coral reefs; assemblages composition and zonation of macrophytes; invasion and proliferation in coral reefs.



M. Laurent (IRD President) and C. Payri (PACE-Net project leader)
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Conference on Innovation, Creativity, Access to Knowledge and Development in Pacific Island Countries, 24-25 September, ANU

This conference will bring together a range of speakers from throughout the Pacific Island countries, as well as Australia, America and South Africa, to discuss the implications of intellectual property laws on development in the region. The conference will focus on the aims that intellectual property laws are traditionally said to have – the promotion of innovation, creativity and access to knowledge – and discuss how these can best be achieved in the context of the development of region. A broad range of topics will be covered, including traditional knowledge, access to educational materials, protection of intangible cultural heritage and natural

resources and free trade agreements. Further details, including a draft program with abstracts is available on <http://www.ippacificislands.org>.

For information please email Miranda.forsyth@anu.edu.au



Cooperation agreement also signed at IRD last week

“The École des hautes études en sciences sociales (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences”; EHESS), the University of New Caledonia (UNC), the Institute of Research for Development (Institut de recherche pour le

développement: IRD) and the Cultural Centre of Vanuatu (Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta: VKS) have signed a framework agreement aimed at promoting researchers and knowledge exchange and research projects and training programmes in

humanities and social sciences in Oceania.”



B. Dreyfus, G. Fediere, M. Laurent (IRD), J. Kapere (VKS), J.-M. Boyer (UNC), M. Tabani (EHESS) and R. Manuake (Vanuatu consul to NC).

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Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change

Dr Johann Bell, Principal Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was responsible for initiating and overseeing the publication of *Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change* and the companion volume, *Summary for Pacific Island Countries and Territories*. The 2011 publication is the culmination of a 3.5-year, AUD 1.5 million project funded by AusAID. The study describes the implications of projected climate changes for economic development, food security and livelihoods, and the adaptations, policies and investments required to reduce the threats and capitalise on the opportunities.

Around 90 scientists and fisheries and aquaculture specialists from 36 institutions (from the Asia and Pacific region, the United States and Europe) contributed to the work. Together, these experts assisted SPC to produce estimates of the effects of representative low and high greenhouse gas emissions on the wide range of physical, chemical and biological processes that support fisheries and aquaculture.

The companion summary describes the key policy

issues and options for individual member countries and territories that decision-makers need to consider in addressing the projected effects of climate change on the region's vital fisheries and aquaculture resources. National plans for using these resources sustainably should be re-assessed regularly to take advantage of improved climate change models as they become available.

In 2011, SPC also coordinated the production of a report entitled

Food security in the Pacific and East Timor and its vulnerability to climate change. The report, which was commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, was produced by a multidisciplinary team consisting of staff from SPC and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and an independent consultant.

<http://www.spc.int/climate-change/fisheries/assessment/>





Focus on the Pacific region

5th Papua New Guinea Research, Science & Technology Conference 2012

The Pacific Adventist University, Koiari Park Campus, 14 Mile along the Sogeri Road in the National Capital District, Port Moresby was the venue for the hosting of the 5th Papua New Guinea Research, Science & Technology Conference 2012 from the 25th – 29th June 2012. The theme for this conference was: Harnessing Science & Technology for Development: Meeting the PNG Vision 2050 Targets.

This conference attracted audience from Science & Technology researchers from all the six universities and research institutes as well as from the industries within Papua New Guinea. Keynote speakers were invited from Australia as well as from within Papua New Guinea to address key issues such as the fate of forests in Papua New Guinea which was presented by Professor William Laurance from the James Cook University in Australia. This paper highlighted the importance of conservation to preserve the variety of

species that are unique to Papua New Guinea alone.

