

NEWSLETTER

1st Edition: January 1st – March 31st 2022

PACIFIC WATER &
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION



From the Head of Secretariat

Talofa lava to all our members!

This first quarter seems to have been the turning point for us in the Pacific in terms of the Covid-19 impact. At the end of the last quarter of 2021, most of our countries – 62% had only single digit or zero cases of covid-19. Three months later at the end of this quarter, and coinciding with exactly 2 years since the start of lockdown in our region and worldwide, we now have only four countries without Covid-19 cases and 2 with single-digit numbers (see update of Covid-19 in our region in other article).

On top of that, our region had also gone through this quarter with the usual weather storms of the beginning of the year albeit in varying degrees of severity throughout. We witnessed the devastation caused by the volcanic eruption and tsunami on the Kingdom of Tonga, the floods in Vanuatu and elsewhere in the Pacific, but also droughts in other parts of our region.

We understand the difficulties and challenging economic hardships faced by most of you during the prolonged pandemic and we hope and pray most of you are safe and surviving this crisis. With the closing of borders and travel restrictions throughout all our countries except a few, we have been unable to get together and especially to hold an annual conference. We continue to plan for this to occur once borders are opened as it is an important event for all of us technically but most importantly as an avenue to share knowledge, experiences, and engage as a wide Pacific water family. We still are planning to hold the Annual Conference in Solomon Islands in November this year, though a final decision will be made in early July. In this connection, **the Allied members** have also met during the period, and we would urge our PUMs to connect with us if you wish to attend and keep our Allied colleagues posted on what you all do.

The Secretariat in the meantime has been active this quarter in a number of activities which involved some of you. We have also had a meeting of the Board during the quarter to update the Board of activities

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1) *Foreword from Secretariat:pg1 – pg2*
- 2) *Independent Water Schemes pg3 – pg5*
- 3) *Palau Utilities Corporations Press Release: pg6*
- 4) *Tonga Volcano eruption: pg 7*
- 5) *Tropical Cyclone Dovi caused flood in Vanuatu: pg 8*
- 6) *American Samoa Power Authority:pg9 -pg12*
- 7) *Benchmarking Data Collection 2020:pg13*
- 8) *Solomon Island Media Release: pg14*
- 9) *Covid Update from Secretariat : pg15 – pg16*
- 10) *SIWA BIDs Invitation : pg17 – pg18*

happening around the region with you, and also to finalise and approve the Annual Accounts of PWWA for 2021.

The program for **capacity building funded by AWP** will continue during the year with another **Young Water Professionals program** hopefully to culminate at the annual conference in November. We are also just about finished with the analysis and report for the **2020 Benchmarking survey** which will be made available to you soon. We trust that this year we will get more of you to participate in this very valuable survey; toolkits for the 2021 benchmarking survey are targeted to be made available to you towards the end of this month/early May.

Other major activities we have been involved in with you include:

PRIF-Assisted Diagnostic Study: The draft Final Report of the Diagnostic Study of five utilities is now complete and will be finalised in April. The diagnostic studies for SIWA, SWA, PPUC, PUB Kiribati, and WAF are now completed and are supplemented by individual SDG6-assessment reports for SIWA, SWA, PPUC and WAF and a Rapid Response Action Plan for Tarawa given the dire situation with their water. It is envisaged a presentation of the report will be made to all CEOs some time over the coming month and would be a good opportunity for all of you to get an update of how this was done. We hope to extend the study to others where funds permit and at your request. The Diagnostic Framework is available also to everyone and if needed the use of this can be explained in a workshop where needed.

Collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney: we are currently working with ISF in a project for “Strengthened use of new evidence, innovation and practice in sustainable gender and inclusive WASH” which we intend to have your participation in. I will be sending out a memo in this respect soon for the survey as well as individual interviews.

ADB WaSH Webinars: The series of webinars that we collaborate with ADB which started in late 2020 continues this year; some of you will have participated in the first one this year held in February. Webinars are planned to be held monthly with the next one on Water Safety Plans scheduled for 27th April.

