

26 September 2006

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Statement on behalf of the Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

The Asia and Pacific Island regions have come a long way together since the 3rd World Water Forum (3WWF) in Kyoto.

As part of the journey we have benefited from the guidance and support of both the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan Water Forum (JWF).

The Pacific Islands acknowledge the 3WWF as a key occasion towards the development and support for addressing issues in the water sector, in particular through the development and endorsement of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management. We also saw the development of a mechanism for the South-South cooperation in particular between Small Islands Development States (SIDS).

So where to next? We have seen how important it is to interact on common issues and goals. We have seen how important it is to have a platform to share where we are and where we want to go. We also realise we cannot go at it alone and there is a clear need for a common Forum for our future cooperation, collaboration and planning.

Today you launch a key and critical Forum. The Asia-Pacific Water Forum. It is with great regret that we, the smallest members of the Asia Pacific family, cannot be with you today. Reasons which we hope you will all understand and accept. We trust our absence is not interpreted as diminishing our support for the new Asia-Pacific Forum.

As you meet, we ourselves as Pacific Island Countries are meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

We would like to thank those responsible for developing the Asia Pacific Water Forum leading to its eventual launch today.

Please accept our congratulations and best wishes for a successful launch.

Pacific partners on Sustainable Water Management