



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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EU supports Niue Renewable Energy Programme with € 2.55 million

The European Union (EU) and Niue recently formalised an agreement to support the Government's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme with a funding of € 2.55 million. The initiative aims at assisting Niue to improve its network efficiency and produce more of its electricity through renewable energy sources thus reducing the country's dependency on imported fossil fuel products.

Niue Premier Toke Talagi said the funding would tremendously aid in the development of the country and consequently improve the standard of living in the island nation.

"Reliable and efficient energy services, and infrastructure as a whole, are key elements for the sustainable economic development of Niue", said Toke Talagi, the Premier of Niue.

Energy sector development is a key priority on the Niue Government's agenda. As a small Pacific island country with a population of less than 2000 people, Niue's energy sector faces a number of challenges because of its dependency on imported fossil fuel and its particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

The EU funding comes from the 10th European Development Fund. Activities include the upgrade of the distribution network, the installation of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency actions. The project is a continuation of the 9th European Development Fund initiative, which contributed to supplying solar water heaters and gas stoves for the population of Niue, and installing 52 kWp of solar photovoltaic panels.

The Niue Government has committed to increasing investments in renewable and energy efficiency technologies as a significant source of power supply and conservation for the future. The country's current National Integrated Strategic Plan 2009-2013 outlines developmental policies and strategies which focus on the environment, climate change and measures which relate to the Millennium Development Goals and which aim to sustain a vibrant community in Niue.

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For further information, contact:

STEFAN STANTEJSKY
Media Officer
Delegation of the European Union for the
Pacific
Suva, Fiji
Tel: 3313-633
Email: Stefan.STANTEJSKY@ec.europa.eu

SAMISONI PARETI
Media Adviser
Delegation of the European Union for the
Pacific
Suva, Fiji
Tel: 9930-873
Email: paretis@gmail.com