PACE-Net was well-represented at this Conference by Mr. Boe Lahui-Ako, Deputy Dean of Research at the University of Papua New Guinea. As a multiplier, Mr. Lahui-Ako presented a paper titled: PACE-Net as a way to establishing

collaborative research between Papua New Guinea and European researchers. The paper highlighted the key objectives of PACE-Net's activities within the Pacific including Papua New Guinea, explained the FP7 programme as well as made a comparison between the key research thematic issues in Europe with



the Pacific using the situational analysis findings conducted as part of the Work Package 1 and 2 and made an attempt to argue that there is a need to establish the key research thematic issues for Papua New Guinea alone so that research activities within the country especially in relation to Science & Technology are conducted within these areas. A PACE-Net/UPNG information booth was also set up to disseminate PACE-Net documents to those who attended the conference and were interested to know more about the activities of PACE-Net in the Pacific including Papua New Guinea.

For Research, Science & Technology 2050, Mr. Steven Matainaho from the Office of Higher Education highlighted some of the suggestions for immediate intervention and/or integration to the National Higher Education Plan III 2013-2017. They are as follows:

1. The establishment of the Research, Science and Technology Council in Papua New Guinea in 2012;
2. Further articulation on the policies relating to Intellectual Property and Benefit Sharing;
3. Continue improvement towards a National Research, Science & Technology Conference;
4. Research Policy for Institutions within Papua

New Guinea covering issues such as Intellectual Property, Benefit Sharing model, Archiving of research work and Standardizing of research methodology; continued efforts for collaboration and publication locally and internationally; establishment of a Research and Education Network (PNGAARNET);

5. Scholarship Support for Post Graduate Study; and
6. Increased Research and Development Funding (5% of GDP).

To move National Research Agenda forward, the Office of Higher Education has committed

itself to increasing the funding of research activities in Papua New Guinea from K0.5million in 2012 to K2.5million in 2013.

At the closing on the 29th June, it was announced that the 6th Papua New Guinea Research, Science & Technology Conference will be hosted by the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. The dates will be confirmed and flyers posted early next year. For further information on the Conference, please contact Mr. Boe Lahui-Ako, Deputy Dean of Research, University of Papua New Guinea on email: lahuib@upng.ac.pg; boe.lahui@gmail.com



Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations

The 4th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (the Platform) will take place from 17 to 21 September 2012 in Noumea, New Caledonia. This annual meeting is being organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). For the first time, the Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations will also take place during the meeting.

The theme this year is 'Disaster Risk Management, Water Security and Climate Change – Integrating our efforts for a more resilient Pacific'. The Platform will host representatives from Pacific Island countries and territories in charge of disaster risk management and water and sanitation issues, and civil society representatives involved in these areas.

