WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Displacement and relocation challenges of climate change for communities in the Pacific Islands Region

25 – 27 May 2018, Brisbane, Queensland

This event is organized by community organizations, Pacific Islands Council Inc. and Friends of the Earth Brisbane keen to highlight and generate effective responses to the issues highlighted in the event title.

Information about the impacts of human induced climate change and some of its irreversible dynamics reaches us on an almost daily basis. Some of it focuses on the most vulnerable regions of planet Earth and the human communities who live there. Among these are the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including those in the Pacific Islands region. In such contexts, climate change weaves a sense of uncertainty and insecurity into many aspects of everyday life. Whole communities have already had to face the challenge of moving to a safer location and adapting to the lifestyle changes involved. Governments and civil society organisations in the region have constantly increased their efforts to bring Pacific voices into international forums and advocate for the action needed to avoid a catastrophic future for their peoples. As a Pacific neighbour and member of regional institutions, as well as home to significant Pacific diaspora communities, Australia needs to review its role and responsibility.

The forums will include:

- First hand case studies of displacement and relocation and the challenges involved
Scientific updates on climate change, particularly as relevant to the Pacific Islands region
Overview of major Pacific climate issues by experienced regional representatives
Generating dialogue on Australia’s role and responsibility as a Pacific neighbour

The 3-day event will include two one-day forums, an evening Pasifika youth event, and an ecumenical church service.


**The forum on Saturday 26th May**, 9am – 4pm, held in the Undumbi Room, Queensland Parliament House, will target in particular Pacific diaspora communities in Qld. It aims to deepen their awareness of the impacts of climate change in general and of its impacts on Pacific regional communities and identify channels for support and advocacy. To Register: info@picq.com.au

**Pasifika Youth event, Saturday 26th**, 5.30 – 9.00pm, Reddacliff Place, top of Queens St Mall.

Pacific Islands (PI) Youth groups in SE Qld will perform cultural dances and songs around the theme of the impact of Climate Change in their Pacific Island nations. The event aims to bring the PI Youths to the city of Brisbane to showcase and share their culture with the public. The highlight of the event is the screening of a play, Mama’s Bones in the city square. There will also be stalls for food and cultural/traditional art and craft from the Pacific Islands. All welcome to this public event.

**Ecumenical church service, Sunday 27th May**, 11.30am, St John’s Anglican Cathedral, Ann St, Brisbane City

The identity of the majority of Pacific peoples has a strong Christian faith component. The Pacific of Churches and several individual church leaders have taken a leading role in highlighting the impacts of climate change and advocating for serious action to address it. This will be acknowledged in an ecumenical service on Sunday 27th May, 11.30pm at St John’s Anglican Cathedral, followed by a Pacific feast. All welcome. To Register: wendy.flannery@foe.org.au
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Queensland Government Representative of the Premier and Members of Qld Parliament
- Keynote Address: Rev. Tafue Lusama, General Secretary, Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu – Critical challenges of climate change for Tuvalu and other small island states in the Pacific
- Patrick Nunn, Professor of Geography, University of the Sunshine Coast - An update on key scientific climate change projections of relevance to the Pacific Islands region
- Torres Strait Regional Authority, to be confirmed
- Manasa Katonivualiku, Regional Adviser UNESCAP - Pacific regional approaches to the issue of climate change displacement and relocation
- Genevieve Jiva, Pacific Islands Climate Action Network - A Pacific viewpoint on the international climate negotiations and the issue of Loss & Damage
- Martin de Jong, Advocacy & Research Advisor, Caritas Aotearoa/New Zealand - Overview of five years of community-based research by Caritas in Oceania on environmental impacts and response, focusing on people’s experience of displacement and relocation
- Ursula Rakova, Director of Tulele Peisa, Bougainville, PNG - Relocation challenges: for families, for the agency, for the host community
- Amelia Ma’afu, Project officer, Caritas Tonga - Climate change challenges in Tonga, including displacement and relocation
- John Grogan, USC - Migration with dignity from the Kiribati perspective
- Volker Boege, School of Politics and International Studies, UQ - Climate change related relocation and migration challenges in the Pacific

PANELISTS

- Representatives of Department of Environment; Department of Home Affairs
- Senators Responsible for Pacific Islands Affairs
- Pacific Islands Regional organizations
- Speakers