



United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (2014-2024)
"Island Energy For Island Life"

SIDS DOCK SIDE EVENT

"BLUE GUARDIANS: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SIDS BLUE ECONOMY"

**INTER-REGIONAL MEETING FOR SIDS ON THE SAMOA PATHWAY MID-TERM
REVIEW**

**30 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2018
APIA, SAMOA**

LEAD ORGANIZERS: **SIDS DOCK SECRETARIAT**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)**

**PACIFIC CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
ENERGY EFFICIENCY (PCREEE) (TBC)**

**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**

GLOBAL CORAL REEF ALLIANCE (GCRA)

DATE & TIME SLOT: **WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2018
13:00-14:00**

VENUE: **Apolima Room, SAMOA TATTE Convention Centre APIA,
SAMOA**

**SIDS DOCK Secretariat
C/o Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre**

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INFORMATION ON SIDE EVENT

Short Introduction

This Side Event focuses on Ocean programmes, projects and activities of the sponsoring organizations. The presentations come from the main Work Programme Areas and associated activities by the co-organizers for Implementation, Post-2014 SAMOA, i.e., the protection and conservation of SIDS' largest natural resource - the Oceans. Three major cross-cutting themes connect the partners: (1) Catalysing improved management of coastal zones and ecosystems to reduce the consequences of negative human behaviour; (2) Deployment of systems for the sustainable management of coastal and offshore marine resources; (3) Development of the Blue Economy.

We know from our close relationship with the ocean, all is not right; our oceans are under threat. And we know this. Increased intensity of hydro-meteorological events and sea level rise driven by a changing climate threaten our beaches, water supply, food security, our islands, and our way of life. The question at the top of our minds, is: *How do we generate the financial resources to pay for imports, especially food and fuels, for our people and to sustain the main economic driver - our tourism?* If we lose our reefs, then our beaches will be destroyed, and our food security and livelihoods would deteriorate as our fisheries and tourism decline or are destroyed.

Ocean energy has the potential to make a significant contribution to the challenges of a changing climate. Various forms of ocean energy represent the largest source of available renewable energy for SIDS, worldwide. Successful deployment of ocean energy technologies to build climate resilience requires cooperative actions by SIDS and meaningful partners.

Another piece of the solution lies in successful deployment of innovative research which has identified and developed unique solutions for the regrowth of corals, providing a needed response to coastal erosion and the rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems critical to tourism, food security and reducing vulnerability of coastal communities.

Detailed Description (co-organizers, thematic focus, speakers and potential contribution to the Conference)

Co-Organizers:

- SIDS DOCK Secretariat
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
- Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) (TBC)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Global Coral Reef Alliance (GCRA)

Thematic Focus: The overarching thematic focus of this Side Event is on Oceans and the SIDS Blue Economy and its relevance to, “Life Below the Water.” While relatively small in landmass, SIDS govern over and serve as the “Blue Guardians” of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and for other extended continental shelf representing vast ocean territories extending up to and at times beyond 200 nautical miles from their coastlines. As such, oceans and coasts play a dominant role in the lives and livelihoods of island populations. Managing, monitoring and protecting these vast oceanic territories and ecosystems, however, especially from the increasing threats related to climate change, pollution and land use changes, have proven financially and technically challenging for SIDS, meanwhile, the impacts of climate change exacerbate the existing socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities in these countries. International assistance and partnerships are urgently required to overcome the financial, technical capacity and institutional limitations that currently exist, to effectively protect the reefs from land-based pollution, fisheries from bad practices, and development of the Blue Economy.

The SIDS Blue Guardians Programme integrates the mandates from the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway’s call for a “broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations;” the UN Oceans Conference call for, “Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)”, as well as the UNFCCC Paris Agreement which cites, “Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience...” as a priority for strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change. Financing the development of the SIDS “Blue Economy” is a major challenge for SIDS leaders, who must be creative in managing their “drowning countries.” This “Blue Economy” reaffirms the oceans’ ecosystems services and its role in all aspects of the economy. The **objective** of the Blue Guardians Programme is to facilitate the work of the Pilot SIDS across three overarching activity areas to directly increase climate resilience of islands and assist achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the countries:

1. Developing national climate resilience institutional infrastructure;
2. Building national and community climate resilience;
3. Establishing SIDS climate resilience knowledge exchange.

The Side Event will open with the special **5-minute video shown at the High-level Dialogue on Oceans and Small Island States, at the UN Oceans Conference in June 2017, at UN Headquarters** – the aim of the June 2017 Oceans Side Event was to raise the awareness on the important nexus between energy, waste management and coastal, marine and freshwater protection in Small Island Developing States. Converting waste for the provision of energy services, fertilizers and low-nutrient and pathogen-free water can have substantial co-benefits such as safeguarding public health and freshwater resources, as well as reduction of GHG emissions, compared to disposal in the coastal environment. Following the Side Event, the partners will register the waste-to-energy multi-stakeholder partnership as voluntary commitments for the outcomes of the Ocean Conference.

Moderator: Stein Hansen, Chief Strategic Donor Relations, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Panelists & Presenters:

Dr. Al Binger, Secretary-General, SIDS DOCK Secretariat

Dr. Thomas J. Goreau, President, Global Coral Reef Alliance, Coordinator, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Small Island Developing States Partnership in New Sustainable Technologies

Mr. Solomon Fifita, Manager, Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)

Potential Contribution to the Conference – The organizations responsible for this Side Event provides a unique example of how a SIDS-created and SIDS-owned mechanism can be a start-up success through collaboration and long-term commitments through partnership agreements with development agencies, sovereign governments and the private sector. In 2014, SIDS DOCK was an idea on paper, waiting for signature, and guided by a Steering Committee of eminent UN Ambassadors. Today, these leaders have successfully transitioned SIDS DOCK to a legally

registered SIDS intergovernmental organization which is now maturing into a full-fledged international platform for addressing climate change, resilience, and energy affordability, and with all the rights and privileges of a UN organization.

The Side Event will also highlight the importance of the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) and its efforts, along with UNIDO, GIZ, the Austria-based International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and the Governments of Austria and Spain. IWON focuses on capacity building in waste-to-energy management directly linked to coastal zone management and ocean protection, and on developing projects identified by member countries that have strong livelihood components based on a climate resilience building methodology. The energy sector plays a key role as a driver that is intended to help islands recover more quickly from hydro-metrological shocks.

The work programme of these organizations and the partnership platform represented by SIDS DOCK, provides the SIDS with an advocacy and coordinating mechanism that can catalyze many different partnerships in support of ocean protection and development of the Blue Economy. In 2014, 20 Heads of Government, State and Delegation signed the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK. As of 1 October 2018, 16 countries have become Parties to the Treaty; the Secretariat has been established in Belmopan, Belize; and a Secretary-General was appointed in May 2017. To help implement its work programme, SIDS DOCK facilitated the establishment of two SIDS Regional Centres, the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE - 2015) and the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE – 2017), supported by the Government of Austria and UNIDO.