# AUSAID PROJECT
# PACIFIC ISLANDS – CLIMATE PREDICTION PROJECT (PI-CPP)

***Regional Training Workshop on Climate Services***
***(Data Rescue, Media, SCOPIC and Seasonal Climate Forecasting and Managing Risks)***

*Training Room, Fiji Meteorological Services, Nadi, Fiji*
*21st September to 2nd October*

## Introduction

The Bureau is conducting an AusAID-funded project entitled "Pacific Islands – Climate Prediction Project", which aims to develop seasonal climate prediction capacity and establish an ongoing seasonal prediction service in ten Pacific Island Countries.

The two weeks training workshop in Fiji was the final regional workshop for Phase 2 which focussed on all new products developed for various pilot projects and new tools added to SCOPIC. Ten Pacific Island National Meteorological Services, who are participating in the project, were included in this regional training workshop.

The workshop aimed at NMS staff members who have been given the responsibility of issuing the seasonal climate outlooks using SCOPIC. The workshop included training on the Drought Monitoring Tool (DMT), a forecast validation exercise, automatic downloading of sea level project data into SCOPIC, tropical cyclone outlook website and presentation of several pilot projects in climate risk management being conducted in the participating Pacific Island countries.

AusAID issued a Media Release on the workshop on 18th September 2009 (attached) which generated lot of media interest including the local television.

## Workshop Arrangements

Due to Fiji's central location in Southern Pacific and the availability of a wide range of hotels close to Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS), it provided the most economical location for the workshop. The workshop was held at the Training Room at the FMS in Nadi, which has 10 to 15 desktop computers with wireless Internet access.

Sixteen participants from ten Pacific Island Countries attended the workshop (see attached participants list). Upon request from Kiribati NMS Director, another climate officer from the Kiribati, who was on his way back from another workshop in Samoa, was included in the workshop. The project funded his accommodation, meal allowances and additional fees required to change his flights. Two climate officers from PNG Meteorological Services attended this workshop. This exception was made because of substantial eroding of capacity in PNG NMS as a result of the resignation of their key climate officer earlier this year.

All participants stayed at the Sandalwood Inn and pick-up and drop-off were arranged by the Fiji NMS. All tea breaks and meals were catered at the FMS in order to minimise time loss. This also gave the project team to spend more out-of-workshop time with the participants.

The PI-CPP Project Team comprised of: Ms Janita Pahalad (Team Leader), Dr Yahya

Abawi (Risk Management Specialist), and Mrs Debbie Dowel (Project Support Officer). Ms Elizabeth Boulton (PCCSP International Liaison Officer), Mr Rod Hutchinson and Dr William Wright also attended the first week of the workshop and ran PCCSP session on Monday and Tuesday.

The first week of the workshop included presentation of country reports, Pacific Climate Change Science Program (including data rescue and ClimSoft), revision of basic features and introduction of new features in SCOPIC including Drought Monitoring Tool, introduction to a newly established website on *South Pacific Seasonal Outlook for Tropical Cyclones*, further work on validation analysis and media training.

Media training was conducted by Ms Sarah Brooker and Mr Niall Byrne from *Science in Public*. They were assisted by four local journalists: Ms Sophie Foster (Fiji Times Ltd), Ms Merena Kitione (Fiji Television Ltd), Mr Vijay Narayan (FM96) and Mr Rajendra James (Fiji Broadcasting Commission). Practice TV interviews and radio interviews were conducted with each participant. See pages 7 and 8 of the attached agenda.

The second week of the workshop mainly focussed on use of seasonal climate forecasting on managing risks which included presentations on pilot projects namely water management, health, agriculture and renewable energy (hydro-power generation). Other resource personnel were Dr Ian White (Australian National University), Mr Peter Sinclair (Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission – SOPAC), Mr Saumen Bandyopadhyay (Fiji Electricity Authority), Mr Jai Gawander (Sugar Research Institute of Fiji), Mr Savenaca Seniloli (Rewa Co-op Dairy Co. Ltd, Fiji), Mr Albino Bobogare (National Health Research and Training Institute, Solomon Islands) and Mr Peter Napwatt (Vanuatu Agriculture College).

