



International Network
for Government
Science Advice



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Dialogue on Science and Science Policy for the SDGs in the Pacific Small Island Developing States

29 and 30 March 2017
Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, Apia, Samoa

WORKSHOP REPORT

Dialogue organised by UNESCO, INGSA, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture as Samoa's National Commission for UNESCO, the National University of Samoa, the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa including sponsorship from Samoa Stationery and Books

with the support of the Government of New Zealand



INGSA operates under the auspices of ICSU. The INGSA secretariat is currently hosted by The Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, New Zealand
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1) Workshop Objective

Over the course of two days, representatives from over 10 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), joined with experts and stakeholders from around the world to the needs and options for bridging the gaps between science, technology and innovation (ST&I) systems, and policy-makers in the Pacific.

This was done with a particular focus on the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNESCO's SIDS Action Plan. It was an opportunity to consider the Pacific Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Roadmap developed by Pace-Net + consortium. It aimed to build on existing practices and initiatives in the region, reinforce information sharing systems, building capacity and structures to more effectively inform policy-making.

Key to the dialogue was the consideration of the priorities required to ensure that ST&I systems are able to effectively contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting also provided the opportunity for dialogue between the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) with an international community about the regions specific needs and mechanisms.

The Program was very well attended with only one of the invited SIDS (Palau), being unable to attend. The Program combined panel discussions, case-study examples, plenary presentations, and networking opportunities to maximize formal and informal benefits of the Dialogue.

2) Attendance

The Dialogue brought together over 35 regional policy-makers, stakeholders, UN and government representatives.

Participants included Ministers of five Pacific SIDS (Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu), the secretaries-general of Pacific Communities (SPC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and representatives from the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Government officials, experts and stakeholders from 10 Pacific SIDS, Australia and New Zealand also participated. The meeting was officiated by UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences, and the Chair of INGSA.

3) Outcomes

The meeting resulted in a number of concrete outputs and several new initiatives and partnerships. As of writing, much is still in the planning stage, however the results of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

- The Apia Ministerial Communiqué (Appendix A) documenting a commitment on behalf of the five ministers present at the meeting to advancing Science, Technology and Innovation policies and infrastructure at the national and regional levels. The Communiqué also contained a request to UNESCO for further support.
- A summary of the needs and priorities for the ten countries present, as presented during the group work session.
- A plan for an SPC/INGSA meeting on Science Advice to be held in August 2017
- A collaboration between INGSA and the National University of Samoa to hold a training for science advice (regional or national depending on availability of funding)
- A partnership with science leaders in Samoa, including plans to develop a Samoa SETI policy, with support from UNESCO, SPC, INGSA and other partners.

On the basis of these results and other discussions held in the margins of the meeting, UNESCO will be developing a concept note for a regional proposal for ST&I policy support to the region, including periodic ministerial meetings.

4) Building on the Dialogue

In the Ministerial Communiqué, the Ministers of Samoa, Fiji, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu committed to developing national and regional comprehensive ST&I policies and policy roadmaps at the regional and national level. This work will be supported by a network of national focal points to be designated by the countries and coordinated by UNESCO.

The Ministerial communiqué also requested that UNESCO collaborates with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies (particularly SPC) to facilitate the development of a comprehensive roadmap for ST&I policy and capacities for Pacific Island States.

This is the core of the concept note that UNESCO is developing.

Discussions are also on-going with two countries to implement activities at the national level. Papua New Guinea has expressed interest in the two linked UNESCO tools, Global Observatory on STI policy instruments (GO-SPIN) and the STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) project.

INGSA (in collaboration with the National University of Samoa) plans a national workshop in-country, to enable SETI (Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation) stakeholders from government, NGOs and the private sector to consider and decide whether or not to develop a SETI policy. This is proposed for the last quarter of 2017.

Finally, the meeting has opened up new discussions related to cooperation between UNESCO, INGSA, and the CROP agencies.

