

## **PRIMO PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES DECEMBER 2005**

*Stated Goal of the Session - Update on PRiMO activity and the "surround" in which PRiMO sits these days, given natural disasters, politics, funding priorities, technology developments, public sentiment*

### **PSC-**

- Russell is in the PSC office now to help support this effort
- Looking to connect with NGOs; John Parks is now in the PSC office and has knowledge of working with NGOs.
- Foreign invitations to advance community based resiliency work in Thailand
- Hazards-based community assessment tools are being developed using data and input from other PRiMO members and piloted in American Samoa, Kauai, Oahu, etc.
- Work in the Indian Ocean by Dave McKinnie is moving along – 16 million dollar effort that includes building something sustainable for the region once the US government is gone. Long range communication planning is a priority of this effort that may have some funds attached to it.
- A meeting in Alaska addressed their interest in Mitigation Tools.
- Adam Stein has been active in moving the hui work forward
- New partnership with the East West Center on the Data Center and a Water Level project, both resulting from our conversations begun through PRiMO.
- We will advance the conversation on Indigenous Knowledge
- We are educating lots of people coming through our office, especially with the Congressional Delegation.
- S50 has passed in the senate. Core funding for PRiMO is likely.

### **NOAA IDEA Center** (Integrated Data and Environmental Applications) Hazards Risk management; Climate & Coastal Communities and Marine Ecosystems

- FY2005 meant using an existing technical services contract to support this
- New leadership in place. Interim Director and Education and Outreach Specialist. John Marra is working the Wave and Water Level Activities eventually becoming a hazards specialist. By 2006 we will have a data integration specialist.
- We have been very explicit in outreach and up-reach explaining that PRiMO is a priority.
- We want a structure that allows us to create ocean obs. tools even if another dollar doesn't come for IOOS.
- The Ocean Obs. hui work will find some support here. There are resources on the table now for data observation tools.
- If Eileen is named Director of the IDEA center, PRiMO needs to consider East West Center representation in the Navigators group. Maybe representation comes through the PDC role. Their response to PRiMO has changed a fair bit in the last year, in a positive direction. 2006 PDC relationship with East West will be revisited. PDC contract is up for re-bid and may be challenged.

- PDC got 700K for work related to GIS support for Thailand's emergency operations center.
- New RISA proposal needed for NOAA. RISA wants to submit a proposal for an integrated Pacific Climate Information System. This could be a NOAA thing OR we reach out beyond NOAA, with PRiMO as the context for what is possible, involving PRiMO's agencies.

## **USGS**

- Want to be a conduit for integrating programs into USGS coming out of the PRiMO themes/priorities.
- S50 named USGS, and to support this up-reach was conducted to make PRiMO a known entity inside USGS
- Leadership in transition, structures and responsibilities may change with new leadership.
- Indigenous knowledge is an ongoing theme for USGS
- Dignitary visits; congressional briefings where PRiMO is highlighted.
- Interior Department appointment for the region Kimo Kaloi needs to be briefed and brought into PRiMO.

## **EPA**

- Pacific Islands Office is one of very few efforts that works beyond US entities.
- This past year we provided more technical assistance to the Freely Associated States (FAS) than in any year since they got independence. Partnered with Office on Insular Affairs.
- Noting the indigenous knowledge issue. A growing moment of interest.
- There is expertise in the FAS that could be of value to us.
- Coral Reef Task Force is working with FEMA to get this emergency support function for natural resources. A new idea that the resources deserve protection and response ESF 13.
- EPA is trying to create a territorial bond bank. Resulting in huge savings over the life of the bond.
- FYI - ORRT is growing lower on the EPA priority list
- Needs more info to share inside EPA that answers the question... "What does PRiMO **DO**"? We need to tell a good, tight, convincing story.

## **UH**

- Involvement in PRiMO has resulted in
- APEC meeting has resulted in an invitation to Costa Rica on the social vulnerability components of flooding.
- New opportunities at UH due to both recent Hazards as well as due to internal re-organization
- FEMA funded Hazard Mitigation Planning effort (Pre-disaster mitigation planning)
- Pulling together an inventory of Disaster related funding
- Sri Lanka multi-disciplinary projects

- The UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) wants to start to work in disaster planning and decide its research focus in this area over the next few years. Cheryl may become a research faculty member in DURP which will create a chance for research focus.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Social Impacts, Social Responses re: evacuation. World Town Planning Day, focus on indigenous practices. Looking for collaborators. (Nov. 2005)
- Human Adaptation to the Sea course at UH presented Cheryl an opportunity to speak and learn. The course teacher could be a useful resource – Micronesian connection
- Opportunity to work on projects in Indonesia on gender

