

**TO:** Representatives of Governments and Administrations **No.:**  
Directors of Health of Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia,  
Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa,  
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and  
Futuna

**FILE:** PRO 2/20/5/2 **DATE:** 06<sup>th</sup> Sep 2006

**SUBJECT:** **GLOBAL SALMONELLA-SURVEILLANCE (GSS) REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR  
THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, OCTOBER 23 TO 27 2006, SUVA,  
FIJI.**

1. Within the framework of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPSHN), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community will be organising the first regional training workshop for the Global Salmonella Surveillance for the Pacific region from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006 in Suva, Fiji Islands. This is the first regional training of this nature specifically to strengthen the diagnostic microbiology capacity for Salmonella organisms in the region in line with regional efforts to address foodborne diseases and food chain surveillance. In addition the training workshop has specific components to develop and enhance surveillance and outbreak response capacities in PICTs. This training is further in line with the phase two goals of the PRIPP project and the overall long-term goals of the PPHSN. The workshop is organised with the financial assistance from the Pacific Fund (IPNC), SPC PRIPP project (AusAid) funds and other resource assistance from CDC (US), Environmental Science and Research (ESR, NZ), Fiji School of Medicine (FSMed), Ministry of Health Fiji, Pasteur Institutes from Paris and New Caledonia and WHO,

#### **TENTATIVE OBJECTIVES**

2. The tentative objectives are:
- a) to improve *Salmonella* Typhi isolation capacity (detection) to address the issue of typhoid fever outbreaks in some of the PICTs
  - b) to develop and strengthen the *Salmonella* typing capacity, thus improved laboratory surveillance for salmonella.
  - c) to develop and enhance the outbreak rapid investigation and response capacity of EpiNet teams (or communicable disease control taskforces) in the PICTs in general and against *Salmonella* in particular, including strengthening teamwork and address system issues.
  - d) to update participants on the progress in LabNet development, current situation on lab testing and especially lab based surveillance, and LabNet issues for some PPHSN priority diseases

#### **FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP**

3. Format of the workshop incorporates two distinct components. There is a significant microbiology laboratory-based training component and bench work and also a field epidemiology training component. Similarly there will be people from two distinct backgrounds as well, i.e. microbiology and epidemiology-public health. The workshop proper will include series of different presentations and practical competency based exercises:
- plenary presentations /lectures or tutorials.
  - hands-on training – bench work, presentations with exercises and demonstrations
  - group work with shared discussions and outputs, recommendations and conclusions
  - there will be formal evaluation of this training including pre and post testing.
  - All materials will be provided for easy assisted learning in the usual SPC format.

## AGENDA

4. The provisional agenda will be provided to the participants when they are nominated.

## LANGUAGE

5. The meeting will be conducted in English. Very limited French translation may be available, however, the French speaking participants will be given assistance as per need basis have been notified and they have stated that they will be comfortable with an all English workshop.

## VENUE AND DATE

6. The Workshop will be held from October 23 to 27<sup>th</sup> 2006. The venue will be FSMed & Mataika House laboratories for the microbiology component and the lecture room facilities at Pacifica Campus at FSMed for the epidemiology component. FSMed Pacifica campus is located in Brown street, Suva , opposite the new extension of the CWM Hospital.

## NOMINATIONS

7. This is the first workshop in this area, targeting selected PICTs. Another workshop will be held in 2007 and will include participants from other PICTs. Governments of the following Pacific Island countries and territories are invited to nominate participants to this workshop: Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna.

8. Nominations should be as follows: one microbiology laboratory technician and/or one public health practitioner who is involved with outbreak investigations in his/her professional practice by no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2006. Additional nominations in both professional areas are possible and will be accepted on the basis of discussions with each PICT and according to funds availability. All nominated health professionals should be ideally part of the national/territorial EpiNet response team (or communicable disease control taskforce). Please note the specific technical nature of the training workshop, thus it is hoped that appropriate health professionals would be considered. The nominations should be sent to:

Dr Narendra Singh  
SPC Public Health Programme  
Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control Section  
Nabua  
Suva, Fiji  
Fax : 679 3370021  
Phone : 679 3370733  
E-mail: [narendras@spc.int](mailto:narendras@spc.int)

9. In order to facilitate communication, permission is requested from Governments for the SPC to correspond directly with the nominated participants. Unless advised otherwise, it will be assumed this arrangement is acceptable.

## TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

10. SPC Public Health Programme's Public Health Surveillance and Communicable Diseases Control Section will be responsible for:
  - Return economy class air fares (at excursion rates if possible) to Suva, Fiji Islands by the most direct route for the participants from Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna;
  - Daily subsistence allowances for any necessary stopovers and for the duration of the stay in Fiji (transport, meals, airport tax) at SPC rates and within means of the limited budget.

11. 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.
12. There is no airport departure tax in Fiji Islands.
13. Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa (s) to enable them to travel to the workshop plus fees for departure taxes.

#### **ACCOMMODATION IN SUVA**

14. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community will arrange hotel bookings in Suva, Fiji close to the workshop venue. Accommodation in shared rooms (2 by room) will be possible, if requested.

#### **VISA**

15. Participants do not require entry visas to Fiji but are required to carry passports valid for a period of 6 months FROM DE DATE OF DEPARTURE.
16. **IMPORTANT:** Participants transiting in New Zealand or Australia need a “transit visa”. They will have to obtain a “transit visa” themselves prior to departure, from the nearest Embassy/Consulate/High Commissioner.

#### **INSURANCE**

17. It should be noted that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community does not insure participants either during their stay or during travel to or from the meeting and decline any financial responsibility in the event of disease, injury, disability or death.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

18. Enquiries for further information on arrangements should be addressed to:

Dr Narendra Singh ([narendras@spc.int](mailto:narendras@spc.int)), Pandemic Preparedness and Training Specialist & Agnes Rigamoto ([agnesr@spc.int](mailto:agnesr@spc.int)), Reproductive Health Programme  
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Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)  
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and/or

Dr Justus Benzler ([justusb@spc.int](mailto:justusb@spc.int)), Communicable Disease Surveillance Specialist  
Mrs Elise Benyon ([eliseb@spc.int](mailto:eliseb@spc.int)), Data Processing Officer  
Mrs Josiane Everest ([josianee@spc.int](mailto:josianee@spc.int)),  
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**Dr. Jimmie Rogers**  
Director General