Climate Adaptation in the CNMI

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) & Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality (BECQ)

By: Cora P. Ada

May 2018
CNMI-Geographic setting:

• Located approximately 3,800 miles southwest of Hawaii, 130 Miles from Guam
• 6,000 Miles Southwest of the West Coast of the United States Mainland
• CNMI is 9 to 10 time zones and a day away from Washington D.C. depending on daylight savings time.
• CNMI consists of 3-Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota)
• CNMI has more than 53,000 population based on the 2010 US Census Data (Saipan-48,000, Tinian-3,000 and Rota-2,000 more or less)
• CNMI gets an average tourists of 450,000 a year mostly from Asian countries
Why adapt?

• CNMI relies on clean and healthy environment for our livelihood, survival and way of life

• Community, Infrastructure and ecosystem may be adversely affected through small rise in sea level and changes in rainfall

• Preventive planning can protect and enhance the well-being of people, and the built environment of the CNMI.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Climate Change Work Group (CCWG) created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>Community workshops and meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>The late Governor Inos issued a Directive Order in support of the CCWG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Tinian and Rota Vulnerability Assessments completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Climate Change Work Group renamed the Resilience Work Group (RWG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Governor Torres issued a Directive Order in support of the efforts of the RWG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Quarterly meetings and Adaptation Plan development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the Resilience Work Group for CNMI?

• The Department of Interior-Office of Insular Areas and the CNMI identified the need to utilize technical assistance program funding to develop an adaptation plan for the CNMI.

• Governor’s Office and BECQ (Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality) have been tasked to spearhead this effort.

• The Resilience Work Group came about as a byproduct of the Climate Change Working Group.
What is the objective?

• To develop a long-term adaptation plan for a changing climate.

• Development process should involve participants from relevant sectors of government, the private sector, community members, and appropriate federal agency partners.

• The whole purpose behind the Resilience Working Group is to shift the focus beyond vulnerability and start the process toward adaptation.
How will this be accomplished?

• Incorporate the recommendations made in the vulnerability assessments for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
• Consider climate impacts in future project development.
• Sectors of the plan will highlight
  • Natural Environment
  • Infrastructure
  • Public Health /Healthcare System
  • Economic Resources
  • Communities and Cultural Resources
Resilience Working Group - Meeting
COMMUNITY OUTREACH – ROTA
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH
Thank you!