

TALANOA TOKTOK

Official Publication of the Pacific Conference of Churches



Together as one ... Olivia Baro (left) and Lote Raboila of the PCC Secretariat at World Oceans day

It's our ocean

THE Pacific Conference of Churches led civil society groups in Fiji to draw attention to the state of the oceans.

The annual World Oceans Day Vigil took place at Saint Luke's Anglican Church in Suva, Fiji.

Among the attendees were members of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Most regional civil society groups took part in the vigil service to pray for and reflect on the state of the Pacific Ocean.

www.pcc.org.fj

A time to reflect on the oceans

World Ocean Day takes place annually on June 8 after it was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008. The international day fosters public interest in the protection of the ocean and the sustainable management of its resources

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Work on the threat Climate change work critical - SPREP

WORLD Oceans Day recognises the immense beauty and values of the Ocean.

But it's also a reminder of the immense work needed to address the increasing problems of climate change, ocean warming, ocean acidification, over-extraction of resources and the impacts these all have on coral reefs, fisheries, biodiversity and a host of other biological and ecological processes in our Ocean.

Stuart Chape, Acting Director General of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme said the degradation and loss of coral reefs means reduced protection of our coastal areas, declining fish for food security and lowered resilience of island communities and economies.

"We are all contributors to these impacts, and each of us are affected in some way, so we should all be involved in designing and implementing joint solutions towards regaining

a healthy Pacific Ocean," he said.

"What we do on land directly affects the waters and life in our coastal and ocean environments. SPREP and our partner organisations in the Pacific are working towards improving multi-sectoral governance and integrated management of our islands and ocean, where holistic thinking and solutions are needed to re-build ocean health."

Chape said coral reefs are a critical part of the ocean world.

"They support a major part of our daily subsistence needs and economies; they provide a living wall of protection from ocean waves; and much of our cultural identity is linked with our reefs and ocean."

Meanwhile, plastics, heavy metals and other pollutants are consumed by marine organisms, with numerous lethal and other impacts. These impacts eventually reach humans as well through the fish they eat,

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In local hands

Trainers start child protection courses

AFTER more than a year of intensive training, local facilitators have started to implement Child Protection courses in Fijian communities. This marks the culmination of the creation of local programmes and the training of specialist trainers from local churches with the support of UNICEF.

Similar training has been conducted in Solomon Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The first monitoring of Fijian trainers was conducted at Narusa on Taveuni Island. The Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches have been instrumental in providing trainers from their congregations and opening

their buildings to allow training of participants.

Adi Mariana Waqa, head of the PCC Child Protection Team, said the involvement of churches had been crucial to the success of the programme.

This included development of a theology around the protection of Pacific children. The Child Protection Team began the programme with initial research followed by awareness and ending with the training of local trainers.

PCC General Secretary, Reverend James Bhagwan said local churches in three countries had fully supported the team's work.

"We have been truly encouraged," he said.

Call to Pacific Leaders on Fukushima Waste Dumping

June 20, 2023

Dear Pacific Leaders,

We are a concerned coalition of civil society organisations, social movements and scholars, who are calling for the protection of the Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants, our livelihoods that depend on it, and our precious children and descendants from the impacts of illicit radioactive waste dumping from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan.

We are worried and dissatisfied with the lack of progress that has been made by Pacific states to reverse the decision of the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) to imminently release more than 1.3 million tonnes of nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean scheduled for later this year.

We, as the coalition, demand that Pacific states:

Support calls by [Pacific CSOs](#) and prominent organisations such as the [Pacific Elders Voice](#), as well as [Ministers](#), and [Pacific churches](#), to oppose Japan's plans to dump radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean. We are also calling for a strong collective statement of opposition from the Pacific states to the nuclear waste dumping.

Eyes on the ocean Pastor Billy Wetewea of the Eglise Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle Calédonie on a recent visit to the Marshall Islands to visit victims of nuclear tests

Say no to Japan Elders demand accountability

CONCERNED Pacific civil society groups and individuals have sent an open letter to leaders over Japan's intention to dump waste from the Fukushima Nuclear Plant into the Pacific Ocean.

The letter calls for collective implementation of economic sanctions on Japan, particularly suspension of all Japan-Pacific trade agreements related to fisheries and logging

industries. The letter says any dumping will be in direct contravention of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea.

It says dumping will cause irreparable damage to the ocean and harm to thousands of Pacific people. This is a link to the letter:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQ3BT6eJXoYO70DGDGxe8zaUuOEqN9v1KafR9CZ0iGW7Gnoa3g/viewform>

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