

20th MSG Leader's Summit

Honiara, 24-26 June, 2015

Honorable Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and Chair of MSG;

Honorable Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji;

Honorable Peter O' Neill, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea;

Mr. Johnson Naviti Marakipule, Director General in the Prime Minister's Department and Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu;

Mr. Victor Tutugoto, Spokesperson of the FLNKS and outgoing Chair of MSG;

Pa Mohd. Abdul Rahman, Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia;

Delegation of the ULMWP;

Mr. Peter Forau, DG of the MSG Secretariat;

Foreign Ministers, members of delegations, members of the Diplomatic Corps, fellow development partners, ladies and gentlemen, bula vinaka, good morning.

Please allow me to convey my congratulations for the very successful outcome of the 20th MSG Leaders' Meeting!

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to bring you warmest greetings from the German Agency for International Cooperation and its staff!

GIZ is a fully German Government – owned technical cooperation agency. With about 20 000 staff we are assisting many countries worldwide, amongst them the 14 independent Pacific Island Countries, on sustainable development issues.

We work on behalf of the German Government, and of other donors, for example the European Union, and USAID.

In your countries we work hand in hand with our regional partner organizations SPC, MSG, USP and SPREP.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this Summit is to build a strong Melanesia.

As the honorable Prime Minister of Fiji already mentioned, climate change, together with a number of other challenges, is threatening the achievement of this goal. Climate Change is impacting all sectors. And It is a challenge to all three dimensions of sustainable development, namely to the economic, social and environmental dimension.

The German Government and the European Union GIZ are supporting your efforts to cope with the climate change challenge. GIZ and SPC are jointly implementing in the Melanesian countries on behalf of the German Government, the EU and also USAID four projects addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable energy, REDD + and forestry and marine and coastal biodiversity.

We work at the regional and national levels, assisting in reviewing policies, strategies and programmes. We also assist communities in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries, sectors.

Under the EU GIZ ACSE programme, each of the four Melanesian countries Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have been awarded 1 million Euros for projects on climate change adaptation and sustainable energy. In the moment, the project design documents are assessed.

Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me also to commend our gracious host, the Honorable Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, on the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme, CHICCHAP. CHICCHAP reflects an innovative approach to bundle resources from Government Agencies and different donors into a holistic, cross-sectoral, multipartner ridge to reef approach to development. This model has attracted considerable interest in the region and beyond, and is already copied by Kiribati in its Whole of Island Approach on Abaiang. SPC and GIZ are proud to be part of the CHICCHAP experience, and we hope that it will be replicated also in other regions of the Solomon Islands, and of Melanesia.

In closing, please allow me to thank you, the leaders of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, your Governments and people for the warm and cordial relations and the for the excellent collaboration. I also want to thank Director General Peter Forau and his team in the MSG secretariat for the excellent collaboration and friendship.

Excellences, we will continue to stand at your side in your efforts to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Tankyu tumas, Tankyu tru, vinaka vakalevu.

Dr. Wulf Killmann, Honiara, 26.06.2015