ADB Regional TA-9181 – Water Quality Management and Assessment Support for the Pacific: This small regional TA provided assistance on a demand basis towards reviewing for utilities their existing water quality data and identifying potential sources of water contamination; identifying potential human and environmental health risks arising from water contamination and recommending strategies and policies to mitigate such risks; provide practical advice for water quality monitoring including sampling and analysis (both field and laboratory tests); designing and implementing training programs which may include sampling methods, sample handling procedures, testing methods, and analysis and assessment of water quality test data etc. Currently, the program has been extended to May this year, with support being sought by PPUC, WAF, DoWR and SIWA.

SPREP/JICA – Capacity Building on Climate Change Resilience for the Pacific: a technical training program to enhance capacities on climate resilience in the Pacific region. The training which will run during the whole of May aims to: enhance understanding of assessment on climate risk and vulnerability of rural safe water access; enhance understanding of adaptation and mitigation options including innovative approaches; will provide examples of cases in the Pacific and develop skills for project development and management. Members are encouraged to register with your SPREP in-country representative if you wish to attend the training.

Stay safe and well!



IWSA-Independent Water Schemes Association

(source Independent Water Schemes Association)

23rd February :

The Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association is nearing completion of its [European Union](#)-funded Project “Support to improve capacity of communities to better manage water resources”. This project is worth EUR 490,000 and has allowed SIWSA to capture the current condition of all independent water schemes. This is through the development of drinking water safety plans (DWSPs).

Another four drinking water safety plans have been endorsed (for Patamea IWS, Paia IWS, Matautu IWS & Solosolo IWS) by the Joint Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) sector steering committee. The WaSH sector steering committee meets quarterly and operates at the chief executive officer (CEO) level. The committee comprises CEOs from key

24th February:

Drinking water safety plan workshops held this week in Letogo IWS and Laulii IWS.

The SIWSA office is predominantly female and it is always pleasing to hear women from communities speak, question and take interest in water management of their schemes.

What we have been able to share and advise communities is that the operation and management of a water supply system is not a one-two day job nor is it a one-man job. We can build state of the art infrastructure but if we don't address the underlying issues such as farming practices close by the water source, poor plumbing in households and lack of routine proactive operations and maintenance of the network (to name a few), the problems will always remain.

implementing agencies, non-government organizations, the private sector, and representatives from key development partners. The letter of endorsement from the Ministry of Health is the requirement for a DWSP to be tabled in the Joint WaSH committee meetings. SIWSA presents a summary of the DWSPs with a particular focus on the risks to each scheme's WSS, corrective actions, and ways government ministries can help. Once committee members agree, the DWSPs are endorsed.

23 DWSPs have been endorsed since the start of the project. Drinking water safety plans provide a good baseline for water committees to improve the operation and maintenance of their Water networks. To ensure good water quality for these communities, implementation of these plans is key.

The drinking water safety plans we have been able to develop include detailed information of the current state of the water supply system; and the corrective actions that need to take place. We have laid the foundation of what needs to be done and the order they shall be done in. The development and strict enforcement of water-related village bylaws (written) must take precedence.

The inclusion of women in water committees is also strongly advised. We must take advantage of a woman's indomitable spirit.

This initiative is funded by the [European Union](#)



04th March:

Aufaga IWS

Water meter reading monitoring and inspections.

Meters are read by the water committee and each household's usage is presented at each village meeting held monthly. Households are then billed according to their usage and presented a receipt once payments are made. Funds collected are utilized for the operations and maintenance of their water supply network.



We love the opportunity to connect again with the community to discuss any issues or challenges they may have.

This initiative is funded by the [European Union Civil Society Support Program - Samoa](#)

7th March:

Ecological Purification System Project:

Another initiative under our [European Union](#)-funded project "The pilot of an Ecological Purification System (EPS)" at a community-managed water supply system.



The construction of the EPS is now in commencement and located in the Solosolo Primary School making it easily accessible to children.

