

Joseph Daisy

From: Gavin Pereira [gavin@climatecatalysts.com.au]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:48 AM
To: jdaisy@comfsm.fm
Cc: hadi@comfsm.fm; bulent.bicer@asu.edu
Subject: ASU/VOCTEC Collaboration with COM
Attachments: voctec_pacific_flyer.pdf

Dear Dr. Daisy,

My name is Gavin and I am Arizona State University's Fiji based coordinator for their clean energy training program. My colleague (Bulent Bicer) emailed you to see if College of Micronesia is interested in joining our fully funded solar energy training program.

The program is a US AID funded train the trainer program that provides your institution with additional training, technical equipment and funding to provide solar technician training courses to prospective solar technicians in COM colleges.

I have tried calling you a number of times and you have been understandably busy. Please let me know a suitable time for me to call you so that we can advance this initiative further. I look forward to hearing from you!
Sincerely,

Gavin Pereira
VOCTEC Pacific Coordinator
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From: Bulent Bicer [<mailto:Bulent.Bicer@asu.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2013 8:25 AM
To: jdaisy@comfsm.fm
Cc: Gavin Pereira; Ambika Adhikari; Anshuman Razdan
Subject: ASU/VOCTEC Collaboration with COM

Dear Dr. Daisy,

I hope this message finds you well and serves as the first step for a mutual beneficial collaboration between our institutions. My name is Bulent Bicer and I am a project manager with Arizona State University in the United States.

In late August 2012, Arizona State University was awarded the Pacific Islands Vocational Training and Education for Clean Energy (VOCTEC) program by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) regional Mission in Manila. The overarching objective of the VOCTEC Pacific Islands program is to strengthen the cadre of qualified professionals and technicians to design, install, operate, and maintain off-grid solar PV energy systems by implementing efficient capacity building activities in 12 Pacific Island nations, including the Federated States of Micronesia.

The program utilizes a tiered capacity building approach in which a comprehensive "train-the-trainer" workshop (tier 1) on a regional level is being followed and complemented by "technical PV training" classes (tier 2) on a local, national level, thus multiplying and delivering training interventions more broadly across the Pacific Islands nations. An important

objective of our VOCTEC program is to establish collaborative ties with regional and local educational organizations, such as the College of Micronesia (COM), to ensure and maximize long-term impact and sustainability of our capacity building efforts. We have started to work closely with the University of the South Pacific on a regional level and would like to establish a similar collaboration and cooperation framework with COM in FSM. This framework encompasses not only PV related educational initiatives for trainers and technicians but also institutional capacity enhancements in form of mobile solar PV training infrastructures.

We are in the process of completing the first phase of the initiative in which the program was rolled out in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands and are now looking to other countries, including FSM, to enter the next phase of the VOCTEC program. For additional information on the program, please visit the VOCTEC website voctec.asu.edu and see the attached VOCTEC Pacific Islands flyer.

With this in mind, I propose to start a dialogue towards a possible collaboration between our two institutions at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to share this message with other administrators and faculty in your institution. I also take this opportunity to introduce Mr. Gavin Pereira, ASU's Pacific Coordinator for VOCTEC, based in Fiji. He will be contacting you shortly to elaborate how this initiative can be rolled out in FSM and to provide further details.

I look forward to seeing COM (and FSM) becoming an integral part of this important initiative.

Kind regards,

Bulent

Bülent Bicer

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