A new training session *Let's Chit Chat* was developed and trialled with participants. This was a role play session where each participant assumed the role of a user from a specific climate-sensitive industry or a journalist. A *user* and a *journalist* were paired off and a mock-up interview was conducted. The pair set a climate scenario or chose a topic or an event to discuss. After each interview, feedbacks and comments were sought from others. The aim of this session was to test participants understanding of users' needs and their ability to conduct themselves during an interview. Feedback from this session was highly positive.

The opening address and the opening remark were delivered by Mr Rajendra Prasad, Director of Fiji NMS, and Mr Ryan Medrana, First Secretary, AusAID-Suva. On the final day of the workshop, all participants filled in an evaluation form and competency analysis form.

According to the Project's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework, competency rating indicators are needed for measuring the performance of the NMSs' climate prediction services. The M&E framework requires a self-assessment of the participants in order to provide a baseline for comparison at the end of the project. Self assessment can be a strong capacity building and empowerment tool, and given both the strong partnership between the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and NMSs and the culture of learning that has already been established, self-assessment is an appropriate methodology to assess the changes in NMS climatological predictive capacity. A competency rating documentation will be provided to the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID).

The workshop was formally closed by Mr Prasad, and each participant received a *Certificate of Training.* See attached agenda, participants' list and evaluation report for more details.

## Outcomes

An evaluation of the workshop was carried out (see attached summary report). The overall rating for the workshop ranged from *very good* to *excellent*. There was no major criticism aimed at the arrangement or the structure of the training. All participants were satisfied with the length of the workshop and found new features in SCOPIC and the media training as the most valuable sessions. Average rating for each session was from very good to excellent. Lowest scores (3.9/5) were given to time allocation for session on *SCOPIC new features and tools* and *Forecast Validation Exercise*.

A separate evaluation of the media training was carried by the *Science in Public* team. The overall assessment of the course was 6.1/7.0. The average rating ranged from 5.9 to 6.7 (Full assessment reports are attached).

Country reports provided useful information on the status of the current climate services provided by each NMS including the usage of SCOPIC and how PI-CPP has contributed towards this development. All reports can be made available upon request.

*Let's Chit Chat* session, which was conducted for the first time, was well accepted and all the participants were happy to participate.

All TV and radio interviews that were conducted on the media training day were recorded and are available in DIVX format. Since the recordings were done for training purpose, it was agreed that they will not be released to a general public.

Most participants struggled to understand basic statistics such as regression analysis therefore the agenda was revised slightly during the second week in order to provide some training on basic statistics.

A number of participants requested for another round of workshops for their users, similar to Phase 1. Since 2004, more PIC users have become interested in seasonal climate outlooks, the demand has increased over the last few years. One of the participants commented that while there is strong interest from the users, it will be most appropriate to run another workshop particularly now that we have more local case studies that are relevant to PICs than what was presented in 2004.

A couple of participants couldn't get access to a computer because Fiji NMS training computers are now almost 13 years old and most of them are no longer in working condition. Fortunately, most participants brought their own laptops.

## Recommendations

During the wrap discussion and in the evaluation forms, several recommendations were made by the participants:

- More training on basic statistics and basic climatology are required particularly for the new climate officers.
- More media training is required;
- Another round of workshops, similar to Phase 1, for users are to be conducted in each PIC;

- A number of NMSs require further training on how to compile a national climate bulletin;
- Monthly Online Climate Outlook Forum to continue;
- Further training through attachment at another more advanced NMS to continue;
- Technical knowledge and skills achieved through the SCOPIC trainings should be continued as long as new development requires upgrade of knowledge and skills on the tool; and
- Replacement of the computers and printers provided in 2007 is required for most of the NMSs.

**Acknowledgement**

PI-CPP team would like to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Fiji Meteorological Service for once again providing a training venue including wireless Internet access, and for organising accommodations, catering and transportation for the resource personnel and the participants.

