First Draft

CONCEPT PAPER

Nauru Bid for Statistics Centre of Excellence

(Pacific Statistics Hub at Nauru USP)

1) Proposal

Support for higher education and enrolments in statistics, for coherence and relevance under the TYPSS regional context through a regional statistics centre of excellence within USP to be hosted and facilitated at the Nauru campus.

Education is expected to go through dynamic changes especially with COVID19 hence innovations in methodology and data capturing are expected to be the result. This does not exclude the main-stay of statistics which are the fundamentals of Official statistics. The main objective is to address the long-term benefits identified in the TYPSS Phase II (see table below), however, the existing estimates will need to be accompanied by an adequate increase in teaching personnel and content material that will need to be accounted for. This entails taking into consideration delivery mechanism through greater use of ICT and innovations in data capturing in this COVID19 environment. Commitment by countries, the region, and development parties is required to address the new challenges that were not previously anticipated in 2015 by HOPS and the PSSC. The long-term benefits ensure the sustainability of country and regional human resource statistical capacity that is guided by FEMM under its Pacific Regionalism initiative.

2) Short description of the sustainability and added value of the intervention

The proposal need to consult with existing available information (skills audit 2011, ICT WG 2011 report, new innovations) and the relevant technical staff of national Ministries of Education, human resources, fisheries, agriculture, environment, climate change and natural resources as well as the Academic Network of the oceania region. It should be further validated by additional consultations at the political level of the said Ministries; as well as key players of the regional education reform that needs to be engaged in the preparation of the white paper as well as public discussions. The proposed intervention stems out of the Heads of Planners and Statisticians conference (SPC/HOPS 2010_Working paper 2, 6 July, 2010 – Key Focus 2015–2017) to urgently roll out the implementation of a higher statistical and research & development education reform under capacity development geared towards achieving the MDG's (now subsequently the Pacific headline SDG's) indicators and the HOPS/TYPSS statistical objectives. The changes in the conversation from MDG's towards SDG's were achieved at a very fast pace. An example to such quick changes is the conversation on the Global CC agenda with the transition from CC mitigation towards CC adaptation. SDG13.a.1, where no outcomes or impacts are reported against aggregated or composite development indicators; rendering truth to the observations made by the former SDD/SPC Managing Director Dr G. Haberkorn as "a simple book keeping item", but the financing implications on IDA on PICs are expected to change or adhoc.

3) Trade-Offs

There is expected to be some trade in Essential Core curriculum versus innovations to maintain the institutes relevance. These could be reviewed periodically and may include expansion of probable electives, and specialised topics where current innovations have become part of the core. Research topics/proposals and grants must be allowed to evolve. National/regional Scholarships and student

subsides under a continuous regional educational reform and the evolution of statistics R&D is a key component on the centre maintaining its relevance. Poaching from other faculties, institutions, national agencies should be controlled however cross pollination of ideas, methods and innovations encouraged.

4) Housing (TBD)

National housing plan to be developed

Private housing in community

5) Insurance

Content and equipment

6) Geolocation (TBD)

Central pacific access by Air and Sea. Nauru Airline and current Seaport (finalization of new Seaport by 2023)

Natural disaster safe zone (excl. prolonged drought)

7) Facilities/Infrastructure (TBD)

a) Nauru USP Centre
b) Learning village
c) Existing Lab facilities (Fisheries, Mining Corporation, Utilities Water/Solar Farms, Hospital, High Schools, Agriculture/Water)
d) Safe/Stable/Disable friendly

8) Security & Safety (TBD)

a) Students health and safety
b) Disputes, accidents, diseases

9) Ethics (TBD)

a) Faculty – equitable salary

10) Curriculum

a) Fundamental Official statistics
b) Experimental cycles (COVID19, other external shocks)
c) Supervision of an experiment
d) Commissioning of USP on experiments for eligible IDA countries or SDD funding (subject to streams filtering approach by Research proposal, SDD filter, and PSMB)
e) Certificate level material or diplomas through DevP packages and/or online delivery (compulsory vs complementary) through internet by agency experts (if/when available)
f) Cross-pollination within the national statistical system, R&D and academia
g) ICT statistical softwares in data capture, dissemination, data analysis and policy development
h) Project Operations standards manual
    (1) IDA/SDD/other funding
i) Proposals
j) Procedures and templates – review and evaluation standards Eligibility

11) Governance structure

USP governance structure takes precedence except in the case of extra-ordinary grants, awards, funding provided for specific experiments or research that have undergone the vetting process. To be determined.

12) Other opportunities

Tutoring at local schools, community, and consultancy by USP students, and faculty in other disciplines.

13) The key Focus - 2015-2017: HOPS/PSSC/TYPSS Phase II

a) Completing the implementation of region-wide statistical systems and tools
b) Pacific Island Centre of Excellence in Innovation in Statistics and Technology set up in collaboration with USP
c) Advancing policy agency relationships and understanding in health, education and employment, and environment
d) Widen the range of countries with economic accounts focused on timely GDP estimates

Extract: 1.3.3 Projects with long term benefits well spread over the whole decade (Present day environment under COVID19). The cost implications will require reviewing under current the environment.

Project	**Timing**	**Cost**	**Cost Range**
Pacific centre for innovation in statistics	2	1m	1 – 2m
Innovation in Pacific applications of ICT and statistical practice (Pacific Centre)	3	0.9m	1 – 1.2m
Leadership development (expired)	2	0.5m	
The place of specialists in the statistics value chain	1	0.0m	
Statistical dataset documentation standards (curriculum/delivery)	2	0.0m	
Specialist training and rewards (curriculum/delivery)	2	0.0m	
Young professionals development (curriculum/delivery/ANZOG)	2	0.0m	
Partners in statistics (inter agency)	2	0.0m	
Common standards of information accessibility supported by relevant systems	2	0.0m	
Mandatory induction programme	3	0.0m	
USP/SIAP partnerships	3	0.0m	

14) Main intervention components:

a) Legal / Policy Framework

Support to the Ministry for implementation of the Reform Recognizing the need for secondary legislation, institutional strengthening as well as policy and strategic support, this component will be implemented with the guidance of the Department of Higher Education at the MoES. It will be of a technical assistance nature with consultations and professional expertise as agreed with the lead partner. Outputs will consist in formulation, revision and adoption of legal and policy documents.

b) Institutionalization of the ICT solutions

Consolidating ICT platforms through approved support channels towards the implementation of regional policy and strategic framework. Under the guidance of appointed statistical governance structure to take the lead for this component in implementing the HOPS/TYPSS objective. The approach will be to build

around existing and viable ICT solutions following review and agreements of PSSC and the work undertaken by PSSC-ICT technical working group for software use and maintenance. Outputs of this component will be mainly technical products through expertise and institutional contracts for transfer of know how that will be provided to the centre.

c) Service orientation / user perspective (extract)

Addressing policy needs and technical support, the centre and proposed projects will pay specific attention to engagement with beneficiaries – students and academic personnel. Campus based needs analysis through surveys, youth platforms, consultations and user-feedback mechanisms through innovative techniques will be employed to get an accurate sense of the expected impact of work and costs benefits. Furthermore, family based needs analysis through focus groups and surveys to ascertain governance improvements that need to be incorporated in the legal/policy frameworks and the ICT solutions should be institutionalised. Periodic outputs of this component should be made available to the widest audience through online surveys, campaigns, user-friendly solutions and periodic feedback mechanisms with student groups and academic bodies.