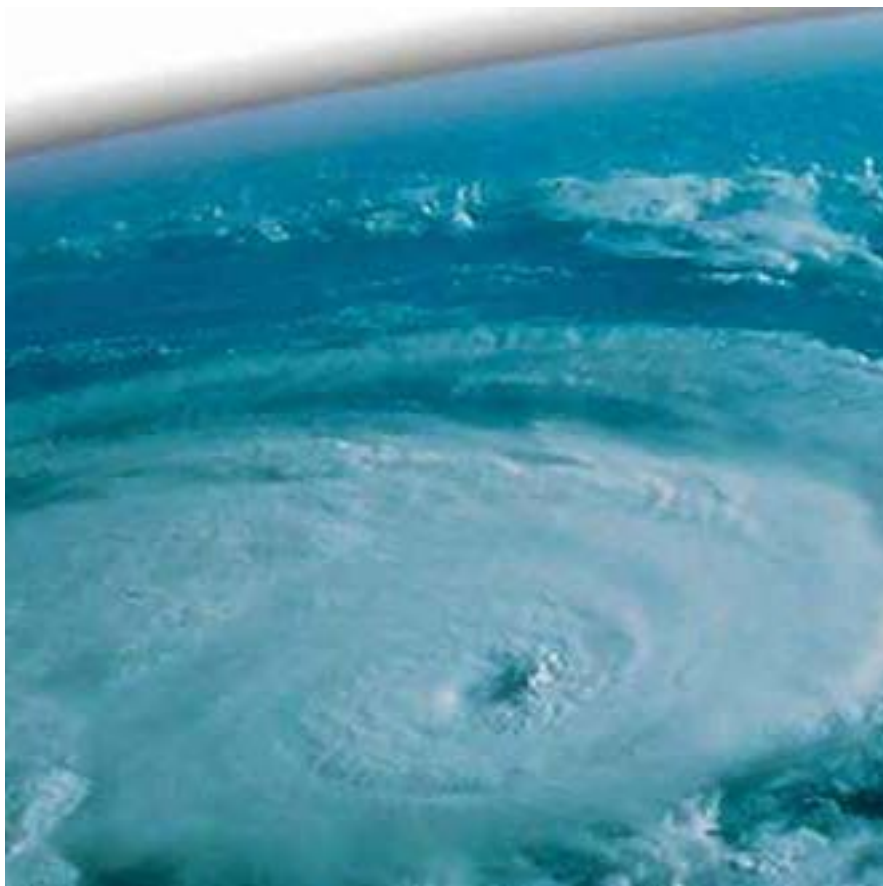
The meeting will include presentations and discussions for all participants as well as opportunities for small groups to focus on specific issues. Participants will also see practical examples during four field trips to be held on Friday afternoon, with each trip highlighting a different issue.

The 4th Session of the Pacific

Platform for Disaster Risk Management will discuss the following themes:

- Governance mechanisms and policies on risk management in the Pacific region
- Advances and trends in risk management
- Training, education and strengthening of capacities
- Early warning systems
- Road map for developing a regional joint strategy on disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change by 2015

- Better understanding of the water and sanitation sector in Pacific Island countries and territories: result and perspectives
- Next stages in implementing a framework for the management of water and sanitation in the region
- Survey of national weaknesses in addressing water, sanitation and climate change issues
- Key correlations between water and sanitation issues, climate change and disaster risk management.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN OCEANIA TOWARDS A NEW ETHIC?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 24, 25 and 26 April 2013, Northern Province, New Caledonia

AGORA-SHS NC, the Network of Social Sciences in New Caledonia, in collaboration with the Centre des Nouvelles Etudes sur le Pacifique (CNEP, University of New Caledonia-UNC) and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), would like to invite academics, researchers and development practitioners to send proposals of papers to be presented at a conference in 2013 on the theme of sustainable development (SD) in New Caledonia and Oceania.

As a sequel to a previous workshop on “Rurality and Sustainable Development in New Caledonia”, organized in 2008 (www.rdd.nc/) by the UNC, the Institute of Agronomy of New Caledonia (IAC) and the Department of Economic Development and Environment of the Northern Province, the object of the present conference is to build up the reflections started around the concept of sustainable development and its implementation in Oceania.

Widely discussed in Nouméa at the first meetings of the AGORA series of conferences in Social and Human Sciences (SHS) in 2006, the specific development of Pacific island states and

territories has not been since the subject of special attention in New Caledonia, except indirectly or partially, at UNC or IRD conferences devoted to the environment, biodiversity, mining activities or the rural world. Other thematic and SD issues related conferences were held by environmental NGOS or the Chamber of commerce of Nouméa. For their part, local authorities are advancing on the adoption of sustainable development strategies and policies but much work remains to be done, like the Development plan for New Caledonia (NC 2025) that has not yet been completed. If scientific writings on the development of Pacific islands are numerous, particularly in the 2 Anglophone world, there are no common reflections yet between Francophone and Anglophone researchers in SHS on the theme of development in Oceania.

Consistent with the purpose it was created for, AGORA SHS NC aims to create a network of researchers on the theme of sustainable development in the Pacific. In this perspective, the meeting of French and English scientists at the symposium of 24 to 26 April 2013 is to be seen as a



step forward.

