High Level Press Conference

Theme: Not without my neighbour!

TuCAN at the glance
Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN) is the only registered NGO that was set up in respond to the urgent need for a global commitment to reduce global warming to well below dangerous levels, the urgent need to raise awareness on adapting to climate change and implement clean energy in Tuvalu. It is a nationwide network that is responsible for being the voice of all Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Societies in Tuvalu on climate change issues. It also coordinates and implements climate change activities that are of direct relevance to NGOs and civil societies. TuCAN operates in Tuvalu and is also one of the founding members of the Pacific Climate Action Network (PICAN). TuCAN has made tremendous contribution to the issue of climate change by hosting side events at the international level, for instance at the Conferences of Parties to the UNFCCC. TuCAN operates on a voluntary basis whereby board members offer their time and effort at no cost.

Background
In the Pacific context neighbour is not confined only to someone living next door as that of the Western understanding of neighbour. Rather, being a neighbour in the Pacific carries profound responsibilities. You are culturally and traditionally obligated to look after your neighbour and vice versa. However, this event will unveil the Pacific concept of “tuakoi / tuaoi / neighbour” that transcends its traditional understanding and sees how Ocean boundaries are being divided in the interest of neo-capitalism to benefit a few. This concept will be discussed in light of its geopolitical aspects in times of climate emergency where no one is exempted nor excused of not doing their part as a neighbour.

Format
The moderator will provide several key questions to drive the conversation specifically focusing on the social, political, economic, cultural and spiritual aspect of neighbour. Panel members will be given an opportunity to respond. And at the same time invoke new questions. They will further unwrap the issue of what it means to be a neighbour in the Pacific in time of climate emergency and induced displacement. The floor will then be opened at a later stage of the press conference for Q&A.

List of Panellists
H.E Anote Tong – Former President of Kiribati
Rt Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga – Former Prime Minister of Tuvalu
Rev. James Bhagwan – General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches

Moderator: Auimatagi Joseph S. Moeono-Kolio – Head of the Greenpeace Pacific

Coordinator & MC: Maina Talia – Tuvalu Climate Action Network

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