



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIUE DELEGATION ATTENDS THE 4TH ASIA-PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT IN JAPAN

Alofi, Niue – 24 May 2022 – The Minister of Finance and Infrastructure, Hon. Crossley Tatui and Niue’s Senior Water Advisor, Andre Siohane, recently returned from Kumamoto City, Japan, after attending the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit held from 23-24 April 2022.

The high-level delegates at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit comprised heads of state, ministers and representatives from various international organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan’s host city Kumamoto shared with the summit their long-standing efforts in conserving groundwater which is similar to Niue’s unique water system. Kumamoto city is still recovering from major earthquakes in 2016. The Niue delegation was able to visit the most affected areas.

Promoting the theme-‘Water for Sustainable Development-Best practices for future generations,’ the Kumamoto summit declaration endorses water challenges amid the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery efforts in the region and worldwide.

Hon. Tatui congratulates Japan for hosting a successful summit, given the critical importance of water as countries deal with multiple hazards caused by the pandemic and climate change.

“The climate change crisis will continue to generate and worsen tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, rising sea levels, soil and water pollution, which are challenges that Niue must deal with to protect our water and natural resources”, Minister Tatui said.

Minister Tatui says the summit in Japan reached a collective understanding that recovery from the pandemic requires transformation into resilient, sustainable and inclusive communities.

“We know that achieving water sustainability requires strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships with open, transparent and collaborative efforts.”

The Kumamoto declaration placed water at the centre of the political agenda as very important because water problems are inextricably linked to health, sanitation, food security and energy security issues.

To realise a quality-oriented society, the summit aims to strengthen quality infrastructure development for the water sector, including knowledge transfer, information, and data management.

The Minister added, “The Prime Minister of Japan announced that the Government of Japan offers 500 billion yen (equivalent to USD\$50 million) towards implementing the water and sanitation challenges in the Asia-Pacific region in the next five years”.

Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi provided the Niue Statement by video link for the summit, which was amplified by the Minister's statements at the main high-level, small islands developing states and youth sessions based on the local theme, 'Water Actions Together Ensures Resilience'.

Minister Tatui acknowledges Tom Misikea Junior for producing Niue's water video clip at short notice, viewed at the summit and gifted to the Kumamoto City Mayor Kazufumi Onishi.

In addition, Minister Tatui also held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon Kausea Natano, Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat of India, Economic Affairs and the Climate Policy Trade Secretary John Mike Jager of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

On transit in Auckland, he also met the New Zealand Minister of Trade, Disarmament and Arms Control, State and Associate Minister for the Environment and Immigration, Hon. Phil Twyford on PACER Plus and regional issues.

Niue's Cabinet endorsed the summit delegation report on Thursday, 19 May 2022. More information on the summit can be found [here](#).

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Rhonda Tiakia, GON Communications Officer niuegovt.media@mail.gov.nu