The whole village is also able to access the EPS to obtain clean safe drinking water.



The EPS uses a natural chemical-free process to purify water. The EPS ensures water is free from sediment and bacteria.

There are 1,851 beneficiaries of this project.

***Contractor: [Rockworkz Ltd](#)
Supervision: [IWSA](#)***

10th March:

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Sector & Environment Sector joint site visits to Savaii.

(source CSSP: Civil Society Support Program)

CSSP Representative, Ms. Olioli Faletoesse was part of this significant undertaking by the Committee in the hope to get updates on all the works that have been done to date.

The program ended with presentations from various teams from Ministry of Health and also Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment at Rosalote Guests Fales.



The Questions and Answers component of the program was aimed at navigating the best possible way forward for the Sectors.



 **MNRE & CSSP**

Palau Public Utilities Corporation

Public Relations Office
P.O. Box 1372
Republic of Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-3870 Ext. 2065
Fax: (680)488-3878
Oldiais Building, Medalaii Koror



PRESS RELEASE

March 25, 2022

PPUC Partakes in Managing Coastal Aquifers Project (MCAP)



In an opportune time as the United Nations (UN) celebrate “World Water Day” on March 22nd, the Palau Public Utilities (PPUC) Water Operations Department along with CEO Frank Kyota attended a meeting with Minister Steven Victor, Ms. Leena Muller and state representatives from Kayangel, Angaur and Peleliu regarding the

Managing Coastal Aquifers Project (MCAP). The MCAP is designed to improve the understanding, use, management and protection of groundwater towards enhanced water security in the context of changing climate.

In partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Pacific Community (SPC) are delivering the 4-year (2021-2024) Managing Coastal Aquifers (MCA) project in the Pacific Island Countries of Marshall Islands, Palau, and Tuvalu.

PPUC extends its appreciation to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (MAFE) and relevant partners for including the Corporation in this project, one that meets sustainable goals as well as community water needs.

Vision: PPUC will be the most professional utility corporation in providing reliable, economical, sustainable and quality services for its customers
Mission: To provide essential utility services to foster growth, economic development and improved quality of life for the people

Tonga Volcano Eruption

(source BBC News)

On the 20th December 2021, an eruption began on Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai. The eruption reached a very large powerful climax nearly four weeks later, on 15th January 2022. Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai is 65km north of Tongatapu, the country's main Island.

The eruption caused tsunamis in Tonga, and along the Pacific rim, including damaging tsunamis in New Zealand, Japan, United States, Russia far East, Chile and Peru. The Government issued a tsunami warning to residents, and waves of 30cm (12inch) were observed in Nukualofa.



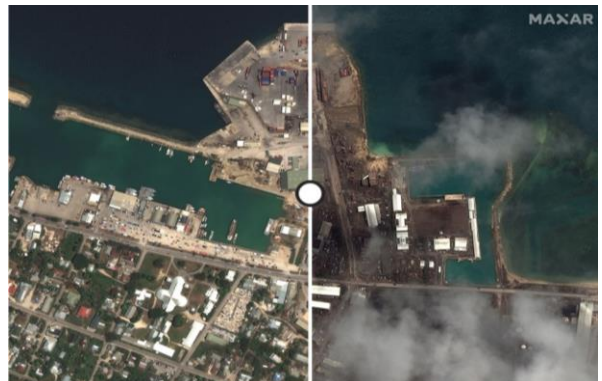
The port in the capital, Nuku'alofa on the main island of Tongatapu, has been severely damaged, with many buildings near the waterfront completely flattened.

Ashes from the eruption made landfall on the main Island of Tongatapu, blotting out the sun. Loud explosions were heard 65km (40miles) away in Nukualofa. Small stones and ash rained down from the sky. Many residents in Tonga were stuck in traffic whilst attempting to flee higher grounds.



The authorities in Tonga say all the homes on one island, where around 50 people live, have been destroyed, while on another only two houses remain. Other islands, they say, have sustained extensive damage.

