



SUB-REGION SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Session Title :

Sub-Region (Oceania) Synthesis Session: **Water security and the resilience of small island communities of the Asia-Pacific**

Sub-region Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

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Session Description (300 words):

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities, and are at the front line of climate change impacts. SIDS already experience a disproportionately high exposure to disaster risk, with climate change affecting both the likelihood and impact of slow onset and sudden hydrometeorological events. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (2022) affirms with at least medium confidence level that increased water security risk will be experienced in almost every small island on Earth.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to almost half the world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as countries with significant populations living on small islands. More than a third (17) of our member countries are SIDS, including the world's only four nations comprised exclusively of low-lying atolls (Kiribati, the Maldives, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu). Over half the SIDS of the Asia-Pacific region have no surface water at all, or are home to significant populations living on islands with no surface water. For these communities, water resources are confined to shallow aquifers and rainwater collected from roofs, as well as supplementary sources such as desalination where available.

While the common water security challenges of SIDS are some of the world's most demanding, our region's island communities are at the forefront of implementing innovative local solutions - strengthening community resilience by drawing upon systems of traditional knowledge and governance together with cutting edge science. This session will explore the efforts of small island communities across the Asia-Pacific to achieve climate resilient water systems, and demonstrate how investment in local water security solutions can and should play a critical role in addressing the existential threat of climate change.

Key messages from your Sub-region (2 maximum)

1. The Asia-Pacific region is home to almost half the world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including all of the world's atoll nations, as well as numerous countries with significant populations living on small islands at the front line of climate change impacts.
2. More needs to be done to support the development, implementation, sharing and upscaling of locally appropriate and locally owned solutions by the small island communities of the Asia-Pacific, including through strengthened knowledge partnerships, access to training and capacity building opportunities, and improved and accelerated access to investment mechanisms such as climate financing.

Concrete outcomes (eg. Initiatives, practices, dialogue, commitment, etc.) (5 maximum)

1. **Identification of opportunities for new and strengthened partnership dialogues to support the water security of small island populations of the Asia Pacific region.**
2. **Identification of opportunities to build upon and expanding existing communities of practice for small island water security.**



Detailed Session plan (TBC):

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 mins	Introduction of session objectives and keynote speakers.	Moderator - Dr Milika Naqasima Sobey, Senior Technical Adviser - Coastal Ecosystems, GIZ	OK
10 mins	Water security challenges and opportunities in an Indian Ocean Small Island Developing State	Hon. Waven William, Elected Member for Grand Anse Mahe District, Republic of Seychelles	OK
10 mins	Civil society organizing for island resilience: Lessons from the Pacific FALE (Facility Aiding Locally-led Engagement)	Akmal Ali, Pacific Islands Alliance of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)	OK
10 mins	Opportunities for regional dialogue and cooperation through the Asia Pacific Water Forum	Yumiko Asayama, Manager, Japan Water Forum (JWF)	OK
10 mins	Regional partnerships for capacity: lessons from the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association	Misileti Masoe-Satuala, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association	OK
10 mins	Opportunities to strengthen the application of Integrated Water Resources Management solutions in small islands	Griselda (Gay) G. Santos, Regional Director for Southeast Asia, Water.org	TBC
10 mins	Regional partnerships for action: lessons from the <i>Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security</i>	Dave Hebblethwaite, Water Security and Governance Coordinator, the Pacific Community (SPC)	OK
20 mins	Interactive Session with Panel Members and Q & A	Dr Milika Naqasima Sobey	OK
5 mins	Summary - outcomes and conclusions		OK