

Quarantine E-News

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Cyclone Evan devastates prior to the Festive season 2012

On December 13th, 2012, Samoa received radio and tv warnings of strong and heavy winds, which soon developed into a cyclone, known as Cyclone Evan. The damage left behind by Cyclone Evan was not expected by most members of the public.

In the wake of the disaster, lives have been lost, homes and schools have been completely destroyed, and thousands of people remain stranded in evacuation centres.

Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi said the relief and recovery bill would run up to the hundreds of millions of dollars, with funds needed to fix water supplies, restore electricity, clear debris, rebuild public infrastructure and feed the thousands of people now displaced.

Electric Power Corporation general manager Tologata Tile Tuimalealiifano said power should be restored to all Upolu households by the middle of January.



Burst river banks devastated many households in Lelata.



The bridge at Luatuanuu was partially damaged due to the heavy burst of the river



Most trademark and historical pulu trees were all uprooted by the strong cyclone winds



Most families across Upolu were badly hit. Homes and vehicles were all damaged

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Keep in Mind!

- ◆ Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.
- ◆ Christmas is not as much as opening presents as opening our hearts.
- ◆ It is better to be prepared than sorry.
- ◆ People aren't born good or bad, but it's the way you live your life that matters.
- ◆ You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.

SPC Conducts workshop on CS 5 on In-Design and Photoshop

The Women in Business Development Initiative (WIBDI) organized a workshop which was held at the Quarantine conference room, and conducted by the SPC, Fiji team which included Emile Adams and Simi Tukidia. Training on the In Design software program, commenced from the 3rd to the 7th December 2012. The workshop included a 1 day fieldtrip to the SROS, Samoa Observer, WIBDI new head office at Nu'u, the Samoa Farmer's Association and a farm at Saleapaga. It was a fieldtrip to view the various ways of communication and dissemination methods used by the different organizations and how effective and up to date the programs used were in putting the message across. Practical exercises were carried out on the last few days to familiarize each participant in working with the CS5 and CS6 In—Design Program. Participants were given samples of brochures, posters, leaflets, magazines that were created by SPC, to work on. The participants worked on creating 3 fold, 2 fold brochures, 2 fold leaflets, logo designs, and from these the trainers assessed the most well done creation. This was based on the effort from each individual, creativity, originality and customized skills in using the learnt software.



The participants of the In Design CS5 Program training workshop with co-ordinator, Emile Adam (far left) Pelenato Fonoti, ACEO Quarantine (4th from left) and Adi Tafunai, CEO WIBDI (in red).



Dried sweet bananas being processed for chips as one of the development initiatives by WIBDI

The Damage to Agriculture is Immense

The Post Cyclone Evan period has resulted in identifying the most areas of damage. A survey on the types of relief efforts needed will be carried out. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Le Mamea Ropati, said that although there are many families who solely rely on the plantation for means of food and income, this is a time for all Samoans to stand together and continue planting to ensure food security. Observation around Samoa has seen many land crops being badly affected, which could likely lead to a shortage of agricultural food products. Farmers supplying for the commercial sector, are also at a loss, resulting in increased prices for these products. Tomato and seedlings that were harvested in greenhouses, have been completely wiped out, thus affecting the general public.

Papaya, banana and breadfruit plantations have disappeared throughout Upolu, hence, as the Minister of Agriculture has encouraged, we must move on and take the initiatives to plant again. The Prime Minister has also stated that more initiatives should now be placed on root crops to be planted, as they would endure less damage being an underground crop. He said that Samoans should think of planting cassava and yams, at this rehabilitation stage, but not to rely too much on the Government for assistance. One of the roles for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, is to ensure food security, by working the land and fishing. A survey is yet to be carried out by the Ministry on the estimates of agricultural damage.

The impact Cyclone Evan 2012 had over Samoa



Relief Efforts Pose Introduction to Risks

Post cyclone efforts for many developing countries include various ministries and the private sectors looking at clean up for the rehabilitation stage. These include the DAC, SWA, EPC, the Ministry of Police, LTA, MNRE, MOH to name a few, for carrying out essential services in demand during this post-cyclone period. Other forms of post-cyclone activities that usually come into the country at this stage are relief goods from overseas, usually from families or gathered by church communities or certain members of the general public or businesses. During the tsunami catastrophe in 2009, many containers as part of relief efforts were brought into Samoa as a means of emergency aid for families affected by this natural disaster. It was also during this time, that a reported incident of an invasive pest was sited at the Satitua wharf area. This was a mongoose, which is believed to have escaped from one of the imported containers brought in as part of relief efforts following the tsunami. Preventing the introduction of new species of pests and diseases is a collective effort hence all Government Ministries as well as agents need to ensure compliance of quarantine regulations. All types of relief containers, having the possibilities of harbouring pests, require procedural clearance by Quarantine border staff. The responsibility also of the importer is to provide the packing list of the type of goods being imported and provide any certification required pertaining to the goods. Some of these consignments may undergo clearance at the transfer depot that brought them in or taken to an approved transfer facility. This is a reminder that during these times of natural disasters, it is better to be safe than to be sorry.



