Workshop participants share their thoughts:

Margaret Aulda, Environment Officer for Papua New Guinea’s Mineral training. We are looking at being as inclusive as we can to ensure we have all the relevant information to make informed decisions.

Pelenatita Kara, from the Civil Society Forum of Tonga, said she was “very impressed” with the meeting.

SPC-GSD Team for making it a reality for Vanuatu.”

And not forgetting our gratitude to natural phenomenon that we are able to create a platform for public consultation and dialogue today. Thank you all for your patience and understanding with the many factors that could have caused our delivery to be delayed. We especially appreciate the comments of this week’s training. We are looking into existing initiatives so we can maximize the chances for people to get their voices heard where they live.

Tonia MacDowell, Te Ipukarea Society, Cook Islands

Dambo Kandi is a Senior Crown Council Attorney with the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals Project Office in the Solomon Islands. Mr Kandi said that the Project had raised awareness on the development of Regional Marine Minerals Database, advising PIC States to promote the incorporation of the Regional Marine Minerals Database into national policies and to improve their capacity to deal with the issue.

Teina Mackenzie, Te Ipukarea Society, Cook Islands

I thought beforehand that they this impact of deep sea mining would be way too big to be significant, but I see now that the impacts in the outer-lying countries of the region could be significant too. I’m sure the information we had from the MSG/GSD will enable all PIC countries to voice their opinion. I think the final ISMS and the Regional Marine Minerals Database will be a huge positive to discuss and address their different concerns.”

Natalie Lowrey, