



Pohnpei, FSM
29 September 2017

**REPORT OF THE CHINESE TAIPEI TRUST FUND
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Introduction

1. The inaugural Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund (CTTF) was held on Friday 29th September 2017, in the margins of the Thirteenth Technical and Compliance Committee meeting (TCC13); it was chaired and convened by the WCPFC Executive Director, with support from CTTF Coordinator, and the WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from FSM Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, Tonga and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
2. This was the first SC meeting in support of the CTTF. Funding has been approved for the 5 years of the project, with annual funding allocation of \$400,000. For each year, there is an open call for project application from developing Members and Participating Territories (Members) of the Commission for consideration for funding under the CTTF.

Agenda

3. The draft agenda for the meeting was adopted (Attachment 1).

Report of the CTTF Operations

4. The CTTF Coordinator provided an overview of the approved projects for 2017. The approved projects were as follows:

Tuvalu	#1 Tuvalu Fisheries Capacity Development Plan	\$21,000
Kiribati	#9 Training and Upgrading of Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observers (PIRFO) Debriefers to Become Certified Observer Trainers	\$34,595
Kiribati	#8 Training and Upgrading of Certified I-Kiribati Observers under the Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observers (PIRFO) to Become Certified Debriefers	\$12,496

Solomon Islands	#13 SBOB (Solomon Islands Fisheries Observers Program) Pole and Line & 1 st National Refresher Training 2017	\$3,135
Samoa	#7 Establishment of Samoa's Fisheries Observer Training Programme	\$70,875
RMI	#10 Assistant Trainer – National Observer Program	\$49,940
FSM	#11 FSM MCS and Bycatch Data Collection	\$68,000
Tonga	#5 Capacity Building in, and Strengthening of, Tonga National Observer Programme	\$43,105

5. The WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager provided an overview of the finance for the fund for 2017. In 2017 \$400,000 was provided to the Secretariat for this fund and \$308 has accrued to the fund as bank interest. As of September 29th, the fund had approved \$303,146 in projects and the Secretariat has transferred \$161,136 for those projects. The remainder of the funding will be transferred once the information on bank details are provided.

Feedback or advice from Beneficiary Members

6. Members expressed their deep appreciation to Chinese Taipei for providing the funding.
7. Tuvalu requested clarification on how to utilize unused funds if the project is completed and funds are remaining. The CTTF Coordinator indicated that the project could be revised or the funds returned. It was noted by several Members that it would be extremely difficult to return the funds, especially in countries where the funds must be placed into a national consolidated fund and/or approved by their respective legislatures.
8. Several Members expressed a desire for the funds to be held somewhere else so they could access the funds in a timelier manner.
9. The chair indicated that this was a new fund and there were still some process issues that needed clarification. As indicated by Members, the areas of clarification were around the issues of:
 - a. Uses of unused funds at the end of the project;
 - b. If the fund could sit at another location to allow Members to access the funds easier; and
 - c. Standardized reporting format for the project.

Other Issues

10. The CTTF call for 2018 project proposals will likely be made in 2017 with Transfer of Fund to the Secretariat will be made in January 2018 while the transfers to the recipients could be made as early as April 2018.

Close of Meeting