Mauri and Malo e Lelei

Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Mrs Agnes Nikora Naare

OIC of the Energy Planning Division, Mrs Miriam Iakobwa

Project Manager and staff of the Regional NDC hub, Mrs. Anne-Claire Goarant

Distinguished representatives from the Kiribati government, private businesses, and communities

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The PCREEE was established in 2017 to fill gaps in regional energy services deliveries. One of these gaps is the business, investment, and entrepreneurship aspects of sustainable energy. We therefore work to support the start-ups of businesses relating to sustainable energy. In this area, we support countries to adopt and teach accredited qualifications on sustainable energy. The more trained people that we have, the more likely they are going to work in the energy sector and eventually start a small business in either selling, installation and the maintenance of energy systems.

We also assist in the establishment of national energy industry associations like electrical contractors association or an association of suppliers and installers of solar PV systems. These associations can form a united voice and can influence government’s energy sector plans and policies.

We conduct Energy Investment Forums as a platform for governments, financiers and investors to come together and start discussing win-win-win energy projects that are in line with the country’s energy targets and goals.

We also support the Energy Regulators to be able to create a business environment for fair competition and to maintain a certain technical and service delivery standard in the energy sector.

This morning’s training aligns very well with the priorities and activities of the PCREEE and is among the very few activities we have done in Kiribati during our 6 years of existence and I wish to acknowledge the support and leadership of the NDC Hub.

The training marks the culmination of hard work between the PCREEE, Kiribati Energy Planning Division and the Regional NDC-hub to Accelerate the implementation of Kiribati’s NDC projects/programs

Implementing appliance labelling and standards are important strategies for mitigating climate change and studies have concluded that this is more cost effective for the Pacific Region to import more energy efficient refrigerators, air conditioners and lighting than it is to import diesel fuel.

Throughout this three-days training, I imagine that apart from getting to understand how the minimum energy performance program could be enforced and administered, you will get to know the experiences from other pacific island countries that have already adopted the MEPSL. In this respect, I would like to acknowledge the support of the DoEs in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu and not forgetting George Wilkenfield, the main driver and consultant for the original PALS programme.

It is the intention of this training program that collaborative efforts with the different partners would be strengthened.

I do hope that you will not sit on the knowledge, networks, and partnerships you may form from this workshop. But use it to press towards the mobilization of effective actions to address appliance labelling and standards program in Kiribati.

With that, and on behalf of the DD GEP of SPC Akuila Tawake, I welcome you all and wish you all the best in this workshop.

Malo ‘Aupito