



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH RIMES COUNCIL PROGRAM MEETING

23-24 August 2017, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

We, heads/ representatives of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of and national scientific and technical agencies that generate early warning information for different hazards in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comoros, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Eritrea, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Yemen met from 23-24 August 2017 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea to share country experiences in developing user-focused multi-hazard early warning systems, identify gaps and unmet priority needs that RIMES could be of assistance in addressing/ meeting, and highlight and learn from Papua New Guinea's experience in building a multi-disciplinary, multi-hazard, user-focused early warning system that also serves the Pacific region as RIMES Sub-Regional Hub, in accordance with the declaration of the 2nd RIMES Ministerial Conference.

Toward this end, we:

1. **Appreciate** the new decision support systems developed by RIMES Program Unit, assisting NMHSs to respond to user demands articulated through the Monsoon/ Seasonal Forums and local level dialogues;
2. **Note with appreciation** the experiences shared by Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in participating in decision support system development, engaging with users for product application and feedback, integrating the decision support system into NMHS operations, and refining/ further developing the system that considers user feedback;
3. **Request** RIMES Program Unit to assist interested Member and Collaborating States in replicating these initiatives;
4. **Note** the capacity gaps articulated by Member and Collaborating States in developing their integrated multi-hazard early warning systems, for which RIMES assistance is required to fill critical gaps/ priority needs;
5. **Request** the RIMES Program Unit to incorporate Member and Collaborating States' priority needs in the RIMES Master Plan 2016-2020;
6. **Request** the RIMES Program Unit to respond to needs that can be accommodated within existing RIMES resources, and include these into the Work Plan for 2017-2018;
7. **Request** Member and Collaborating States to implement Master Plan priority projects according to RIMES resource mobilization strategies (i.e. Member States contributing to RIMES Program Fund; Member and Collaborating States to associate RIMES as technical partner in country projects; mobilization of donor fund; access to the Green Climate Fund);
8. **Request** the Government of India's continued support to Master Plan implementation;
9. **Appreciate** the efforts of the Secretariat for its support in mobilizing resources for Plan implementation, in particular the accreditation process for the Green Climate Fund;

10. **Appreciate** RIMES Program Unit's efforts in assisting in resource mobilization and in implementing projects that are prioritized in the Master Plan;
11. **Appreciate** the offers of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to support and work with RIMES in extending technical assistance to RIMES Member and Collaborating States in implementing Master Plan priorities, to build national integrated multi-hazard early warning systems;
12. **Appreciate** the offers of the United Nations Development Programme – Papua New Guinea Country Office (UNDP-PNG), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Bureau of Meteorology – Australia (BOM) to collaborate with and support PNG RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for building capacity of interested countries in the Pacific region to ensure that forecasts are translated into risk information and advisories, and subsequently used in planning and decision-making to reduce risks to natural hazards and optimize management of resources;
13. **Laud** the efforts of the Government of Papua New Guinea in establishing its National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, a collaborative endeavor of six key institutions engaged in early warning – the Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management, National Weather Service, Conservation Environment Protection Authority, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Climate Change and Development Authority, and National Disaster Center;
14. **Appreciate** the decision of the Government of Papua New Guinea for this National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to also serve as RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for the Pacific region, to enable more effective and efficient delivery of RIMES services to interested countries in the region;
15. **Request** RIMES Program Unit to continue its assistance to Papua New Guinea in building the capacity of the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and enable it to function competently as RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for the Pacific;
16. **Commend** the Government of Papua New Guinea for hosting the 9th Meeting of the RIMES Council;
17. **Welcome** Afghanistan, Mozambique, Tonga, and Yemen as new RIMES Member States.