



SUB-REGION SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Session Title :

Sub-Region (Oceania) Synthesis Session: **Water security and the resilience of small island communities of the Asia-Pacific**

Sub-region Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

1. Dave Hebblethwaite, Water Security and Governance Coordinator, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Email: daveh@spc.int. Mobile: +679 9983059. 2. Mary Alalo, Water Security Engagement Lead, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Email: marya@spc.int. Mobile: +679 2350385.

Session Description (300 words):

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities, and are at the front line of climate change impacts. SIDS already experience a disproportionately high exposure to disaster risk, with climate change affecting both the likelihood and impact of slow onset and sudden hydrometeorological events. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (2022) affirms with at least medium confidence level that increased water security risk will be experienced in almost every small island on Earth.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to almost half the world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as countries with significant populations living on small islands. More than a third (17) of our member countries are SIDS, including the world's only four nations comprised exclusively of low-lying atolls (Kiribati, the Maldives, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu). Over half the SIDS of the Asia-Pacific region have no surface water at all, or are home to significant populations living on islands with no surface water. For these communities, water resources are confined to shallow aquifers and rainwater collected from roofs, as well as supplementary sources such as desalination where available.

While the common water security challenges of SIDS are some of the world's most demanding, our region's island communities are at the forefront of implementing innovative local solutions - strengthening community resilience by drawing upon systems of traditional knowledge and governance together with cutting edge science. This session will explore the efforts of small island communities across the Asia-Pacific to achieve climate resilient water systems, and demonstrate how investment in local water security solutions can and should play a critical role in addressing the existential threat of climate change.

Key messages from your Sub-region (2 maximum)

1. The Asia-Pacific region is home to almost half the world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including all of the world's atoll nations, as well as numerous countries with significant populations living on small islands at the front line of climate change impacts.
2. More needs to be done to support the development, implementation, sharing and upscaling of locally appropriate and locally owned solutions by the small island communities of the Asia-Pacific, including through strengthened knowledge partnerships and improved and accelerated access to investment mechanisms such as climate financing.

Concrete outcomes (eg. Initiatives, practices, dialogue, commitment, etc.) (5 maximum)

1. **Commitment to strengthened partnership dialogues between Asia-Pacific countries home to significant small island populations.**
2. **Commitment to building upon and expanding existing communities of practice, such as those enabled through the Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security.**



3. Commitment to expanded dialogue on atoll water security issues and solutions between Pacific and Indian Ocean atoll states.

Detailed Session plan (indicative TBC):

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 mins	Introduction of session objectives and keynote speakers.	Asia Pacific Water Forum secretariat representative (TBC)	TBC
15 mins	Supporting the water security of remote island communities (TBC)	Government of Indonesia representative (TBC)	TBC
15 mins	Supporting the water security of atoll communities (TBC)	Government of Maldives representative (TBC)	TBC
15 mins	Practical partnerships for action: lessons from the <i>Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security</i>	The Pacific Community (SPC)	OK
15 mins	Water security and Pacific small island communities	Pacific Island Country representative (TBC)	TBC
15 mins	Interactive Session and Q & A	Moderator (TBC)	TBC
5 mins	Outcomes, policy recommendations and conclusions	Asia Water Council representative (TBC)	TBC