PI-CPP team also would like to thank the following people for contributing towards the success of the training workshop:

Dr Ian White (Australian National University);
Mr Peter Sinclair (Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission – SOPAC);
Mr Saumen Bandyopadhyay (Fiji Electricity Authority);
Mr Jai Gawander (Sugar Research Institute of Fiji);
Mr Savenaca Seniloli (Rewa Co-op Dairy Co. Ltd, Fiji);
Mr Albino Bobogare (National Health Research and Training Institute, Solomon Islands);
Mr Peter Napwatt (Vanuatu Agriculture College);
Ms Sarah Brooker and Mr Niall Byrne (Science in Public);
Ms Sophie Foster (Fiji Times Ltd);
Ms Merena Kitione (Fiji Television Ltd);
Mr Vijay Narayan (FM96); and
Mr Rajendra James (Fiji Broadcasting Commission).

**AGENDA**

## WEEK 1 (*(PCCSP, Data Rescue, Media and SCOPIC)*
**Monday, 21st September**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Registration |
| 9.00am | Opening Ceremony (prayer) |
| | Opening address: Rajendra Prasad, Director, FMS |
| | Opening remark: Mr Ryan Medrana, First Secretary – Climate Change, AusAID, Suva |
| 9.20am | Overview of the workshop and the current status of the project - Janita Pahalad |
| 9.40am | Self introduction of the participants |
| ***9.50am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 10.30am | Session 1: Country Reports on Climate Services - NMS Reps |
| | (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Session 2: Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP) |
| | PCCSP overview - Liz Boulton |
| | Component 1.1 (Data) Overview: William Wright |
| **3.00pm** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | PCCSP continued |
| | Component 1.2: Simon McGree |
| | Component 1.3: S McGree/W Wright |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 1*** |

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**Tuesday, 22nd September**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Session 3: Data Rescue and ClimSoft |
| | Discussion of adaptation & reinforce importance of good data management: Rod Hutchinson, W Wright and L Boulton |
| 9.30am | Review of previous AGO projects: R Hutchinson |
| 10.00am | Data plans for this project: W Wright |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11:00am | Facilitated discussion on: ClimSoft issues; plans to improve; desired functionality: R Hutchinson, L Boulton and W Wright |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Managing paper records: R Hutchinson |
| 2.30pm | Electronic records management |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3.30pm | Recap, Q&A session |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 2*** |

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**Wednesday, 23rd September**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Seasonal Outlook for Tropical Cyclones – J Pahalad |
| 9.00am | Session 4: SCOPIC |
| | Overview and revision of basic features – Yahya Abawi |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11.00am | SCOPIC -Advanced features and new analyses tools including Drought Monitoring Tool - Y Abawi |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Hands-on exercises on new features and tools - Yahya Abawi and Janita Pahalad |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Hands-on Exercises using advanced features- Yahya Abawi and Janita Pahalad |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 3*** |

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**Thursday, 24th September**

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|---|---|
| 8.30am | Session 5: Validation analysis - Introduction |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 10.30am | Validation Study - Further analysis using SCOPIC |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Validation Study - Further analysis using SCOPIC |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Compilation of draft validation study report |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 4*** |

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**Friday, 25th September**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Session 6: Media Training (Detailed agenda attached) |
| | Media and Communication Training for Scientists (Sarah Brooker and Niall Byrne (Science in Public) |
| 9.15 | TV: mock-up interviews |
| ***9.45am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 10.00am | TV interviews continued |
| 11.15am | Print: mock-up interviews |
| 12.15pm | Round table discussion |
| ***12.30pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.30pm | Media Releases |
| 2.00pm | Radio: mock-up interviews |
| ***2.30pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 2.45pm | Practice Media Release |
| 3.45pm | Wrap up |
| ***4pm*** | ***END OF DAY 5*** |

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## WEEK 2 (*Seasonal Climate Forecasting and Managing Risks)*