5) Public Awareness

Local media coverage of the Dialogue was also favourable: see below. Also included is UNESCO's own coverage of the event.

Samoa Observer:

31 March 2017: Samoa hosts science policy dialogue

http://www.samoobserver.ws/en/31_03_2017/local/18506/Samoa-hosts-Science-policy-dialogue.htm

1 April 2017: Minister Loau closes Science Dialogue

http://www.samoobserver.ws/en/01_04_2017/local/18545/Minister-Loau-closes-Science-Dialogue.htm

9 April 2017: A significant outcome of the dialogue

http://www.samoobserver.ws/en/09_04_2017/sunday_reading/18848/A-significant-outcome-of-the-dialogue.htm

UNESCO Apia website:

28 March 2017: PM hopes regional conservation would establish connection between Science, Technology and Innovation

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/singleview/news/pm_hopes_regional_conversation_would_establish_connection_be/

29 March 2017: Discussing Science in the Pacific with Dr. Flavia Schlegel

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/singleview/news/discussing_science_in_the_pacific_with_dr_flavia_schlegel/

30 March 2017: Regional science conference hears about Pacific ST & I Roadmap

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/singleview/news/dialogue_hears_about_pacific_st_i_roadmap_in_the_pacific/

2 April 2017: Apia Ministerial Communiqué to guide ST & I in the Pacific forward

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/singleview/news/apia_ministerial_communique_to_guide_st_i_in_the_pacific/



APPENDIX A – Ministerial Communiqué



UNESCO INGSA Dialogue on Science Policy for the SDGs and Pacific SIDS

Apia, Samoa, 29 & 30 March 2017

APIA MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON PACIFIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

We, the Ministers of Education participating at the “UNESCO INGSA Dialogue on Science Policy for the SDGs and Pacific SIDS”, representing five Pacific Island Countries,

Commit to:

Develop national and regional comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) policies and policy roadmaps, based on existing experiences in the region, such as the “Pacific ST&I Framework and Agenda” produced by PACE-NET PLUS, as well as experiences from other SIDS regions, while taking due note of national specificities and balancing its implementation through national and regional approaches.

Ensure that policies will address areas such as enhancing STEM education, establishing science advice mechanisms, indigenous knowledge systems, and building capacity in all ST&I policy areas, among other priority areas.

Establish focal points at senior level to provide follow-up to these activities, in coordination with all other countries and partner organizations involved, and ensure reporting to upcoming regional fora.

Request UNESCO to collaborate with Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies and to:

Facilitate the development of a comprehensive Roadmap for ST&I Policy and Capacities for the Pacific Island States, taking into account past work in the region, existing resources and the need to bring stakeholders together, while convening scientists, researchers and policy makers, and developing proposals to help advance progress on ST&I, such as encouraging the establishment of national and regional research councils.

Cooperate with the CROP agencies, in particular the Pacific Community (SPC), and other partner organizations, such as the International Network on Government Science Advice (INGSA), in the design and implementation of such Roadmap, ensuring all relevant regional players and partners are involved, while exploring technical and financial resources jointly and with Member States, at the regional and national levels.

Encourage all Pacific Island States to join the initiatives resulting from this Dialogue, and ensure the organization of periodical Regional Dialogue meetings to monitor accomplishments and deepen the regional ST&I policy cooperation amongst Pacific Member States, Regional bodies, and International Organizations.

Honourable Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio
Honourable Penisimani 'Epenisa Fifita
Honourable Mahendra Reddy
Honourable Charmaine Scotty
Honourable Jean-Pierre Nirua

Independent State of Samoa
Kingdom of Tonga
Republic of Fiji
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Vanuatu



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APPENDIX B – Dialogue Programme

Provisional Programme:

Tuesday 28 March 2017

Evening (6pm) (venue: Fale Samoa, Ministry for Education, Sports and Culture)

- Ava Ceremony to welcome distinguished guests to Samoa

Wednesday 29 March 2017 (Tanoa Tusitala Hotel)

