**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Joint DOE-PCREEE Validation Workshop and Awareness Campaign on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.**

**13th to 17th July 2020**

**Port Vila and Santo**

1. **Background:**

The Department of Energy (DoE), through the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters (MoCC) is the energy sector focal point in Vanuatu. The National Energy Road Map (NERM) 2016-2030 which contains the energy targets and policies provides guide on how energy programmes should be delivered. The NERM identifies five priority of the energy sector which are; access, petroleum supply, affordability, energy security and climate change. It sets out objectives, targets and actions to achieve these priorities and contribute to the vision of the NERM. The NERM also has an Implementation Plan with key activities aiming at achieving the targets of the NERM

The SPC’s Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) was established in April 2017 as a regional vehicle for accelerating the uptake of feasible renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the Pacific islands Countries and Territories.

The PCREEE has recently completed the development of its Business Plan 2020 to 2030. The Business Plan 2020 – 2030 outlines the key strategic areas of PCREEE’s focus in the next 10 years and the key resources required to deliver on them. The document is in its final draft stage and therefore requires validation from SPC’s member countries.

The Regional Electric Mobility Policy and Programme for the Pacific is also another key strategic document recently completed by the PCREEE and requires validation from its member countries. The document outlines the regional policy framework and programmes to guide its member countries in the development of their respective national policies on electric vehicles.

A regional validation workshop was earlier planned for June or July this year to validate the two documents but the COVID 19 pandemic has caused disruption to the plan. It is in that regard that the Ministry of Climate Change and the PCREEE are collaborating on hosting a series of national workshops in Port Vila and Luganville, Vanuatu’s two major towns to validate the draft PCREEE Business Plan 2020 – 2030 and the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme.

The PCREEE representatives will be participating remotely via zoom or skype (whichever is convenient) to present the draft PCREEE Business Plan and the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme for the Pacific.

The Validation workshop planned for Vanuatu will be complemented with DOE’s RE&EE awareness campaign and basic trainings on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

1. **Overview**

Vanuatu, a small and remote economy, like any other Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) share many similar challenges and opportunities. Vanuatu has very limited natural resources, most of which comes from tourism, copra, cocoa and kava export. Vanuatu comprises of 82 islands scattered in an archipelago in an area of 12,199 km2. The economies lack diversification and they suffer disproportionately from large distances to major markets. Vanuatu has a very high dependency on imported fossil fuels which contributes to the difficult fiscal situation and leads to high energy costs for households and key island industries. Following the diesel track implies less jobs, less opportunities for the youth and less resources to adapt to climate change.

Vanuatu’s power sector is being managed by two concessionaires; namely Union Electric Company (UNELCO) and the Vanuatu Utility Infrastructure (VUI) Ltd. Unelco has the electricity concession for Port Vila (Efate), Lenakel (Tanna) and Norsup (Malekula) and VUI has the electricity concession for Luganville (Santo), Saratamata (Ambae) and Sola (Banks; the six (6) main provincial centres in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu is also among the countries with growing traffic issues. Vanuatu imports up to 56 Million liters of fuel each year and 50% of it is consumed by the land transport sector. There are more than 2000 public transports, most of which are second hand vehicles from Asian countries and are very fuel inefficient due to their age. There is lack of updated and clear policy, institutional and legal frameworks to improve and make efficient the land transportation system in Vanuatu. Awareness and education on improved efficiency and low emission transport is also lacking which also creates a gap in this sector.

Capacity building on renewable energy and energy efficiency including innovation and entrepreneurship continues to be a major bottleneck to the sustainable energy development of the country. Productive utilization of energy has been overlooked in the past and is an area that needs to be addressed through greater education and awareness.

The National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) has three pillars which are Social, Economic and Environment pillar. Renewable energy being a form of sustainable energy is regarded as one of the primary drivers for the socio- economic sector. These renewable energy sources especially sun, wind and hydropower are primarily found in the rural and remote areas. In that regard, renewable energy is the most viable solution to drive the Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) in the rural areas ensuring improved quality of products, cost efficiency and greater environmental benefits. low

1. **Objectives**

The objective of the event are as follows:

* Validation workshop on PCREEE Business Plan and E-Mobility Policy and Programme
* Raise education and awareness on renewable energy and energy efficiency including innovation and entrepreneurship;
* Capacity Building on renewable energy technology
* Pilot 6 small scale industry projects with sustainable energy through funding support from PCREEE, VREP 2 and NGEF.

