

GGRF in the Pacific Island Countries

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SUMMARY

The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) is a regional body comprises of members from 14 Pacific Island Countries. It was established in November 2014 at the meeting of land surveyors, hydrographers and geospatial experts from the 14 Island countries coordinated by the Pacific Community (SPC) Geoscience Division in Suva. Members from the 14 Island Countries acknowledged the importance of conveying such body with the high – level goals of encouraging regional collaboration and developing a strategy for building regional geodetic capacity. The goals are also aligned with and supported by the global priorities articulated by the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Recent advances in satellite positioning technology and its widespread societal adoption in both developing and developed countries reinforces the need for a consistent positioning framework, as a necessity for all. This, coupled with the rapidly growing use and exchange of high resolution and accurate geospatial information, places even greater emphasis on the importance of a consistent and comprehensive geodetic framework.

Most of the Pacific Island countries need to develop their datum from local system to international reference such as ITRF. There is no local geoid model in place except to utilize the global geoid model such as EGM2008 in this region. The Pacific Island countries are keen to establish their Geodetic Infrastructure. The International Terrestrial Reference Frame has become the international standard for national geodetic datum, providing the international consistency, best accuracy and accessibility.

Pacific Island countries face different issues and one of the major issues is the sea level rise that posing threat to pacific community. Recognizing the importance of consistent geodetic framework

assist Pacific Island countries monitor such as sea level rise. Pacific Islands countries are working towards adopting a Global Geodetic Reference Frame. Fiji is working towards upgrading its local datum to international standard and this reflects the needs to be compatible with other countries in the world. Since no country can do this alone, working in collaboration is the key to make this real.

With the modern techniques available, the Pacific island countries would need financial assistance from aid agencies and expertise from the organizations such as UN-GGIM, FIG, IAG and ICG not only to develop their geodetic survey infrastructure (CORS/IGS Network) but also to establish their vertical and horizontal reference frame in terms of international standards and specifications. Development of geodetic survey capacity is a need in the region is also necessary.