



SESSION DESCRIPTION

D1 Front-line islands and cities: Building resilient island communities

Panel

Date: Friday, 27th April, 2018

Time: 11.00-12.30

Rooms: S01-02

Language: English

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Organized by: ICLEI Oceania

OBJECTIVE

Islands are at the front-line of climate change. Their towns and cities are growing rapidly, experiencing many of the development pressures of other larger cities. This is compounded by their extreme vulnerability to climate change. Island cities are also particularly significant as they are at the interface of human settlements and healthy oceans. At COP23 in Bonn last November the Front-Line Cities and Islands initiative was launched, attracting great interest. Front-Line aims to connect island cities and communities, within their own regions and with cities from other parts of the world, to form strategic and learning partnerships and to assist islands to fast-track sustainable urban development.

This session aimed to give the early adopters of the Front-Line initiative an opportunity to present some of their initial experience and thinking about how to optimize city – island exchange, the most crucial issues confronting them, and to encourage others to join the movement. It also explored two “entry points” to island resilience – Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) as these are being applied in the South-West Pacific.

OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- The most pressing urban challenges facing islands and the extent to which these are mirrored in other geographic contexts for mutual learning
- The efficacy of DRR and EbA as entry points for engaging island cities in resilient and sustainable development
- How other cities, agencies and funders can provide most effective support

METHODOLOGY

- Introduction. **(5 minutes)**
- Representatives from the Fiji Government and three cities will give short bursts on their most pressing urban development challenges, opportunity for questions after each burst. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- Two case studies were presented:
 - Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Port Vila (University of Wellington). **(20 minutes)**
 - Disaster Risk Reduction in Honiara, Solomon Islands (ICLEI). **(10 minutes)**
- UNISDR invited to present on the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, its application for small islands
- Plenary discussion on opportunities for twinning of cities and support from the international community



CONTRIBUTORS

- Facilitator *Steve Gawler, Regional Director, ICLEI Oceania, Melbourne, Australia*
- Panelist *Joshua Wycliffe, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, Suva, Fiji*
- Panelist *Sandeep Kuar Singh, Director, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, Suva, Fiji*
- Panelist *Jone Nakauvadra, CEO, Lautoka City Council, Lautoka, Fiji*
- Panelist *Premila Chandra, Senior Health Officer, Nadi City Council, Nadi, Fiji*
- Panelist *Asaeli Tokalau, Director, Administration and Operations, Suva City Council, Suva, Fiji*
- Panelist *Paul Blaschke, Research Fellow, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand*
- Panelist *Herman Timmermans, Project Manager, Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Suva, Fiji*
- Panelist *David Stevens, Head of Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Bonn, Germany (invited)*

Further recommended reading:

Pacific DDR Workshop: <http://oceania.iclei.org/newsdetails/article/port-vila-committed-to-compact-of-mayor.html>

ICLEI Oceania program highlights: <http://oceania.iclei.org/local-action/programs.html>
