

Global Island Partnership Event Summary

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Partnerships Fair Small Island Development States Network (SIDSnet) Side Event

4 May 2011, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Kate Brown and Jessica Robbins (Global Island Partnership Coordination) presented during the UN Commission on Sustainable Development 9 (UNCSD) - 19 Partnerships Fair side event hosted UNDESA. The SIDSnet side event centered on the soft launch of the revitalized SIDSnet platform: a knowledge management platform for SIDS.



Participants at the UNCSD 19 SIDSnet Side Event

SIDSnet's objective is to facilitate partnerships and motivate actions in SIDS. SIDSnet will provide critical information on global decisions and policies related to SIDS as well as country profile information, documents and reports in an easy to use virtual space.

SIDSnet was mandated through the Bardados Programme of Action and will help to provide linkages to key organizations, partnerships, communities of practices and resources to enhance coordination and inter-regional sharing for SIDS and others

interested in advancing the sustainable development of SIDS. The revitalization of SIDSnet has been made possible with the kind financial support of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain.

Kate presented the Global Island Partnership as a UNCSD best practice partnership that is showcased on SIDSnet alongside other global partnerships such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS). Kate highlighted that the revitalization of SIDSnet is an opportunity for greater focus on islands under the CBD's In-Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity.

Jessica presented on 'Solution Exchange' a communities of practice model for SIDS that puts in place a facilitated email-based knowledge service for development professionals with similar interests to connect and share knowledge and experience towards common challenges.

Jessica highlighted the importance of SIDSnet as a gateway to link to existing – and future – initiatives such as the Pacific Solution Exchange and other SIDS initiatives. The Pacific Solution Exchange has been launched in the Pacific with the financial support of Australia's Aid Program (AusAID) and coordinated by UNDP, PIFS, USP and ADB (<http://www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/>) however there is also opportunity for the model to be adapted to other SIDS regions and globally.



Fernando Fernández-Arias Minuesa, from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN, Keneti Faulalo and Elena De Jesus (UNDESA) provide overview of SIDSnet

Involvement in the UNCSD+19 Partnership Fair provided opportunity to:

- Build the Global Island Partnership's profile as a best practice UNCSD partnership
- Provide insight into the Partnerships direction towards key global events such as APEC and Rio+20
- Demonstrate the linkages between the Global Island Partnership and SIDSnet

The Side Event was well attended including representation from Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Comoros, FAO, Federated States of Micronesia, ICCO, IFRC, IISD, Italy, ITU, UCSIS, UNDESA, UNCSD Secretariat, UNDP, US Environmental Protection Agency, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Spain, Timor-Leste and other representatives.