MEDIA RELEASE

Pacific Energy and Transport Officials meeting opens in Tonga

24 April 2017

Nuku’alofa, Tonga – The Pacific Energy and Transport Officials meeting was opened this morning in Nuku’alofa.

The Pacific Community (SPC), in partnership with the Government of Tonga is hosting the two-day officials meeting, preceding the Ministerial meeting to open on Wednesday this week.

High on the agenda for discussion are global and regional frameworks that will support access to global financing for Pacific Island countries. Discussions will cover the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Energy and Transport sectors, and financing Affordable, Reliable and Sustainable Energy and Transport Services for All.

Officially opening the meeting, Tonga’s Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni said: “The weeklong agenda has been carefully prepared to guide our efforts to achieve common objectives and ensure the sustainable development of our countries and the well-being of all our people.”

“This region faces unique challenges in terms of geography, size of population and economies,” he continued.

“Our joint and collective effort with regional actions that support our national development priorities and strategies is the most effective response to receiving support from the international community,” he concluded.

SPC Deputy Director-General Dr Audrey Aumua in her introductory remarks said: “A key purpose of this meeting is to periodically and systematically consult members on development and sectoral priorities. This meeting provides a necessary forum for members to shape regional and national priorities over the next three years, and agree on actions to support our member’s sustainable development aspirations for regional security.”

“SPC turns 70 this year and we are thrilled that our important work this week can celebrate that milestone in Tonga. In particular, the inauguration of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency office here in Nuku’alofa on Wednesday. And in that spirit, I
would like to offer my personal gratitude to all our members and partners here today for all your continued support,” said Dr Aumua.

The two-day meeting will provide an opportunity for the Energy Officials and development partner roundtable, the first meeting of the PCREEE Steering Committee, discussions on maritime governance, and Pacific Women in Maritime among other issues.

The outcomes of the two-day officials meeting will go before the three-day triennial Ministerial meeting for deliberation on Wednesday.

Across the weeklong meeting, over 100 high-level delegates are registered to participate.

The weeklong Third Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting will conclude on Friday 28 April.

Media access: Media representatives are welcome to attend. Media interested in covering the Third Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting are invited to contact:

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Follow the event via #PRETMM.

Footage and still images: SPC will provide packaged interviews and raw footage for free use, along with still images. For more information and to lodge specific requests, please contact:

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Useful link
To access meeting agenda and papers
http://prdrse4all.spc.int/data/content/third-pacific-regional-energy-and-transport-ministers-meeting-24-28-april-2017

Other links
www.spc.int/edd
http://www.pcreee.org/