Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) at the University of the South Pacific is hosting a South Pacific Regional Writeshop to Support Developing Country Publications on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change in its Suva campus, Fiji during 10-14 October 2011 organized in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). Through this writeshop, about 24 participants from amongst young scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and others from the South Pacific who are working in the field of climate change and disaster risk reduction will produce a peer-review quality publishable article and they will gain enhanced awareness of the process of writing papers for academic journals. These skills will allow their work to be incorporated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other high-level scientific bodies and consequently inform policy making on key issues of risk and climate. The writeshop will involve one-on-one work with facilitators to provide supplemental training on academic writing and argumentation, in order to help new authors reach a standard of writing suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Sixteen participants will be selected. All travel costs and lodging will be covered by the organizers, including visa costs. The writeshop is not a training course on adaptation and disaster risk reduction subject areas and the participants are expected to already have those skills.

The writeshop will address topics that are relevant to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; your research should have been sufficiently related to these topics to be selected for participation in the writeshop. Examples of topics include, but are not at all limited to:

- Experiences with specific extreme climate events in the region;
- Policies, institutions and governance issues related to adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services in the context of natural hazards and climate change;
- Socio-cultural aspects of risk and vulnerability, including community based assessments and adaptation planning; or
- Regional co-operation on climate change adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction.

Participants’ papers are selected based on quality and relevance to the writeshop’s chosen focus areas. After having been selected, participants are paired up with a facilitator with whom they will work to improve the paper. Prior to the writeshop, participants should prepare a draft of their papers to work with during the writeshop. At the event, participants will work closely with their mentors on various aspects of the paper. Finally, some follow-up work between the participants and mentors will be necessary to get the paper finalized. Writeshops run for 5 days. This includes plenary sessions on the first day, and small group discussions and independent work on the second day. The third day includes an optional field trip for
participants to take a break. On the fourth and fifth day, new versions of the papers are drafted in collaboration with facilitators and during plenary and independent sessions.

Participants must be committed to completing the paper. If mentors do not consider the paper to be of sufficient quality to be submitted to a peer-review journal, they will assist participants in ensuring that the output is at least at a level where it can be submitted to a magazine or a non-peer review publication. Participants must also recognize that involvement in the programme does not guarantee publication – this will be determined by the peer-review process, which is independent and objective.

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- You are carrying out or have carried out research or project implementation that has provided you with new insights on adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- You are an early-career researcher, academic or practitioner in the fields of disaster risk reduction, climate change or other relevant topic, and expect to continue working in this field.
- You live and work in the Pacific, and are of a Pacific developing country.
- You are committed to working with a mentor during and after the writeshop, to completing a paper, and to seeing it through the publication process.

For further details, please contact the Director, PACE-SD at 3232894 or lal_m@usp.ac.fj.