

Assignment Description

Energy Specialist

Employer	Ministry of Resources and Development, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)
Location:	Majuro, RMI
Background	<p>The RMI is a nation of about 60,000 people living on two groups of 29 atolls and five raised coral islands in the Northern Pacific Ocean with a land mass of approximately 181 square kilometres. Similar to several other Pacific island countries, the RMI has a number of major development challenges, due to its small land mass and population, shortage of skilled labour, narrow economic base, fragile natural environment and geographic isolation that results in high transport and communication costs. It is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The RMI adopted its constitution in 1979 and signed the Compact of Free Association with the United States in 1986, becoming a member of the United Nations in 1991. The United States Compact, as the major donor in RMI, funds delivery of basic health and education services, supports provision of infrastructure and improvements in environment and private and public sector capacity building.</p> <p>In 2008, the RMI experienced unprecedented increases in the costs of imported petroleum fuel and staple food items. This high level of inflation had serious impacts on the economy and people of the RMI and prompted President Tomeing and his Cabinet to declare a state of economic emergency. This led to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded analysis of key energy issues and the Government's decision to develop a national energy policy and action plan for implementation (Minister of Resources and Development, National Energy Policy, 2009).</p> <p>The Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) national objective for energy development is working towards an improved quality of life for the Marshall Islands' people through clean, reliable, affordable, accessible, environmentally appropriate and sustainable energy services (RMI Volume 1: National Energy Policy, 2009). RMI continues to be completely dependent on imported oil, which accounts for approximately 90% of national energy supply. It is expected that future oil prices will remain unstable, therefore creating further social and economic impacts on both urban and rural communities. Transport most likely accounts for over 60% of RMI's fuel use providing scope for significant improvement in transport fuel efficiency.</p> <p>This assignment is aligned with the Government of Australia's partnership agreement with the Government of RMI which was ratified in August 2010. Australia supports the RMI National Energy Policy's move towards immediate and significant reorientation of the energy sector, with changes to reduce energy demand and diversify energy supply. The Partnership will support the RMI to improve energy efficiency and shift reliance away from oil and move towards greater use of affordable renewable energy sources. The</p>

	<p>partnership acknowledges that these efforts also form part of the nation's strategy to build resilience to climate change. Australia, primarily through the provision of high quality jointly determined technical assistance, will support the RMI to meet its targets as outlined in the National Energy Policy and Action Plan including; electrification of 95% of all urban and rural households in Majuro and Ebeye and 95% of rural outer atoll households by 2015; the provision of 20% of energy through indigenous renewable resources by 2020; and improved efficiency of energy use in 50% of households and businesses in Majuro and Ebeye, and 75% of government buildings by 2020.</p> <p>The Energy Specialist will be joining the PACTAM Energy Advisor who has been employed by the Ministry of Resources and Development (MRD) since 2009. The current PACTAM Energy Advisor works within the Energy Planning Division (EPD) that sits within the MRD. The EPD has responsibilities for energy policy, coordination and implementation. Capacity is limited in that there are only two staff, the Energy Planner and Energy Officer that work alongside the current PACTAM employee. There are a number of other agencies within RMI that also have responsibilities for the energy sector. These include the Marshall Islands Energy Company (MEC), the Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resource, the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO), and the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, the RMI Government recognises that land, sea and air transport is the largest user of imported energy in the country and measures to improve the energy efficiency of transport are at the core of the Energy Policy and Action plan. The goal of the Energy Policy is to achieve a 20% reduction in the amount of fuel imported for transport by 2020. Three types of efforts can help meet this goal including; improved average vehicle efficiency in miles per gallon (mpg) of fuel used; improved efficiency of management of vehicles through increased average passenger mpg or, for freight carrying vehicles, increased average ton mpg and; replacement of imported fuels by locally produced biofuel.</p> <p>Both PACTAM technical advisors will have responsibilities to assist the EPD and other agencies to implement and manage the projects within the Energy Action Plan in addition to building the technical capacity and project management skills of the EPD team. The Energy Specialist will focus on transport and petroleum including the provision of advice to MEC to implement the Pacific Petroleum Project.</p> <p>The Pacific Petroleum Project aims to bulk procure petroleum products by pooling Forum Island Country resources to improve negotiation for petroleum supply contracts, leverage purchasing power and to minimise transaction costs for procurement. RMI was the fifth country to sign signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pacific Petroleum Project after the Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu. By joining the other signatories, the Republic of the Marshall Islands will benefit from better analysis of its supply chain issues, identify how to reduce costs and increase efficiency (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Press Release, August 2010).</p>
Assignment objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist the EPD to implement and manage transport and petroleum projects as part of the National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan 2. Develop the capacity of the EPD to facilitate, coordinate and advise on energy matters 3. Develop the capacity of the EPD to manage donor funded project cycle, including writing grant proposals

