



STAR 2019

The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Network Conference

FIRST CIRCULAR and CALL FOR PAPERS

STAR 2019 is being planned for 19 - 22 November, 2019. The conference will be held in Suva, Fiji and will be in conjunction with Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council **Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2019** which will commence on 25 November 2019.

Conference Theme

The overall theme of **STAR 2019** will be:

“Water, Water Everywhere – Nor Any a Drop to Drink¹”

Although the conference theme is specific, sessions will again focus on the areas of prime importance to the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and highlight progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of 2030:

Water and Water Resources: Will focus on all water resources and water use in the Pacific. Sourcing of adequate water for communities to use to survive is critical. Resources discussed will include rainwater harvesting, freshwater, groundwater, seawater and wastewater.

Ocean Geoscience: Will investigate the resource potential, environmental and social monitoring and management issues that relate to the EEZs, including ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), marine spatial planning, maritime boundaries, wave and tidal energy, Law of the Sea, ocean policy, ocean-atmospheric interactions, tsunami generation and propagation, ocean tectonics, oceanic surveys, environment of the ocean floor and maritime transport.

Geoscience Education: Education is the primer for development and will focus on the processes required to enhance community participation in development processes within the region.

Science of Natural Hazards and Risks to Pacific Communities: This theme will investigate the underlying science and technological aspects that provide the basis for the reduction of risk from natural hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis, volcanoes and adaptation to climate change.

Land Use, Energy and Infrastructure Development on Pacific Islands: This theme will concentrate on the terrestrial, coastal, and nearshore areas and is expected to include examples of on-shore resources, soils, agriculture, sand and gravel aggregates and the application of GIS and Remote Sensing to the on-shore, coastal, nearshore environment and the development of renewable energy sources.

¹ From the poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” Samuel Coleridge, 1798

Like previous years issues on **any** topic related to the overall conference theme or the Pacific region in general will also be welcome and will be included in the **STAR 2019** Programme where possible.

Abstract Submission

Delegates intending to participate in **STAR 2019** are hereby invited to submit titles of papers and abstracts under the focus areas and an indication of whether it will be an oral presentation or a poster paper. Instructions to presenters will be provided on the new STAR website:

<http://star.qsd.spc.int>

Abstracts should in the format in the attached example should be submitted via email to starconference2019@gmail.com. Early submission is strongly encouraged with a deadline of **01 October 2019**.

Conference Format

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be available during **STAR 2019**. However, there will be limited opportunities for oral presentations; therefore more than one poster per participant will be permitted.

PowerPoint projection facilities will be available for presentations. Daily sessions will be held during the hours 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00; over three days of the four-day event.

Working Groups under the four focal areas (or others depending on interest) will be convened during **STAR 2019** to facilitate discussion of specialist topics and issues important to the region.

A One-day Field Trip will also be planned for **STAR 2019**. Details will be announced in the Second Circular.

Conference Publications

A **STAR 2019** Abstracts Volume will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration pack.

Second Circular

The **STAR 2019** Second Circular that will provide full details for the conference will include: registration arrangements, information on accommodation and the field trip and a provisional programme will be forwarded in **June 2019**.

The **STAR 2019** Steering Committee look forward to your participation in the conference.

Raijeli Taga
STAR Chair

25 February 2019