

Energy storage policy updates nuku alofa

Director of SPC's Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division, Dr. Andrew Jones, reaffirmed that the PCREEE remains a strategic component of the Division. "With the global target of net zero emissions by 2050 and the urgent need to accelerate the transition to renewable and energy efficient economies, the role of the private sector in pursuing this target becomes even more critical. Therefore, the need for PCREEE's private sector-focused technical assistance and services remains very relevant to SPC and its members."

Representing UNIDO, Mr Stein Hansen reaffirmed UNIDO's commitment to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the promotion of inclusive, integrated and sustainable management of the natural resources and ecosystems of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). UNIDO has not only coordinated the establishment of the global network of sustainable energy centres but has also attracted donors and partners to work on emobility and smart island grids in the Pacific SIDS.

In his congratulatory message, Mr Martin Ledolter, Managing Director, Austrian Development Agency announced that the achievements of the PCREEE in the four years of its first operational phase has now made it possible, and for the first time, for ADA to sign a contribution agreement with the PCREEE's host organisation (SPC). This new and exciting collaboration is to support PCREEE's Second Operational Phase and the implementation of its Business Plan, in the strategic areas of smart mobility and renewable energy mini-grids.

The celebration was a joint event with the Department of Energy of MEIDECC and was supported and coordinated with the kind assistance of Mrs Lucy Fa'nunu (Officer in Charge) and the staff of MEIDECC office in Vava'.

Presenting the TERM Plus Framework to the CEO of MEIDECC Paula Pouvalu Ma'u, Dr. Tevita Tukunga acknowledged the role of the GGGI in drafting the framework and the tremendous support of the European Union to the energy sector of Tonga. He noted that the initial TERM 2010-2020 was launched and signed at Vava'u and it is only appropriate to launch the TERM Plus at Vava'u too.

The PCREEE Business Plan 2020-2030 was also launched. This document will guide the work of the Centre to support the effort of SPC member countries in the next 10 years. The document is a product of several consultations with SPC member countries including Tonga. It is an effort to ensure this regional plan accommodates the priority needs of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, as in the TERM Plus.

Presenting the Business Plan to the CEO of MEIDECC Paula Pouvalu Ma'u, Benjamin Jesse of the PCREEE, outlined the four strategic work programmes in the Business Plan being:

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Concluding the celebration, the PCREEE and the International Solar Alliance and with the support of the France National Institute for Solar Energy (INES) and the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will deliver a series of webinars on renewable energy micro-grids beginning on 28th April. This is part of supporting Pacific Islands in their efforts to build back stronger and cleaner post COVID-19 pandemic and be better prepared for natural disasters.

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Tonga's CoViD-19 travel restrictions have disrupted national renewable energy targets for the next two years. Getting technical experts into the country to design and commission urgent work is a major problem.

But now, a number of renewable energy projects that were scheduled to roll out in mid-2020 have been deferred indefinitely. A key administrator, Dr Aisake Eke, said they might not start moving again until late 2021 or even 2022.

Contact us for free full report

Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

