



*The new Kayangel State Solar-PV water pumping and supply system, has replaced the electric motor driven pumps of the Kayangel well water systems helping to enable all residents to have water. (photo by S. Abraham(SPREP))*

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), in a collaborated delegation led by SPREP Director General Leota Kosi Latu from Samoa, Mr. Simpson Abraham SPREP Coordinator based in Kosrae, Ms. Yvette Kerslake UNDP Environment & Climate Change Program Manager, Mr. Ioane Iosefo UNDP Program Associate, and Ms. Sharon Sakuma UNDP Palau, hosted a project briefing with Hon. Minister Billy G. Kuartei, Ministry of State, Hon. Minister Charles I. Obichang, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Hon. Minister Fleming Umiich Sengebau, Ministry of Natural Resources, Hon. Governor Midas Ngirachelulou, Kayangel State Government, Speaker Edwin Chokai, Kayangel State Legislature, Legislator Fredrick Roidan Renguul, and representatives of PPUC, Climate Change office, and Palau Energy Administration. This briefing was in regards to the newly installed solar powered water pump project in Kayangel State.

Later that same day, SPREP Director General Leota Kosi Latu and Mr. Simpson Abraham paid a courtesy visit with H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau. In a brief statement by the President during their visit, he stated that solar energy is a proven reliable and sustainable form of energy which the nation can greatly benefit from.

During the commissioning ceremony held the next day Thursday, March 23, 2017 at Kayangel State, the Governor of Kayangel Hon. Midas Ngirachelulou spoke of the importance of this project not just for the people of Kayangel but also for Palau. He quoted from his own personal experience “I remember a time when I was a young boy going to school here in Kayangel, one of my chores was to carry water to the house every day. The project will not only help improve the daily lives of every household in Kayangel, but also set the stage for social and economic development”.

The SPREP Director General, Mr. Leota Kosi Latu delivered the keynote speech and project overview on behalf of SPREP and UNDP. He highlighted the efforts of Pacific Islands Countries in achieving sustainable development goals, which included access to drinkable water and access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. While acknowledging the challenges during the implementation of the project, Mr. Latu noted that these were overcome through the partnership and support from Government of Palau, the contractor and the people of Kayangel. He reiterated what the President of Palau said in his meeting with him, that a key priority for Palau is to address the challenge of access and quality of water and its link to renewable energy for communities in Palau.

The project was made possible through the PIGGAREP Plus regional project implemented by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Multi-country office in Samoa and executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). PIGGAREP Plus is an extension of the PIGGAREP GEF project. It is funded from the SIDS DOCK Support Program, which is a joint initiative of the UNDP and the World Bank (WB) and in close consultation with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and funded by the Government of Denmark. Approximately 320,000.00 US Dollar grant was disbursed towards completion of this project.