**Session 7.** **Friday 3 May 2019, 10.30am**

**Japan-Pacific ICT Centre**

*Resilience Standards of Excellence*

Focus of the Session

The proposed establishment of Resilience Standards of Excellence (SoE) is one of the means of galvanising and inspiring all actors to higher levels of performance for resilience action linked to the FRDP. The PRP Taskforce is keen to examine how the Principles, Goals and Actions within the FRDP can be a basis for framing relevant SoE that will inspire higher levels of resilience performance.

Background

The Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce, established in early 2018 as the regional coordinating body of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, agreed in November 2018 to establish SoE to enhance the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 – 2030.

Historically, and prior to 2010, advocacy and capacity building initiatives to support climate change and disaster resilience in all Pacific island countries were undertaken as part of separate although related efforts. These were pursued in this manner largely due to the guidance of separate policy instruments at the global, regional and national levels. Climate Change and Disaster Risk action, though closely interrelated, were not typically pursued in an integrated manner. Commencing in 2010 however, Pacific island countries began to demonstrate commitments to integrated approaches to dealing with climate and disaster resilience; the first Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management was developed by the Kingdom of Tonga in 2010. This prompted action by other countries in the period 2010 – 2013 culminating with the adoption of the FRDP in September 2016.

The integration of approaches was a milestone achievement for the Pacific. It brought to light the realisation that the underlying issues of vulnerability and risk in relation to the changing climate and disaster risk were of the same ilk. Pacific island countries accepted that given the realities, the approach to addressing climate and disaster resilience needed to be through an integrated approach. Furthermore, countries are recognising the more substantive link between climate change and disaster vulnerability to development. This achievement by the Pacific has helped to re-invigorate action for resilience building through, not only an integration between climate change and disaster risk action, but also a more substantive integration with development. This is helping countries in the region to continue to seek enhancements and innovations that will not only encourage continued action but in fact raise the bar for resilience performance by actors at all levels.

The impetus for establishing ‘Resilience Standards of Excellence’ is derived from regional discussions within the Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce (PRP TF). The PRP TF acknowledges the significant milestone achievement that the development of the FRDP represents; that it provides a sound basis to strengthen coordination, cooperation and collaboration amongst development actors in support of increased and focussed climate and disaster resilience action at the national and sub national level in Pacific islands countries and territories. In this regard the PRP TF is also keen to inspire stakeholders to strive for higher levels of ’resilience performance’ in line with the foundational principles of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, which encourages leadership, inclusivity, partnership and a commitment to the highest levels of integrity and quality in how resilience action is implemented at all levels.

The PRP TF are encouraging new ideas and innovations to help strengthen resilience performance and have agreed to the development of ‘Resilience Standards of Excellence’ to provide further clarity and guidance in terms of how best stakeholders can address the implementation of the FRDP.

Objective

The objective of the session is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders attending the PRM to provide initial comments to help guide the development of draft Resilience Standards of Excellence.

Expected Outcomes from the Session

At the end of the session the participants will have:

* Clarity on the rationale for and the process for developing Resilience Standards of Excellence
* Provided comment to help guide the development of Resilience Standards of Excellence

Structure of the Session

The session is to be conducted as follows:

1. The lead facilitator for the session will present the background, rationale and initial concept for Resilience Standards of Excellence. The presentation is intended to ‘set the scene’ for the ensuing plenary discussions. This will include cross-referencing the related but separate initiative to develop an M&E framework for the FRDP. It will also include an emphasis on how ‘youth’ can be an agent for positive change to enable the strive for improved standards of resilience action.
2. In plenary, the session facilitators will then invite participants to respond to some key questions and provide an opportunity for participants to also provide their own questions and comments to help guide the development of Standards of Excellence.
3. Following the participant feedback the session facilitators will provide a recap of the views coming from participants and the lead facilitator will then close the session and provide guidance on the next steps/way forward for the finalisation of the Standards of Excellence.