The main airport for the islands, Fua'amotu International Airport, was not damaged, but piles of ash are hindering operations and international aid efforts. Volunteers have been sweeping the runway of the main airport to allow planes to land.



Reports from NASA said the Tonga eruption was 'hundreds of times' more powerful than Hiroshima atomic bomb.

Tropical Cyclone Dovi causes major flooding in Vanuatu

(source RNZ : 10 February, 2022)

Authorities in Vanuatu have had to evacuate a number of families from Teouma Valley after their homes were flooded due to Tropical Cyclone Dovi.

The weather system has caused major flooding in parts of Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu Police Force and Joint Police Operation Centre helped to move families at Teouma Valley to the evacuation centre near Eratap road. Some of the families who were forced to leave their homes and stayed with their families at the Erakor and Ohlen villages.

Heavy rain caused the Teouma river to overflow. There was no clear figure as to how many people in Port Vila, Efate and other islands affected by the flooding were moved to safety.

The bad weather caused businesses and schools to close.



P.O Box PPB
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Phone: (684) 699-1462
Facsimile: (684) 699-8070



This project was out for tender on November 25, 2020 where three contractors expressed interest. The successful bidder was issued the NTP on January 27th, 2021 in the height of the Covid 19 pandemic. The impact on the project was mainly on the shipment of materials and travel restrictions. Long-drawn-out delays hindered the construction schedule but ASPA had surplus materials that got the project started without delay.

Glass Fused Tank

After multiple delays, the tank order arrived on August 10th, 2021; Four months late. The supplier insisted on installing their own tank as their warranty condition. That was not possible due to travel restrictions to American Samoa so the ASPA Water team was given the task of doing the tank installation. Tank installation was completed in two weeks.



Installation of the 100k gallon tank from United Industries Group from floor to roof.



A look at the finished Tank system, already tied to the fill and distribution line

Well #6

This well sits at an elevation of 306 ft. AMSL is 1,164 ft. (0.22 mi) from the Mesepa main road. The nearest coast is about 2,315 ft. (2.18 mi) away and is approximately 834 ft. North West from the next closest Well. This well #6 will fill our Apiolefaga Tank through a dedicated 6" PVC transmission line and with the additional head, the tank will distribute to the residents of Mesepa in high elevations.



The Well building houses the electrical control panels and the Chlorinator in separate rooms

Distribution System

The distribution and service connections were completed way ahead of schedule and before the contract expiration date.

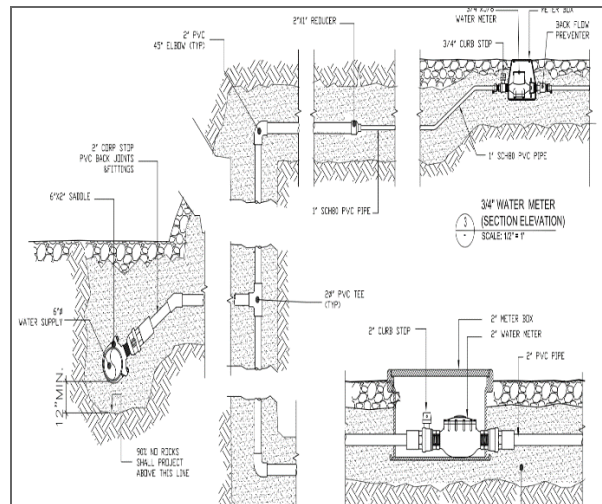


Major work was done on the steep road that climbs to the new tank prior to laying the new pipes for both transmission and distribution lines.

The distribution line is supplying improved pressure to families on the mountainside of Mesepa. With the improved pressure from the high elevated tank, the old distribution line that was mainly AC pipes needed to be replaced to handle the new working pressure.



**The distribution main is shown in red.
All the service meters that were connected to the old AC main have been transferred to the new PVCO 6" pipe.**



Service connections are all new pipes from the main to the meter.

Benchmarking 2020 Data Collection

PWWA Secretariat would like to express its sincere appreciation and congratulations to the following 18 utilities that submitted 2020 data. We value your contribution especially during these hard times the world is going through with the pandemic.

