



Berthing priorities at Port Vila Wharf present challenges to trade facilitation

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The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat is being provided capacity building support through assistance from the Brussels-based TradeCom II Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, to enhance the efficiency of the MSG region's Trade

Facilitation Services.

The TradeCom II Programme is being implemented by the Enabling Environments Ltd Team, consisting of Ms Nicole Garraway of Grenada, Mr Aloisio Alipate Tavo of Tonga and Mr Bertrand Monzorier of France. Mr Riccardo Tintis, Programme Manager for TradeCom II, will also be present to provide the requisite support to facilitate a fruitful and rewarding engagement.

One of the principal outputs of the Programme's Technical Assistance intervention is the MSG Regional Validation Workshop that will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 15 March 2018.

The Workshop will inform participants of the findings by the Programme Team on the challenges associated with both air and sea connectivity. Opportunities will also be provided to discuss recommendations relevant to the MSG air industry and options for the establishment of an MSG Shipping Commission to facilitate the efficient and effective monitoring of shipping services within the region.

An Online MSG Business Directory which provides regional and international contact details and information on trade and on doing business in the region will also be launched at the Workshop.

Participants will be drawn from the Ministries of Trade for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as these countries' civil aviation and ports authorities, airlines and shipping companies and the private sector. The Workshop has also attracted participation from regional organisations including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation.

MSG Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, applauded the support of TradeCom towards the Secretariat's Trade Policy Work Programme. "This initiative clearly demonstrates our ongoing partnership with the European Union, which augurs well for advancing regional economic integration at both the Melanesian Sub-regional and Pacific Regional levels" the Director General said.

"In addition to the current TradeCom II programme, MSG was also represented at last month's Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific Meeting in Suva that discussed the implementation

of the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme under the 11th European Development Fund as well as at the TradeCom II Building ACP Trade Capacity Good Practices Workshop in Brussels,” Ambassador Yauvoli added.

For further information, please contact Mr Henry Sanday, Trade and Investment Adviser via email, h.sanday@msg.int.