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Science Advice and the Small Island Developing States

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: CSAE Co-Chair



**Fourth APEC Chief Science Advisors and
Equivalents Meeting
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Science Advice and the Small Island Developing States

**Briefing paper for CSAE4
Sir Peter Gluckman**

**Lima, Peru
August 18-19 2016**

The APEC region contains a significant proportion of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These are characterised by small populations and inherently limited indigenous scientific and scientific institutional capacities. Yet as a group they face a large number of scientific challenges encompassing environmental, resource management, societal and public health and economic challenges and the interface between indigenous and local knowledge and western science. They are also particularly exposed to severe natural hazards including major storms and tsunamis.

The challenges of the interface between science and policy are particularly acute in SIDS. Ways need to be found to provide scientific support on complex issues which do not interfere with their independence. The issue of how to create pathways for SIDS to exploit and use modern technologies for their own development is also immense. For example the state of STEM education can be limiting for local opportunities to be realised.

UNESCO has recognised the particular challenges of the SIDS community. A particular challenge is how might effective science advice be proffered in a manner that respects the autonomy of the nation state.

Related UNESCO publications:

UNESCO action on Science and Technology in Small Island Developing States
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids/science-technology/>

Islands of the Future – Building resilience in a changing world
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002245/224512e.pdf>