**Monday, 28th September**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Session 7: Climate and risk management - overview |
| 8.30am | Climate variability, climate change, adaptation and risk management – Y Abawi |
| 9:30am | World Climate Conference-3: Climate science, services and applications - Summary of the outcomes – J Pahalad |
| ***10.00am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| | Session 8: Climate and health |
| 10.30am | WCC-3 Recommendations on Climate and human health – J Pahalad |
| 11.00am | An overview of malaria in the Solomon Islands: Mr Albino Bobogare, National Health Research and Training Institute, Solomon Islands |
| 12pm | Use of Climate information in the Health Sector- Case study of malaria in the Solomon Islands – Y Abawi |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Climate and health – Possible opportunities for research in the Pacific (Group Discussion) |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Break-up group session (climate and health) |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 6*** |

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**Tuesday, 29th September**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Session 9: Climate and Agriculture |
| 8.30am | WCC-3 Recommendations on Climate and land degradation, agriculture and food security – J Pahalad |
| 9.00am | Case studies - Y Abawi |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11.00am | Climate and agriculture: Vanuatu example - Peter Napwatt, Vanuatu Agriculture College |
| 12pm | Climate and Sugarcane: Fiji example - Jai Gawander, Manager, Sugarcane Research Institute of Fiji |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2pm | Dairy Industry in Fiji – Mr Savenaca Seniloli, Rewa Dairy |
| 2.30pm | Break-up group session (climate and agriculture) |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Break-up group session continues |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 7*** |

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**Wednesday, 30th September**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Session 10: Managing Risks in Renewable Energy Production |
| 8.30am | WCC-3 Recommendations on Climate and sustainable energy – J Pahalad |
| 9.00am | Hydro-power case study in Samoa: Y Abawi |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11.00am | Hydro power in Fiji: Current status and future opportunities - Mr Hasmukh Patel, CEO, Fiji Electricity Authority |
| 12pm | Break-up group session (climate and sustainable energy) |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| | Session 11: Climate and water resource management |
| 2pm | Water resources of the Pacific – Dr Ian White |
| ***3pm*** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Discussion session |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 8*** |

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**Thursday, 1st October**

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|---|---|
| | Session 11 continued |
| 8.30am | WCC-3 Recommendations on Climate and water – J Pahalad |
| 9.00am | Drought Monitoring (using SCOPIC) – Y Abawi |
| 9.30am | Climate change and the water sector- A case study in Australia- Y Abawi |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11.00am | Case study: Vaturu Dam: Fiji – Y Abawi |
| 12pm | Examples of application of climate information for water resource assessment and management in the Pacific - SOPAC |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Case study: Rainwater Tank: Tuvalu – Y Abawi |
| **3.00pm** | ***AFTERNOON TEA*** |
| 3.30pm | Groundwater case study Kiribati: Y Abawi |
| ***4.30pm*** | ***END OF DAY 9*** |

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**Friday, 2nd October**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Hands on exercises using Drought Monitoring tool |
| 10.00am | Niue country report |

| | |
|---|---|
| 10.15am | Briefing on *lets chit chat* session – J Pahalad |
| ***10.30am*** | ***MORNING TEA*** |
| 11.00am | Lets chit chat: role play: a role play session where each NMS rep will either pretend to be a user from a specific climate-sensitive industry or a journalist and conduct a mock-up interview. |
| ***1pm*** | ***LUNCH*** |
| 2pm | Wrap up discussion including recommendations |
| 2.30pm | Evaluation, competency assessment |
| 2.45pm | Presentation of Certificates |
| | Closure of the workshop |
| ***3pm*** | ***END OF THE WORKSHOP*** |

