

Kiribati's President launches first Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

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His Excellency Anote Tong, the President of Kiribati, has launched the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP) on 29 August 2014 in Tarawa, together with the Population Policy and Population Implementation Strategy; he said: "These policies are key government priorities touching the life of the people where it matters most. [...] The formulation of these policies was as sensitive as possible, involving all partners and communities. They represent powerful tools to coordinate and jointly monitor the implementation. I have deep appreciation to all who contributed to this plans – especially the communities and partners. The ownership of these documents must be with our people. The plans are a milestone in our national planning and coordination process."



As a national symbol of discipline and strength the Commonwealth Games gold medal winner in weight lifting, Mr David Katoatau, was honoured by His Excellency.

The development of the KJIP was initiated and coordinated by the Office of Te Beretitenti (the President) and driven by the Kiribati National Expert Group through a participatory process involving all government agencies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, faith-based organisations and the community.

The plan will help to mobilise tangible, on-the-ground actions for resilient development within the context of two existing national policy frameworks – the *National Disaster Risk Management Plan* and the *National Framework for Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation*. The KJIP is also aligned to achieving the development goals of the *Kiribati Development Plan 2012–2015*.

Kiribati has been very active in responding to the impacts of climate change and disasters at all levels. The added value this KJIP brings is in: (i) ensuring that climate variability, climate change and disaster risks (related to meteorological, geological or environmental risks) are incorporated in all development planning processes; and (ii) ensuring that tangible, on-the-ground actions are identified for all sectors in order to reduce risks.

KJIP's vision is: *I-Kiribati unique culture, heritage and identity are upheld and safeguarded through enhanced resilience and sustainable development* and the **goal is**: *To increase resilience through sustainable climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction using a whole-of-country approach*.

The KJIP will be implemented through 12 strategies towards clearly defined results. Performance indicators and prioritised actions are outlined in the action matrix to ensure that the vision and the goal are achieved. It is estimated that about AUD 104 million is required to implement the plan over the next nine years. The plan will improve coordination and is expected to minimise ad hoc and piecemeal approaches, as its approach is carefully designed, integrating relevant stakeholders to promote timely and coherent adaptation, risk reduction and response activities on the ground.

The development of KJIP was supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the SPC/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) programme on behalf of the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Children's Fund. The KNEG received additional technical assistance from Australia's aid programme; the European Union (EU) Global Climate Change Alliance; the EU African, Caribbean and Pacific Natural Disaster Facility; and the United States Agency for International Development.

You can access the KJIP here: <http://www.spc.int/images/news/20140901/KJIP-BOOK.pdf>

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