

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations in: **No.:** 05/17
Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati,
Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New
Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga.

FILE: PRO 2/20/4/1 ; PRO 2/20/5/2 **DATE:** 28 December 2005

SUBJECT: **SPC TECHNICAL CONSULTATION MEETING AND TRAINING WORKSHOP
ON INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION, NADI, FIJI ISLANDS, 20–24
FEBRUARY 2006**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This notice is to confirm the intention of SPC to host a technical consultation meeting and training workshop for persons responsible for Infection Control Programme management at a clinical level in the Pacific Islands region, to be held in **Nadi, Fiji Islands**, from **20 to 24 February 2006**, and serves as an invitation to SPC member country governments and territory administrations with an interest to nominate an official representative to the meeting.
2. The attention of Governments and Administrations is drawn to the following selection criteria for the meeting:
 - i. The representative must be responsible for management of infection control and prevention programme/s at a national or institutional level.
 - ii. Given their existing/possible role in epidemic outbreak responses in their countries/territories and ongoing working relations with SPC, to maximise the impact of the workshop we would strongly recommend that consideration be given by countries and territories to nominating the following representatives:
 - Fiji Islands: Ms Margaret Leong, Clinical Risk Manager, Lautoka Hospital
 - Kiribati: Ms Helen Murdoch, Infection Control Nurse, Tunguru Hospital
 - Marshall Islands: Ms Brenda Lee, Infection Control Nurse, Majuro Hospital
 - Solomon Islands: Ms Alison Sio, Infection Control Coordinator, National Referral Hospital, Honiara
 - Federated States of Micronesia: Ms Agnes Willyander, Nurse Programme Coordinator, Department of Health
 - Nauru: Ms Gano Mwareow, Principal Nurse Officer, Republic of Nauru Hospital
 - Cook Islands: Ms Neti Tamarua Herman, Director of Nursing, Ministry of Health
 - New Caledonia: Dr Flore Lacassin, Infectiologue, Centre Hospitalier Territorial, Noumea
 - Tonga: Dr Seini Kupu, Manager of National HIV/AIDS & TB Programme, Department of Health
 - Samoa: Ms June Scanlan, Principal Nurse, TTM Hospital
 - Palau: Dr Angela Marcil, Koror Hospital, Ministry of Health
 - Papua New Guinea: Ms Agnes Willyman, Infection Control Nurse, Port Moresby General Hospital.

Where those persons identified are not available to attend, an appropriate alternative participant is requested.

- iii. Due to limitations, funding can only be provided to selected countries, namely Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia and Palau.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

3. The objectives of this meeting are to:
 - report on and discuss the activities of the current Infection Control Specialist (ICS);
 - discuss current issues relevant to the practice of infection control;
 - provide consensus on, and prioritise, future steps for improving infection control and prevention in the Pacific region; and
 - provide training and opportunities for sharing experiences for infection control professionals in the region.

BACKGROUND

4. Infection control, particularly in health-care facilities, is a critical element in interrupting transmission of priority infectious diseases in the region. Evidence of this was shown during the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003 and is equally important with current and potential threats such as avian influenza H5N1 and influenza pandemic. Communication, accessibility of expertise and technical advice are recognised as areas in need of improvement in the region to facilitate infection control response to infectious disease threats.
5. After the Second Regional EpiNet Workshop in New Caledonia, 2004, it was recommended '*To review and improve on the infection control measures in PICTs by establishing and formalising the Pacific regional infection control network under the umbrella of the PPHSN*'.
6. An Infection Control Specialist, funded by the Asian Development Bank, is attached to PPHSN to further the development of the network and to improve infection control capacity in a sustainable way through a variety of activities.
7. It is the intention of SPC to organise this meeting for technical persons in order to enable a face-to-face exchange of ideas and discussion of issues. Whilst the local situation differs from country to country, there are some strategic issues of common concern where the sharing of technical information could be of mutual benefit.
8. Concurrent with SPC's country focus, the travel costs and daily subsistence allowance of a national representative from the countries identified above will be fully funded by SPC.

MEETING COMPONENTS

9. The agenda items are outlined below. Should you wish to make comments or suggest changes to the agenda, we would appreciate receiving them **before 4 February 2006**.

Day 1 – Technical consultation workshop

- Public health and infection control links – communication, importance, roles
- Health and economic implications of infection control
- Report of SPC Infection Control Specialist
 - Visits
 - PICNet
 - TNA
 - Issues for progress
 - Infection control guidelines

Day 2

- WHO WPRO and SPC plans for infection control
- Pandemic/epidemic preparedness
- Priority setting for infection control in the Pacific – consensus, planning and recommendations

Day 3 – Training for new infection control professionals

Infection Control Programme management

- Principles of infection control
- Role of the infection control nurse
- Infection Control Programme essentials
- Tricks of the trade
- Innovation with limited resources
- How to teach infection control in health-care facilities
- Networking and resources

Day 4 – Management of occupational exposure

- Risk assessment
- Protocols for post exposure management
- Prophylaxis
- Testing
- Documentation
- Counselling the exposed person
- Policy development

Day 5 – Experiences

- Sharing of experiences
- Fiji experience of Infection Control Programme development
- Site visit (to be arranged)

LANGUAGE

10. The meeting will be conducted in English.

VENUE AND DATES

11. The meeting will be held from Monday 20 to Friday 24 February 2006. The venue will be advised at a later date.
12. Sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.. A 30-minute morning and afternoon break will occur at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively. Lunch break will be from 12.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

13. SPC-funded participants will be provided with return economy class air fares to Nadi, Fiji Islands, by the most direct route. If participants choose to fly by an alternative routing to that provided by SPC, the participant or their government or administration will be responsible for any additional cost.
14. Daily subsistence allowances for any necessary stopovers and for the duration of the stay in Nadi (transport, meals, airport tax) will be paid at SPC official per diem rates.

INSURANCE

15. Participants are advised to make their own health and travel insurance arrangements. The Secretariat **does not** insure participants during travel to and from, or while they are attending, meetings. The Secretariat will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by delegates arising from sickness, injury, other disabilities or loss of life.

CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE

16. Governments and Administrations are invited to confirm the above candidates for the meeting. Confirmations should be submitted to the Secretariat **by Monday 31 January 2006**.

CONTACTS

17. Agenda items, working papers etc: Peta-Anne Zimmerman, Infection Control Specialist (email: petaannez@spc.int).
18. Travel, logistics etc: Jennifer Corigliano, Project Assistant (email: jenniferc@spc.int).

Lourdes T. Pangelinan
Director General

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