Length of assignment:	The assignment will commence from 2011 for a 12 month period. There is a possibility of extension for a further period depending on need and funding.
Reports to:	Secretary of Ministry of Resources and Development
Duties and responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Energy Planner and Officer to develop its capacity to coordinate and advise of energy matters • Help develop and refine project proposals for practical energy sector assistance to the RMI and work with current and potential donors in securing assistance • Assist the Energy Planner and the RMI Government in implementation of the National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan, including energy projects related to transport and petroleum • Assist the EPD in developing appropriate and cost effective activities to reduce the use of imported petroleum fuel for transport end-use • Assist the EPD to improve the basic fuel efficiency of the government fleet • Support the EPD to encourage the private sector to purchase fuel efficient vehicles when replacing existing vehicles through targeted engagement and education programs • Support RMI Government Agencies and Ministries to improve transport fuel efficiency through improved maintenance • Assist MEC to implement the Pacific petroleum project as it relates to RMI • Assist MEC to develop mechanisms for inspection and certification of storage, handling and safety procedures and licensing of petroleum storage and distribution facilities • Provide professional advice to MEC on the quality and suitability of fuels imported to RMI • Assist MEC to develop effective mechanisms for fair import prices of petroleum fuels and equitable pricing of fuel products • Advise and assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs on appropriate mechanisms for wholesale and retail petroleum fuel margins • Provide a report to AusAID through Australian Volunteers International detailing the work plan approximately 8 weeks after commencing in the position • Provide progress reports to AusAID through Australian Volunteers International on implementation of the above • Carry out other duties as requested
Selection Criteria	<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University qualifications in a discipline relevant to energy technology, assessment and applications (engineering and project management) <p>Skills and Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant engineering experience within the energy sector (transport, petroleum and renewable energy experience an advantage) • Significant project management experience including the development of grant proposals within the energy sector (Pacific projects desirable) • Significant experience in negotiation and multiple stakeholder/donor relationship management • Previous experience living and working within a developing country (particularly in the Pacific or small island states) is desirable <p>Personal attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level interpersonal, leadership, representation and communication skills • Commitment to team work, coaching and mentoring other people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to cope with cultural isolation and a standard of living that may be different Patience, tolerance and flexibility Adaptable work style and ability to operate at both a strategic and operational level Innovative and resourceful approach to project management The ability to live and work in a new cultural setting A preparedness to work with limited resources within a challenging environment
Remuneration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The employee will receive a supplementary allowance of AUD\$119,000 per annum provided by AusAID via Australian Volunteers International The employee and accompanying dependents, where applicable, will be provided with airfares at the commencement and completion of the placement, plus basic travel insurance and emergency evacuation insurance A dependant child allowance of AUD\$7,800 per annum for accompanying children (up to a maximum of 2) An establishment allowance of at least AUD\$7,200* will be provided to assist with pre-departure medical, vaccinations, relocation costs, passport fees and costs of setting up in-country; A return allowance of at least AUD\$2,400* to assist with the return transportation of goods to home and return medical/s will also be provided; <p>*Allowance will vary depending on whether employees are single or accompanied.</p>
Accommodation and utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation will be provided by the employer Utilities (gas, electricity, water and telephone) are at the expense of the employee
Work hours/days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official work hours are Monday-Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm Sick leave provision for RMI employees is 12 days per annum Annual leave provision for RMI employees is 4 weeks per annum In addition RMI observes a number of public holidays
Additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees and any accompanying dependents will take part in a pre-departure briefing run by Australian Volunteers International in Melbourne Additional support will be given to the employee by Australian Volunteers International's Melbourne based PACTAM Project Coordinator for RMI. Apart from communications via letter, email, telephone and fax, the PACTAM Project Coordinator will meet at least once with the employee in country Confirmation of appointment is subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal approval from AusAID and the employer Procurement of visa and work permits A satisfactory medical examination for the applicant and accompanying dependants A satisfactory criminal record check by the Australian Federal Police for the applicant and all accompanying adults Professional Indemnity insurance will be discussed at interview
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Volunteers International is an Australian based non-government aid agency primarily involved with the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. The Government of RMI has asked for assistance in recruiting and supporting the above position through the Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism (PACTAM). PACTAM is funded by the Government of Australia through its official Aid Agency, AusAID, and is managed by Australian Volunteers International. PACTAM places skilled personnel to work with Host Organisations within the Pacific Region to assist in meeting their human resources needs, and to respond to emerging development needs.

Application process continues next page

Applications	<p>This assignment description contains information AVI has obtained from the employer at this point of time and is subject to change.</p> <p>Applications are preferred via our on-line application form. If you are applying by email, please type the position number in the subject line of your message.</p> <p>In your cover letter, please address the selection criteria outlined in the assignment description. A current curriculum vitae, including the names and contact details of one personal and two professional referees and copies of your formal qualifications should also be attached. Referees will not be contacted without prior consent.</p> <p>Posted applications should be addressed to:- Recruitment Services Australian Volunteers International PO Box 350 Fitzroy VIC 3065 Fax: (03) 9419 0976 E-mail: recruit@australianvolunteers.com</p> <p>Australian Volunteers International is strongly committed to protecting the rights of children. We adhere to laws in Australia and foreign countries regarding child exploitation and support Childwise and ECPAT International.</p>
---------------------	---