# Media training workshop: program

Friday 25 September 2009, Nadi, Fiji

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Welcome, introduction to presenters, and to the program for the day<br>Introductions to other participants (work around the room: names, organisation and one line about what they do) |
| 8.40am | Why are you here?<br>- Survey 'purpose of media skills training'<br>Why work with the media?<br>- Funding, influence the public, inform, be accountable<br>Understanding the journalist<br>- Lumpers and splitters; who, what, where, when, why and how; they want to be accurate too!; differences betw scientist and journalist pg11 but similarities too |
| 9am | News clips<br>- Watch, count shots, talent and total length |
| 9.15am | Television pg39-44<br>- Introduce TV journalist; talk about 'a day in the life'<br>- Bring in the idea that 'your work is a story' |
| ***9.45am-10am*** | ***Morning tea*** |
| *10am* | First TV interview in front of the group; feedback from journalist |
| 10.15am-11.15am | Message design (in main room) Practice TV interviews (second room)<br>- Research cycle pg 15<br>- Get on the front foot, be prepared pg 16<br>- message design pg 18-20<br>- the media interview pg27 |
| 11.15am | Print pg32-34<br>- Introduce print journalist; talk about 'a day in the life'<br>- Work around room, get participants to pitch their story |
| 12.15pm | Tricky, awkward situations pg49-52 |
| ***12.30pm-1.30pm*** | ***Lunch*** |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.30pm | Media releases pg22-26<br>- Writing<br>- Distribution<br>- Niche media (pg 29) |
| 1.45pm | 'The Media Event' pg45-48 |
| 2pm | Radio pg36-38<br>- Introduce radio journalist; talk about 'a day in the life'<br>- Different types of radio |
| 2.15pm | First radio interview in front of the group; feedback from journalist |
| **2.30pm** | **Afternoon tea** |
| 2.45pm-3.45pm | Practice media release writing<br>- Pairing up to write headline and first paragraph<br>Practice radio interviews (second room) |
| 3.45pm | Wrap up<br>- Comparing different media pg31<br>- Top tips for using the media pg53-54<br>- Using professionals pg13<br>- Survey, interviews for download |
| 4pm | Close |

# EVALUATION REPORT

Introduction

An evaluation was done for the 10-day workshop held at the Training Room, Fiji Meteorological Services, Nadi, Fiji from 21st September to 2nd October 2009. The main purpose of the evaluation was to ensure that the objectives of the workshop were met.

Evaluation Form

The form consisted of twelve sections: the first eleven sections asked the participants to rate different aspect of each session (including its usefulness and relevance) from a scale ranging from 5 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree). The sections were listed as: Country Reports; PCCSP; Data Rescue; SCOPIC new features and tools; Forecast Validation; Media Training; Climate and Health; Climate and Agriculture; Renewable Energy; Climate and Water Resources; and Let's Chit Chat.

Finally, there was a section on overall assessment which included length of the workshop, most valuable aspect; least valuable aspect, overall rating and any additional comments.

Results

| Session No. | Question | Average rating |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Country Reports** | |
| | I found the session useful | 4.4 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.6 |
| 2 | **Pacific Climate Change Science Program** | |
| | I found the session useful | 4.7 |
| | A website on TC climatology will provide useful information to my organisation | 4.7 |
| | A Climate Monitoring website will provide useful information to my organisation | 4.7 |
| 3 | **Data Rescue and ClimSoft** | |
| | I found the session useful | 4.3 |
| 4 | **SCOPIC new features and tools** | |
| | This session was relevant to my needs | 4.6 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.9 |
| | I found new features and tools in SCOPIC useful | 4.8 |
| | Downloading of SPSLCMP data is a useful new feature and easy to use | 4.4 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 3.9 |
| 5 | **Forecast Validation Exercise** | |
| | This session was relevant to my needs | 4.5 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.8 |
| | I found analysis results for my country satisfactory | 4.2 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 3.9 |
| 6 | **Media Training** | |
| | This session was relevant to my organisation | 4.7 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.9 |
| | I found mock-up interviews effective way of training | 4.8 |
| | Overall structure of the media session was effective | 4.5 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.1 |
| 7 | ***Seasonal Climate Forecasting and Managing Risks*** | |
| | **Climate and Health** | |
| | This session was relevant to my organisation | 4.8 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.6 |
| | Do you see potential of similar applications in managing other climate-related health risks in your country? | 4.5 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.5 |
| 8 | **Climate and Agriculture** | |
| | This session was relevant to my organisation | 4.9 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.9 |
| | Do you see potential of similar applications in managing similar or other crops or livestocks in your country? | 4.7 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.5 |
| 9 | **Managing Risks in Renewable Energy Production** | |
| | This session was relevant to my organisation | 4.6 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.6 |
| | Do you see potential of similar applications in managing other renewable energy sources in your country? | 4.5 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.6 |
| 10 | **Climate and Water Resource Management** | |
| | This session was relevant to my organisation | 4.8 |
| | I found the session contents useful | 4.7 |
| | I use/will be using DMT to monitor drought in my country | 4.4 |
| | I found applications demonstrated through Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu case studies useful | 4.6 |
| | Do you see potential of similar applications in managing water resource in your country? | 4.7 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.4 |
| 11 | **Lets Chit Chat** | |
| | I found this as an effective way of training | 4.8 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | I found this session useful | 4.8 |
| | Sufficient time was allocated to this session | 4.5 |
| 12 | **Overall Rating** | 4.6 |