This meeting is meant to be an opportunity for scientists to clarify existing concepts, question their relevance both globally and locally and possibly propose a new approach. It is also an opportunity to compare the concepts with case studies through exchanges with Caledonian practitioners as well from across the Pacific in the field of development.

Symbolically, the holding of this conference is proposed in the Northern Province of New Caledonia, which combines industrial development, actions to protect and enhance a rich and fragile biodiversity, and geographical, social and economic recomposition.

Further information on Pacific research events:

<http://www.pacenet.eu/events>



Other News

Here comes Cyprus! First shot at EU Presidency for Mediterranean Member State

July is typically characterised by long school holidays, balmy evenings and, for the lucky ones, a few days break from the daily grind. But July also signals the changing of the guard at the Council of the European Union, with a new Member State taking over the six-month rotating Presidency.

And this time it's Cyprus' turn to take the reins, leading and organising the work of the Council until the end of the year, before in turn handing over the role to another island nation: Ireland.

The main objective of the Cyprus Presidency is to work 'Towards a Better Europe', one that is more relevant to its citizens and closer to its neighbours. The hope is to both make Europe more efficient and sustainable, at the same time as fostering growth and job creation. Admittedly no mean feat amid the ongoing economic crisis. To this end a key

focus will be on implementing the new enhanced framework of economic governance and reinforcing budgetary surveillance so as to ensure fiscal stability.

Cyprus is prioritising further deepening of European integration, strengthening social cohesion and ensuring a better quality of life for European citizens. Although they proclaim austerity

measures are important for restoring the confidence of the markets and stability, they also state that at the same time Europe needs measures that promote inclusive growth and job creation. The Presidency programme is built around the underlying principle of solidarity, so as to build a better Europe for future generations.

Further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_PRESS&ACTION=D&DOC=6&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0138c2cfe3a0:cfd:d:22c63411&RCN=34785



Competitiveness Council: Innovation ministers discuss ins and outs of Horizon 2020

Innovation ministers came together to discuss the Commission's proposals for Horizon 2020 at a Competitiveness Council meeting in Brussels on 21 February.

The plans for a new streamlined EU research and innovation funding programme, set to kick off in 2014, were outlined by Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn on 30 November 2011.

At the meeting, presided over by Danish Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education Mr Morten Østergaard, ministers discussed cross-cutting issues within the Horizon 2020 programme, with a particular

focus on the role of social sciences and humanities, as well as small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) participation.

The meeting was the third time ministers have sat down to go through the plans. They last met at an informal Competitiveness Council meeting held in Copenhagen on 2 February which followed the first general exchange of views at the 6 December Competitiveness Council.

The Commission's draft plan states that the EUR 80 billion Horizon 2020 budget will focus on supporting excellence in the science base, tackling

societal challenges and securing industrial leadership and competitive frameworks.

All delegations expressed their support for facilitating SME participation in the innovation process.



'ICT proposer's day', Warsaw, Poland

An event entitled 'ICT proposer's day' will take place from 26 to 27 September 2012 in Warsaw, Poland.

Sponsored by the Directorate-General Information Society and Media and hosted by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the conference is a two day event featuring networking and partnership

building for the new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Call under the new Information and Communication Technologies Work Programme for 2013.

The information day will help participants to better understand the call's work programme and criteria for the evaluation of proposals, facilitate sharing of

ideas and experiences, and meet potential partners for project consortia.

For further information, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ictproposersday/2012/



PACE-Net Partners



PACE-Net Coordinator

IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (New Caledonia)

Claude Payri - claude.payri@ird.fr

Fadhila Le Meur - fadhila.lemeur@ird.fr

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APRE - Agency for the Promotion of European Research (Italy)

Caterina Buonocore

Emanuela Dané

Manuela Schisani

e-mail: pace-net@apre.it



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