## **FEMA**

- US Hurricanes of 2005 have been the focus of FEMA efforts
- Investigations going on about the response will have impact on the agency in unknown ways. Change will come. Stay tuned for 6 months to one year out from now.
- FEMA focus has been mainland oriented. Issues in the Pacific will need to be turned to soon
- FEMA is having a high turnover of staff. Losing lots of institutional knowledge. Lots more direct reports to manage.
- PRiMO affords a much needed mental stretch to think beyond US borders
- National Flood Insurance Program will be an issue affording chances for partnership.
- An exchange with Palau and Chuk regarding flooding is reinforcing the need and the opportunity to look at holistic approaches to things like regional watershed planning.
- FEMA Undersecretary Michael Jackson has put forward the concept of “bucket issues” to capture key issues that need problem solving and resolution across disasters. PRiMO may be able to help identify bucket issues or support attention to bucket issues identified.
- Recommitment to the idea that it is a citizens’ civic duty to be prepared to survive the first five days after a disaster. May have implications for end-user needs that PRiMO can help to address.
- The experience with disasters on the mainland raises serious questions about how might we respond in more geographically isolated locations like in the Pacific.
- Worked collaboratively with SOPAC to get a mitigation plan for the Marshall Islands
- We’ve been monitoring the assessment tool NOAA is putting out – partnering with CSC in California to use this.
- Thinking of extending this PRiMO approach to the mitigation planning happening in California
- ESF14 – long term recovery function is a PRiMO-like effort.
- New plans for command and control are very hierarchical and not very collaborative.

## NOAA

- David Green program manager for the Tsunami program wanted info about PRiMO to put it in the budget related to Tsunamis.
- NOAA has a coastal storms program, a cross-NOAA effort working in Southern CA now. Gulf of Mexico will be the next pilot. Pacific could be a future pilot site.
- Success story – new tool inventories are being recognized as more broad, robust and out of the box from the typical inventory. People are noticing this and attributing this trend to PRiMO.
- New Coastal Hazards Management graduate course curriculum developed jointly with funding from NOAA CSC and FEMA is freely available at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/coursesunderdev.asp>.
- One of the steersmen for the Indigenous Knowledge Hui is no longer with CZM and now resides at PSC. This should help.
- Ed Young, Eddie Bernard and David McKinnie are doing work in the Indian Ocean and want to stay involved and re-invigorate their participation in PRiMO.
- RANET may get funding for a communications system in the Pacific due in part to PRiMO
- Levels of certification for ocean obs. responsibility. Raising issues for PRiMO re: knowledge system compliance, meaning starting with user-needs and working backwards to creating tools and response plans.
- RANET Asia Pacific Broadcast is going up on Satellite making it available to North West Pacific for the first time and in easier to access technologies.

## CSC – Coastal Services Center

- A CSC strategic assessment has resulted in a shift in future direction. Four themes emerged, one is Hazards.
- Jeff Payne, Deputy Director, will be heading the Hazards theme until they find the right leadership for building capacity in this area.
- CSC provided pre-storm data and GIS analyses to support Katrina response by other agencies.
- Response issues of Katrina are leading to a long-term recovery discussion that will happen at the national level. CSC leadership is advancing the need for this bigger discussion, a new opportunity for CSC. We will have to wait and see if we have capacity to be involved in long term recovery as an agency.
- Lessons are being learned as a result of assessing the Katrina response and things we already knew but didn't put into action are being highlighted – this creates a chance to recommit to old wisdom.
- Margaret Davidson is pretty engaged at the national Level discussions regarding hazards and she is a big fan of the PRiMO concept, so it will likely be advanced in those forums.
- NOAA/CSC leadership at the highest level is growing its interest in Hazard Resilient Communities.
- Congress requested a report on post-Katrina analysis in the Gulf.

- The concept of “one-NOAA” being advanced inside the agency. PRiMO is an example of that. The motivation behind One-NOAA is all about integration of product and service delivery, communication and coordination
- NOAA is developing performance measures based on a logic model being developed regarding each of the new NOAA themes. PRiMO will be implicated in this effort.
- Coastal Storms Program has many lessons to teach from the partner agencies.
- Alaskan Ocean Observing System – native views on data management were invited, specifically in terms of native sharing