



Pacific Power Association

Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Office: Naibati House, Goodenough Street, Suva

Telephone: (679) 3306-022 Fax: (679) 3302-038

Email: ppa@ppa.org.fj, website: <http://www.ppa.org.fj>

2011 Pacific Power Association 20th Annual Conference Communiqué

Pacific Island utilities have a vital role to play in supporting Island sustainability Conference says.

The Pacific Power Association, a member of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) held its 20th Annual Conference in Guam from 25-28th July, hosted by the Guam Power Authority.

A record number of delegates, 195, discussed **“The Role of Utilities in Support of Island Sustainability”**. Utility CEO’s, board members, senior staff from the following seventeen utilities were joined by government and bank officials, energy experts and representatives of the Allied Members:

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|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. American Samoa Power Authority | 10. Nauru Utilities Authority |
| 2. Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation | 11. Pohnpei Utilities Corporation |
| 3. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation | 12. Palau Public Utilities Corporation |
| 4. Electricite De Tahiti | 13. PNG Power Limited |
| 5. Fiji Electricity Authority | 14. Solomon Islands Electricity Authority |
| 6. Guam Power Authority | 15. Te Aponga Uira O Tumu-Te-Varovaro |
| 7. Kosrae Utilities Authority | 16. UNELCO Vanuatu Limited |
| 8. Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resources | 17. Yap State Public Service Corporation |
| 9. Marshalls Energy Company | |

Chairman, Apii Timoti, said that the increasing vulnerability of Island environments to the impact of climate change and extreme weather events made sustainability vital:

“As key players in our nations’ development power utilities have an obligation to ensure the sustainable use of our resources to protect our environment so that these resources are also available for our future generations. We must look at alternative ways of producing electricity” he told delegates.

The Conference continued to support Pacific Leaders and Energy Ministers’ call to develop projects that bring renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency measures to meet the region’s energy needs and reduce dependency on expensive fossil fuel imports.

Reports were received on the successful grid connected solar and demand side management workshops for engineers held in both the North and South Pacific in

conjunction with the e8 Network with assistance from the US Department of Interior and the EU.

The aim of improving utility performance was highlighted in presentations on Benchmarking by Mr Roel Verlaan of KEMA to the Conference and the CEO's meeting. Further work with the utilities would identify financial, technical and non technical losses and suggest remedial action on a utility by utility basis.

"We need to be as efficient as possible in order to provide an affordable and good quality service. Any dollars wasted means higher prices for consumers and businesses" Mr Verlaan said.

The utilities continue to support the PPA's focus on assisting governments with the development of national energy policies, human capacity building and the improvement of energy efficiency in utilities.

Examples of opportunities for future work together were given by the World and Asian Development Banks, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and PACTAM. There was now much more international involvement in and support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Utilities are now in a much better position to benefit from the desire of donors to assist in island sustainability through funding renewable energy planning and projects, promoting energy efficiency actions and supporting demand side management.

High quality presentations were given on renewable energy, particularly solar and wind; fuel, including bio diesel and low sulphur diesel; generation systems; waste oil; project management; hedging fuel costs; and advanced technology.

The PPA will work with governments and donors to help resolve the shortage of utility trades, sub-professional and professional (particularly engineering) staff.

At the AGM Apii Timoti was thanked for his contribution as Chairman for four years and Kin Flores, CEO of Guam Power Authority, welcomed as the new Chair.

Vanuatu will host the 2012 CEO's meeting which will be accompanied by the biennial Engineers' Workshop.

The conference theme will **"Mining Energy Efficiencies and Diversifying the Energy Portfolios of the Island Utilities"**