

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

**The United States
Department of Homeland Security**

and the

**New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence &
Emergency Management**



FEMA



**Ministry of Civil Defence
& Emergency Management**

Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

The United States Department of Homeland Security, represented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a component of the Department, and the **New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management** (hereinafter referred to as 'the Participants') recognising the need to strengthen emergency management cooperation between their two countries;

and

wishing to strengthen the capability of the United States and New Zealand to respond to disasters in the territory of both the United States and New Zealand; have reached the following understandings:

Paragraph One: Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is:

- (1) To assist in strengthening disaster resilience and reducing disaster risk in American and New Zealand communities, bearing in mind the need for continuous improvement in emergency management; and
- (2) To enhance response and recovery capability in both the United States and New Zealand through information sharing and knowledge exchange.

Paragraph Two: Scope

The Participants intend to create a framework for information sharing and knowledge exchange in order to foster cooperation in emergency management. As part of this framework, the Participants intend to:

- (1) Exchange and regularly update relevant contact details, including 24/7 points of contact, in order to ensure continuity of dialogue;
- (2) Create a schedule for regular exchanges of information (via meetings, teleconferences etc);
- (3) Regularly share lessons learned from disasters and exercises in a timely fashion;
- (4) Discuss formal arrangements for facilitation and entry of observers (if feasible), following a disaster in either country;
- (5) Exchange information on actions in response to disasters in other countries where either Participant has been involved;
- (6) Invite members from each Participant to participate in relevant conferences, workshops and exercises, as feasible;
- (7) Exchange information on emergency management best practices including education and training, public awareness of disasters, community information and warning systems, community and organisational resilience and risk assessment, and to that end exchange relevant experts where appropriate;
- (8) Consider opportunities to engage in joint research in emergency management-related matters; and
- (9) Coordinate through existing multi-lateral fora or through new multi-lateral relationships on issues of common interest in the Pacific region.

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Paragraph Three: Principles

The Participants intend to jointly decide specific principles for each activity outlined in Paragraph Two as deemed necessary by the Participants. These activities and principles, once developed, should be included as Annexes to this Memorandum.

Paragraph Four: Financial

Each Participant is to bear its own costs resulting from the actions taken under this Memorandum, unless otherwise jointly decided by the Participants, subject to available funding and consistent with applicable legal authorities. Nothing in this Memorandum obligates funds of the Participants.

Paragraph Five: Commencement, Duration, and Modification

- (1) This Memorandum is intended to commence when signed by representatives of both Participants.
- (2) The Participants may review and decide to continue their cooperation at regular intervals, ideally every five years.
- (3) The Participants may mutually decide in writing to modify this Memorandum at any time.
- (4) Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this Memorandum, and should endeavour to provide 90 days advance notice to the other Participant.
- (5) This Memorandum may be discontinued by written mutual consent of the Participants.

Signed in Washington, in duplicate, this 10th day of December, 2010.

For the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence
& Emergency Management



Rt Hon Mike Moore
New Zealand Ambassador to the United States

For the Department of Homeland Security



Hon Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security



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