

National Water Summit March 22, 2011 World Water Day

Summit Purpose

The Marshall Islands is preparing to hold a National Water Summit in conjunction with World Water Day on March 22 2011 to highlight national issues on water. Broadly, the summit will provide an opportunity to present: (a) Status Reports on Water and Sanitation in the Marshall Islands; b) a Framework National Water and Sanitation Policy, and c) Networking amongst partners and sharing of information for long term water management

Who is expected?

The Summit will bring together key stakeholders in-country including the following:

- Government Ministries/Agencies
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Community Based Organizations
- Representatives of Pacific Regional Organizations (i.e. SOPAC)
- Local Governments
- Traditional Leaders
- Political leaders
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Private Sector

Quick Facts on Fresh Water in RMI

- The primary source of freshwater is rain which (due to the low elevation of the atolls and islands) soaks directly into the soil and disperses into saltwater which permeates atoll sub-soils.
- Some of the freshwater accumulates in a Ghyben-Herzberg lens which floats on the saltwater below and can be accessed with bores and wells (SOPAC 1996).
- Majuro freshwater resources include both conventional (rain and ground water sources) and non-conventional (desalination and importation – relied on only during emergencies)
- 42.2% of all the homes surveyed (1,963 households) on both Majuro and Kwajalein were identified as not having suitable household water storage readily available (Water Survey 2009-EPPSO)
- 25% of homes on Majuro are hooked up to the water system, on Ebeye this is higher at about 70%, but fewer than 5% of households use public water as their main source of drinking water
- The RMI has established a Integrated Water Resource Task Force tasked with safeguarding water resources in the RMI and facilitating the development of a national water policy



Photos Courtesy of: Jina David, CMI Land Grant & SOPAC

Regional Outcomes

It is anticipated that the National Water Summit will provide important input at the regional and international level through a solid policy platform and investment plan for water into the next decade. Summit outcomes are expected to inform the regional initiative to revise the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management to be consideration by Pacific Island Leaders in August 2011.

Financial Support

The IWRM Task Force is currently seeking financial support to ensure a successful and participatory summit outcome.

Core funding for this process is being made available through the SOPAC executed; European Union (EU) funded Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) National Planning Programme. The Programme is designed to support 14 Pacific Island Countries to strengthen their governance structures and frameworks to mainstream Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) into national planning processes.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
BE A PARTNER IN THIS
EVENT OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT THE
FOLLOWING**



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"NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE
CAN DO SOMETHING." ~AUTHOR UNKNOWN

THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