1	American Samoa Power Authority	2	Chuuk – FSM
3	YSPSC – Central Yap FSM	4	Kosrae – FSM
5	Pohnpei – FSM	6	French Polynesia
7	Guam Waterworks	8	Nauru Utilities Corporation
9	Caledonia Water – New Caledonia	10	PWSC – Palau
11	Water PNG	12	Water Authority Fiji
13	Kiribati	14	KAJUR – Marshall Islands
15	UNLECO – Vanuatu	16	Samoa Water Authority
17	Solomon Islands Water Authority	18	Tonga Water Board

We encourage our utilities especially the following to submit your data so we are able to put together a performance profile for your utility to further assist with continuous development within your respective countries and the Pacific region.

1	Samoa Independent Water Scheme	2	To Tatou Vai – Cook Islands
3	Infrastructure Cook Islands	4	Northern Marianas

5	Southern Yap	6	Northern Yap
7	New Caledonia	8	Niue
9	Majuro – Marshall Islands	10	Department of Water Resources – Vanuatu
11	Tokelau	12	Wallis and Futuna

The process of collecting 2020 benchmarking data from utilities last year (2021) was very delayed mainly due to the following factors:

- Lack of response from utilities
- Impact of COVID-19
- Impact of other natural disasters such as cyclones and flooding
- Utilities not having a dedicated contact other than the CEO for the Secretariat to liaise with directly and ease burden on CEOs busy schedules
- Vital participation of PNG as it serves bulk of population for the whole of Pacific
- Eda Ranu and Water PNG merge

We are currently working towards finalizing draft performance profiles for each utility and these will be submitted to your respective utilities for further comments before finalizing them.

We will continue to use this platform to encourage Utilities to submit data for the next process 2021 data collection to ensure your utility profile is up to date especially identifying gaps due to various factors especially the impact of COVID-19.



Media Release

P.O.BOX 1407 | Honiara | p: 44700 | e: service@solomonwater.com.sb

Solomon Islands Water Authority Trading as Solomon Water

Wednesday 6 April 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLOMON WATER AWARDS HONIARA WATER RESERVOIRS PROJECT

Solomon Water has awarded a USD\$7.1m (SBD 57 m) contract for the Honiara Water Reservoirs Project (Bid No. SW0662021) to Pacific Engineering Projects ION Exchange joint venture.

Pacific Engineering is a New Zealand based engineering and construction company. ION Exchange is a water supply and environment management company based in India. Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB), the joint-venture will construct and commission three new concrete water reservoirs and other works associated with the project.

The three new reservoirs, able to hold a total of approximately 9 million liters of water are as follows:

1. Titinge Reservoir, a new concrete reservoir of capacity 3ML.
2. Tasahe Reservoir, replaces an existing steel reservoir with a new concrete reservoir of capacity 3ML.
3. Panatina Reservoir, replaces an existing steel reservoir with a new concrete reservoir of capacity 2.5ML.

Solomon Water CEO Ian Gooden said *"We are thrilled to award the first of our major donor funded Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector project projects. The reservoirs are essential to increase our storage capacity for treated water so that we are able to supply water to all customers with less disruption when we experience network problems or shutdown water supply because of high turbidity or pump breakdowns. The total capacity of the new reservoirs means an extra six hours of storage across the network"*.

Solomon Water received two bids, both from joint ventures. Construction should start around June and will run for 18 months.