8:30-9:30	Registration		
9:30-10:15	Opening (Afamasaga Dr Karoline Afamasaga Fuata'i, CEO Ministry for Education, Sports and Culture)		
	Prayer	Rev. Letupu Matautia	
	Keynote Address	Hon. Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi	Prime Minister Independent State of Samoa
	Opening Comments	Sir Peter Gluckman	Chair INGSA
		Dr. Flavia Schlegel	Assistant-Director General for Natural Sciences UNESCO
		Ms. Lizbeth Cullity	Resident Coordinator United Nations
		Mr. David Campbell Nicholson	New Zealand High Commissioner New Zealand High Commission to Samoa
10:15-10:45	Coffee break, press conference, group photo		
10:45-12:15	Country presentations (Dr. Flavia Schlegel)		
	Minister's panel (10 mins each)	Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (TBC)	Deputy Prime Minister Independent State of Samoa
		Hon. Penisimani 'Epenisa Fifita	Minister for Education and Training Kingdom of Tonga
		Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua	Minister for Education and Training Republic of Vanuatu
		Hon. Charmaine Scotty	Minister for Education Republic of Nauru
		Hon. Mahendra Reddy	Minister for Education Republic of Fiji
	Discussion		



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12:15-12:30	ST&I in the Pacific: The Pace-Net + ST&I policy roadmap	Dr. Ioana Chan Mow	National University of Samoa, Pace-Net +
12:30-1:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
1:30-5:00	Development partners in Science Advice and Science Policy (Moderator TBC)		
1:30-2:15	The role of the Pacific Community (SPC)	Dr. Colin Tukuitonga Director-General	Pacific Community (SPC)
2:15-3:15	Introduction to Science advice	Sir Peter Gluckman Chair and Chief Science Advisor	INGSA and the Prime Minister's Office, New Zealand
3:15-3:45	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>		
3:45-4:30	Sustainable Development Goals and Science: An Opportunity	Dr. Flavia Schlegel Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences	UNESCO
4:30-5:00	Discussion		

Evening (7pm) (venue: Fale Samoa, National University of Samoa)

Evening reception including presentation of the UNESCO Science Report Towards 2030, focussing on the Pacific.

Thursday 30 March 2017 (Tanoa Tusitala Hotel)

8:30-12:30	Case studies from the Pacific (Sir Peter Gluckman)		
8:30-9:30	Case study 1: Papua New Guinea's Science and Technology Secretariat	Professor Teatulohi Matainaho Chair and Chief Executive Officer	Papua New Guinea Science and Technology Secretariat
9:30-10:30	Case study 2: Tonga's ST&I Policy	Hon. Penisimani 'Epenisa Fifita <i>and/or</i> Mr. Ponepate Tausila [TBC] Minister for Education and Training <i>and/or</i> Deputy Secretary for Education	Kingdom of Tonga
10:30-11:00	<i>Tea/coffee</i>		
11:00-12:30	Question and answer on case studies		
12:30-1:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
1:30-3:20	Discussion with Pacific countries (Dr. Seuseu Tauati, CEO, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa and Ms. Jane Lattimore, Landcare Research, New Zealand)		

1:40-2:30	Pacific SIDS needs and priorities for science, technology and innovation	All countries, especially those who have not yet shared (RMI, FSM, Cook Islands, Palau)
2:30-3:20	The most relevant questions for science advice faced by Pacific SIDS	All countries
3:20-3:40	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
3:40-4:40	Plenary discussion (Mr. Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch, Chief Science Policy and Partnerships, UNESCO and Dr. Peseta Desmond Mene Lee-Hang, Deputy Vice Chancellor, National University of Samoa) Agreeing recommendations and way forward for ST&I policy and science advice in the Pacific	All countries
4:40-5:00	Closing remarks and thanks	Ms. Nisha
		Director
		UNESCO Office for the Pacific States
		Hon. Loau Solamalemalalo
		Minister for Education, Sports and Culture
		Keneti Sio
		Independent State of Samoa