

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY****SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS  
HELD IN KOROR, PALAU, 14-17 NOVEMBER 2005****AGENDA ITEM 1 – DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S REPORT**

The CRGA noted the Director-General’s report and congratulated her on this overview and on SPC’s achievements.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 - SPC’S SECTORAL PROGRAMMES****2.1 - LAND RESOURCES**

CRGA:

- a. noted the presentation on the Land Resources Division;
- b. commended the Director of the Land Resources Division for his excellent presentation, for the informative discussion and for the excellent work carried out by the division; and
- c. noted a request from atoll countries for an increased focus on atoll agriculture.

**2.2 - MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION**

CRGA:

- a. noted the Marine Resources Division and Forum Fisheries Agency presentations;
- b. thanked the various presenters for their excellent presentations and for the ensuing informative and lively discussion;
- c. adopted the three strategic plans for the Regional Maritime Programme, Ocean Fisheries Programme, and Coastal Fisheries Programme;
- d. welcomed Papua New Guinea’s assistance for the proposed tuna tagging programme; and
- e. encouraged other development partners to join Papua New Guinea in funding the tuna tagging programme.

**2.3 - SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

CRGA:

- a. noted the presentations;
- b. thanked the presenters for their presentations and subsequent informative discussion of issues;
- c. adopted the seven strategic plans for the programmes of the Community Education and Training Centre, Cultural Affairs Programme, Information and Communication Technology Section, Pacific Women’s Bureau, Pacific Youth Bureau, Public Health Programme, and Statistics and Demography Programme.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – SPC CORPORATE REVIEW**

CRGA:

- a. commended the review team on its excellent work;
- b. endorsed in principle the draft report and its recommendations;
- c. looked forward to finalisation and dissemination of the report by the review team, taking on board comments by members and the views of member countries, including the team's visits to Tuvalu and American Samoa;
- d. noted that the report will form the basis for SPC's future directions in the new corporate plan that will be developed and submitted to CRGA next year.

#### **4.1 - STAFFING ISSUES / CROP REMUNERATION**

CRGA:

- a. noted with appreciation the work undertaken by the CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) Harmonisation Working Group;
- b. considered and approved all the recommendations as per the Working Group report, including the slight variation in the application of the 75% housing allowance rule as it relates to eligible staff based in SPC, Fiji;
- c. considered and approved the recommendation by CROP Heads to increase CROP professional staff salary scales in line with the average movements in the three reference markets, to take effect from 1 January 2006;
- d. approved a 2% salary increase for support staff, as approved by CROP Heads;
- e. noted that SPC's policy with respect to support staff salaries continues to be to adjust salaries according to movements in the relevant local market (Suva and Noumea);
- f. noted that the Secretariat will be able to absorb the increases within its proposed 2006 budget; and
- g. noted that the United States disassociates itself from the consensus on recommendations 2, 3, 5 and 14 of the Working Group report regarding education allowances, while Fiji and the United States disassociate themselves from the consensus with respect to the recommendation regarding tax-free status for CROP employees in Fiji.

#### **4.2 - SPC SUVA – SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

CRGA:

- a. noted and welcomed the confirmation by the Government of Fiji that:
  - (i) Fiji is committed to the Pacific Village Project and will aim to confirm funding arrangements in early 2006; and
  - (ii) Fiji will provide additional office space to cater for the immediate short-term space problems faced by SPC's Fiji Regional Office, pending the completion of the Pacific Village;
- b. and further noted:
  - (i) the concern raised by members on the slow progress of the Pacific Village Project; and
  - (ii) the offer by some members to host SPC programmes should the Pacific Village Project not materialise.

#### **4.3 – AUDIT REPORTS – FINANCIAL YEAR 2004**

CRGA:

- a. considered and accepted the SPC and Provident Fund Financial Statements and Auditors' Reports for the year 2004, the Management Report on control related accounting issues, and the Secretariat's response to the Management Report; and
- b. welcomed statements by members in further reiterating their commitment to pay their assessed contributions, with Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands indicating their particular commitment to paying their arrears.

#### **4.4 - SELECTION OF AUDITORS – FINANCIAL YEAR 2005-2007**

CRGA considered and approved the Secretariat's recommendation to appoint the firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu of Papua New Guinea to audit SPC's accounts for the financial years 2005 to 2007.

#### **4.5 - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET REVISION**

CRGA noted the report on the mid-year revision of the 2005 Core Budget.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 — FINANCIAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET**

CRGA agreed to recommend to the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Community that it consider and adopt SPC's budget for the year 2006.<sup>1</sup>

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

This item was discussed *in camera* and the Chairperson of CRGA will report separately on this to the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Community.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 — CRGA 36 – 2006 (VENUE AND MEETING CHAIRPERSON)**

CRGA noted:

- a. the venue for the Year 2006 meeting of CRGA 36 at SPC headquarters in Noumea. Members will be advised in due time of exact meeting dates; and
- b. the Chair for CRGA 36 will be provided by Vanuatu, and the Vice-Chair by Wallis and Futuna.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 — OTHER BUSINESS (CRGA RESOLUTION ON THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR-GENERAL)**

CRGA expressed its deep appreciation to the outgoing Director General of the SPC, Ms Lourdes Pangelinan, for her outstanding vision, leadership and wisdom in guiding the organisation during the six years of her tenure. CRGA noted that under her guidance the organisation has grown both in size and scope as determined by emerging priorities of the SPC membership. CRGA wishes the Director General every success and happiness in her future endeavors. In addition, CRGA also commends the excellent performance by members of her executive team whose tenure would come to end before the next CRGA.

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<sup>1</sup> The budget approved for recommendation by CRGA35 is distributed as a separate document.