The Secretariat is monitoring the situation with the pandemic as it affects our member countries in light of the resurgence of different variants. We also note the extent of vaccination of countries in the Pacific that will determine opening of borders or the creation of travel bubbles in the Pacific. Australia and New Zealand our Pacific partners are included in the table statistics. An update of Covid-19 cases since this pandemic started is provided in the Table below as at the end of the quarter on 31 March 2022:

Pacific Member Countries Covid-19 Status of Cases – 31 March 2022¹

Country	Cumulative Total at 31 March 2022	Newly Reported at Last 7 Days	Total Deaths	Persons Fully Vaccinated per 100 people
Australia	4,263,103	395,257	5,962	82.08
French Polynesia	72,195	327	646	NA
PNG	43,203	39	640	2.88
Guam	39,754	234	343	81.68
New Zealand	657,723	101,669	299	82.62
Wallis & Futuna	453	--	7	57.93
Northern Marianas	11,065	80	33	75.73
New Caledonia	60,391	171	311	52.47
Fiji	64,394	59	834	69.88
Solomon Islands	10,778	574	133	17.82
Marshall Islands	4	--	--	42.07
Vanuatu	2,709	1,281	--	64.15
Samoa	1,541	871	--	66.04
Tuvalu	0	0	0	49.9
Tonga	6,144	1,607	2	65.37
Tokelau	0	0	0	71.7
Palau	4,014	38	6	98.57
Niue	7	2	--	87.58
Nauru	0	0	0	70.83
FSM	0	0	0	44.78
Kiribati	3,065	5	13	46.32
Cook Islands	1,745	685	--	80.44
American Samoa	3,483	1,479	3	70.9

Most of the Pacific countries which had acted early in 2020 to close its borders to avoid getting the Covid-19 onto its shores managed to do so until late last year and during this quarter of 2022; these included countries such as Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Palau, Kiribati, and Tonga. However, at the height of the pandemic in Australia and New Zealand and opening of borders of these

¹ Source: WHO Covid-19 Dashboard

countries, repatriation flights increased and brought the virus into these Pacific countries. There now are only four Pacific countries remaining without Covid-19; these are FSM, Nauru, Tokelau and Tuvalu which are our smallest island countries.

New Zealand and Australia continue to have increasingly high numbers of cases everyday which has heightened precautionary border barriers in most Pacific countries to travel from those countries. Travel between Australia and New Zealand has opened up as well as international travel, including plans for slowly opening up borders to the Pacific countries. However, a cautionary approach is taken by island countries on this travel as the impact of cases on its health systems and populations not fully vaccinated yet could be devastating. In the table above, full vaccination rates across the Pacific countries are varied with PNG and Solomon Island representing some of the lowest rates of full vaccination. The rates of vaccination will determine to a large extent the speed at which borders in the Pacific will open again.

We urge you to be vaccinated, and stay safe as much as possible!

Invitation for Bids



Date: 01 April 2022

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Solomon Islands - Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (Co-financed between ADB/EU/WB)

Grant: 0662-SOL(SF)

Loans: 3826-SOL(COL), 6407-SB

Contract No. and Title: SW0312021 SCADA System Expansion and Upgrade Implementation Contract