1. **Targeted Outputs**

* Validation Workshop and awareness campaign successfully completed in Port Vila and Santo
* Comments and Endorsement of the PCREEE Business Plan
* Comments and Endorsement of the Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme

**5. Expected Outcome**

The Validation Workshop and Awareness Campaign is expected to achieve the following;

* Improved National Awareness on RE and EE including entrepreneurship and innovation on sustainable energy;
* Improved education and awareness on electric vehicles in Vanuatu;
* Establishment of links between DoEs PCREEE and national development partners for future collaborations;
* Increased access to safe and reliable source of energy; and,

1. **Validation Workshop and Awareness Campaign Strategy and Content**

Below is the schedule for the mission and the planned activity

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| **Day Number** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 1 | * Conduct the validation workshop on the PCREEE Business Plan 2020 – 2030 and the Regional Program to Promote Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme in the Pacific * Conduct RE and EE training | Port Vila, Efate |
| 2 | * Conduct training on RE small industries and entrepreneurship to rural off grid communities * Educaiton and awareness on RE&EE | Eton Village, Efate Rural |
| 3 | * Conduct the validation workshop on the PCREEE Business Plan 2020 – 2030 and Regional Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme in the Pacific. * Conduct RE and EE training | Luganville, Santo |
| 4&5 | Conduct training on RE small industries and entrepreneurship to rural off grid communities | 4 Santo Rural villages (TBC) |

The content of the Validation Workshop and Awareness campaign include the following activities;

* Draft PCREEE Business Plan
* Draft Regional Program to Promote Electric Vehicle Policy and Programme presentations
* Training presentations on RE&EE
* Presentations and videos on productive utilization of energy, innovation and entrepreneurship
* Promotion of PCREEE and its activities through distribution of leaflets/pamphlets
* Public Awareness talks on RE and EE through messages printed on promotional gadgets
* Promotion of Vanuatu Renewable Energy Project (VREP) products
* Promotion of National Green Energy Fund (NGEF)

The training and awareness component of the event will be delivered directly by the Department of Vanuatu while the Validation Workshop will be facilitated remotely via Zoom/Skype by the PCREEE representatives. It is therefore crucial that the venue must have good internet connections and availability of audio-visual aids.

**7. Target Participants**

The target audiences range from government and private sector entities, entrepreneurs, agriculture and produce sector services, provincial public servants, government officials, technical institutions, secondary TVET providers, students and the general public in Port Vila and Luganville.

Specifically, day 1 & 3 will target the central government officials, NGO reps, provincial land transport associations and motor traders.

Day 2, 4 & 5 will focus on the people in the communities to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation using sustainable energy at the rural communities to improve livelihoods and contribute to the local economy.

**8. Possible Partners**

The workshop and awareness campaign will be conducted as a partnership between SPC PCREEE and the Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change through the Department of Energy. Other regional organizations in the country including other Government Departments, the NGEF and other NGOs are also welcomed to joined.

**9.** C**omplementarity and Replicability:**

The dialogue is open to be integrated with other related events of partners.

**10. Budget:**

Budget will be based on the validation workshop (20 people for Port Vila and 15 people for Luganville).and the awareness and training in the rural areas (20 people for each community).

**11. Preparatory Work**

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|  | **Preparatory Activity** | **Identified Leader** | **Completion Date (2020)** | **Others** |
| 1 | Publicity – radio, newspaper, etc | DoE | June |  |
| 2 | Meeting Invitation, and draft agenda | PCREEE/DoE | June 30 |  |
| 3 | Confirmation of venue and catering | DoE | June 30 |  |
| 4 | Confirming meeting with communities | DoE | June 30 |  |
| 5 | Travelling logistics | DOE | June 30 |  |