Containers with relief supplies for families affected by Cyclone Evan. Proper biosecurity clearance is vital for a pest free Samoa.

Some members of the public use this vulnerable time as a way to bring in some personal effects that is likely prohibited or restricted under Quarantine regulations. Border staff are well aware not to take lightly the inspection and treatment that is required. Quarantine risk items or agricultural commodities may require treatment to ensure a pest-free consignment.

Women in Business helps farmers to rebuild

Women in Business, carried out post Cyclone Evan farm-to-farm needs analysis in Upolu. The organisation undertook a detailed analysis on farms that were affected by the disaster. Despite damages, farmers still rallied to produce dried banana and coconut oil production in order to continue supplying their overseas clients.

Executive director Adimaimalaga Tafuna'i says the staff recognised that although it was Christmas, many farmers did not feel the spirit of Christmas, as they were desperate for help. WIBD made a contribution towards getting families assistance

"This is similar to what we did after the 2009 tsunami and although we have done an assessment of damage, this is a detailed face-to-face process where our staff will also be walking through the farms to record and photograph the damage and **the type of assistance required**" stated Tafuna'i.

Aside from Women in Business farmers, Tafuna'i stated that they will also be checking on neighbouring properties to make sure those families are alright. Staff will record the impact of the cyclone, analyse the families' needs and update contact details. Meanwhile, many Women in Business production staff are also going to work through the Christmas break in an effort to meet their virgin coconut oil and dried banana exports. The director said that shipment was scheduled prior to Christmas, but this has been delayed due to the cyclone. They are still preparing most likely for mid January.

Global Warming—We Must take a Stand

Global warming has become perhaps the most complicated issue facing world leaders. Warnings from the scientific community are becoming louder, as an increasing body of science points to rising dangers from the ongoing buildup of human-related greenhouse gases; produced mainly by the burning of fossil fuels and forests. And vulnerable countries within the Pacific, are not **immune to its' impact.**

Reports have stated that global emissions figures show a slow decline, in some of the most advanced countries, including the United States. But the decline of emissions in the developed countries is more than matched by the continual growth in developing countries like China and India.

Emissions continue to grow so rapidly that an international goal of limiting the ultimate warming of the planet to 3.6 degrees, established three years ago, is on the verge of becoming unattainable, said researchers affiliated with the Global Carbon Project, a network of scientists that tracks emissions.

Yet nations around the world, despite a formal treaty pledging to limit warming, and 20 years of negotiations aimed at putting it into effect, have shown little appetite for the kinds of controls required to accomplish that goal.

For almost two decades, the United Nations has sponsored annual global talks, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty signed nearly 200 countries to cooperatively discuss global climate change and its impact. The conferences operate on the principle of consensus, meaning that any of the participating nations can hold up an agreement.

The conflicts and controversies discussed are familiar: the differing obligations of industrialized and developing nations, the question of who will pay to help poor nations adapt, the urgency of protecting tropical forests and the need to rapidly develop and deploy clean energy technology.

Samoa had experienced one of the worst cyclones since a decade ago, and just by observations of the damage Cyclone Evan has left, shows millions of tala to rebuild, and livelihoods for many have been either lost or displaced or mentally affected somehow. As a Pacific island nation, there are a large number of us in the Pacific, and to take such concerns as Global Warming to international conventions on climate change, has seen less significance over the years.

Are the voices of the Pacific and all vulnerable countries prone to the bigger decisions of the developed countries, that we are unheard of? That the plight we suffer, and most likely the generations after us, will face the same fear, or possibly worse?

What else can we do, rather than blame all these on climate change and the so called, 'Bigger Economies'? The answer lies with us, preach the talk but walk the talk more. Plant more trees, lessen our use of carbon emitted appliances, increase awareness, and most definite, show the bigger picture and stronger voice of concern to the sharks of the outside world, maybe, just maybe, one day, a positive difference will be the outcome.



Did You Know?

262 million people were affected by climate disaster in 2004, more than 98% of them in developing countries

Ref: Adams, R.M., et al 1990. Global climate change and US agriculture." Nature 345:219-223