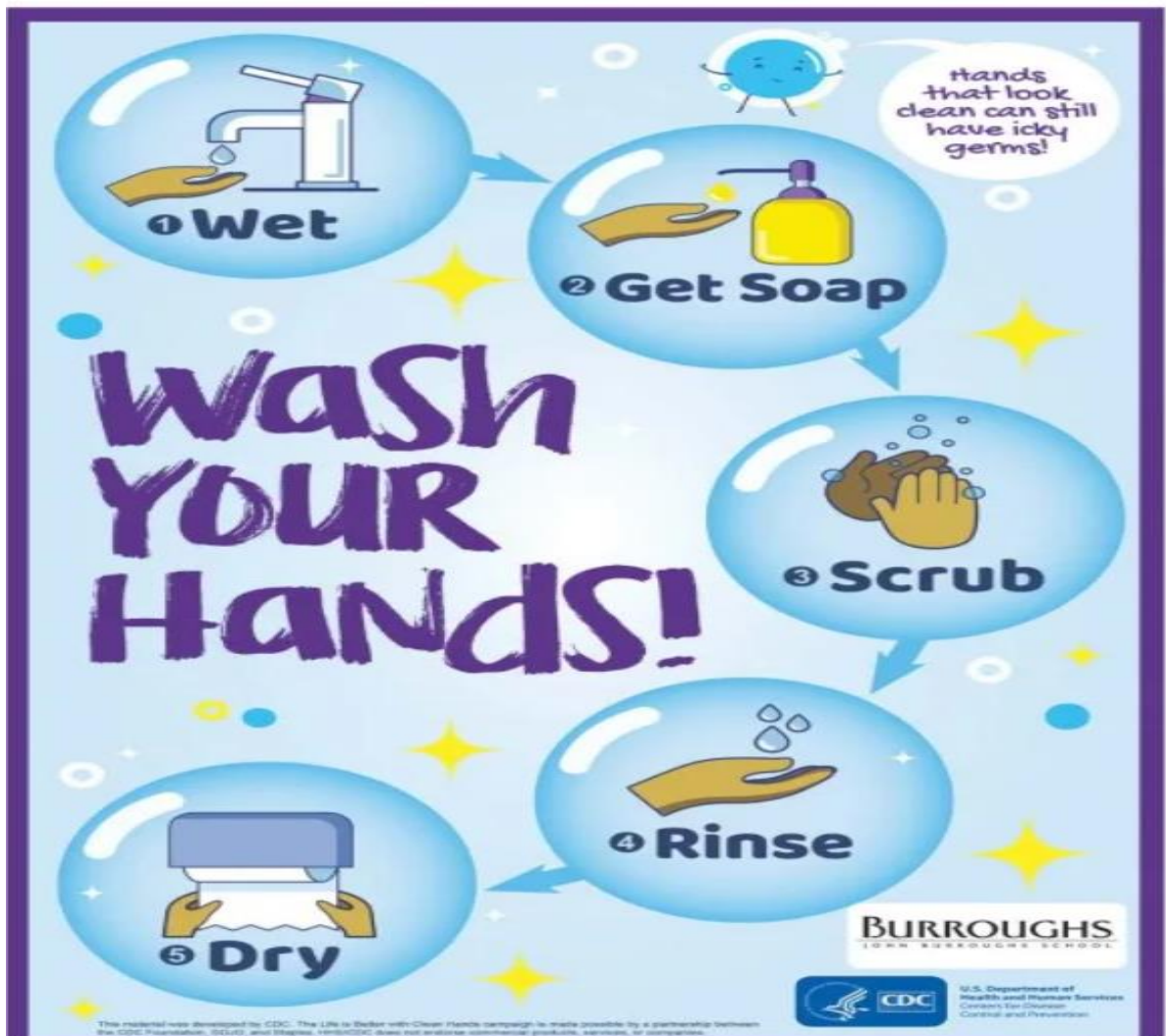
Deadline for Submission of Bids: 27 May 2022

1. The **Solomon Island Water Authority, trading as Solomon Water ("SW")** has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **SCADA System Expansion and Upgrade Implementation Contract**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The **Solomon Island Water Authority, trading as Solomon Water ("SW")** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of **the SCADA System Expansion and Upgrade Implementation Contract** ("the Works").
3. Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's **Single-Stage: One Envelope** procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Installation or upgrade of a SCADA system consisting of multiple discrete and unlinked physical locations (multi – site) including Field Devices, Communications / Telemetry and HMI
 - Telemetry and Networking including Remote Terminal Unit configuration.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact: Attention: **Everlyn Basi – Procurement Team Leader**
Address: **C/o Solomon Water, P.O. Box 1407, BJS Building, Level 1, Commonwealth Street, Honiara, Solomon Islands.**
Email: procurement@solomonwater.com.sb Telephone: 44660 Ext 4660
6. Bidding documents will be available electronically on Solomon Water's Tenderlink site www.tenderlink.com/SIWA
7. Deliver your bid

Electronically as per the instructions on the Bid Data Sheet.

- on or before the deadline: **14:00 (Solomon Islands time), Friday 27 May 2022**
- together with a Bid-Securing Declaration as described in the Bidding Document.

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.



PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 868
L4 FMFMII Building
Eleele-fou, Apia
PH: +685 30326
SAMOA

E-mail: info@pwwa.ws
Website: www.pwwa.ws