All participants stated that the length of the workshop was sufficient and listed the following as the most valuable aspect of the training:

- Improving of features in SCOPIC and media training;
- Revision on basic statistics;
- Practical exercises;
- Risk Management case studies; and
- PCCSP

Nothing was rated as the least valuable aspect of the training.

Some notable comments made by the participants:

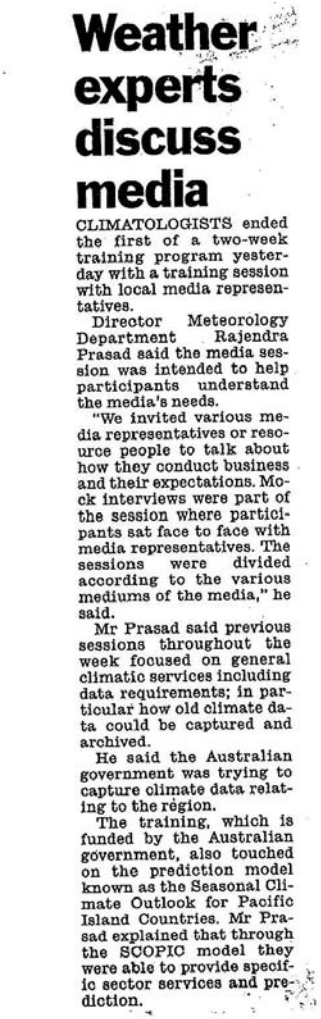
- Training was well managed and the agenda was relevant to what we do. It also gives an overview of what impact the climate information released to public have on the decision making of other organisation.
- Long or short, I really like it.
- Understanding the mathematical applications of SCOPIC is useful because it has been developed overtime. Case studies are really valuable and certain activities/programmes that can be adopted in our countries.
- The training, according to my observations, did not have any least valuable aspect. All the topics were relevant to the NMS in different ways.
- Thanks to all resource personals for all the presentations, and the coordinator and all the organisers of the workshop. Media training could have been lengthened a bit but overall duration of training was satisfactory.

**Workshop Photos**

**Group Photo A:**

**Group Photo B (Media day):**


**Training in session:**



# Weather experts discuss media

CLIMATOLOGISTS ended the first of a two-week training program yesterday with a training session with local media representatives.

Director Meteorology Department Rajendra Prasad said the media session was intended to help participants understand the media's needs.

"We invited various media representatives or resource people to talk about how they conduct business and their expectations. Mock interviews were part of the session where participants sat face to face with media representatives. The sessions were divided according to the various mediums of the media," he said.

Mr Prasad said previous sessions throughout the week focused on general climatic services including data requirements; in particular how old climate data could be captured and archived.

He said the Australian government was trying to capture climate data relating to the region.

The training, which is funded by the Australian government, also touched on the prediction model known as the Seasonal Climate Outlook for Pacific Island Countries. Mr Prasad explained that through the SCOPIC model they were able to provide specific sector services and prediction.

**Article in the Fiji Times, page 4, Saturday, 26th September 2009.**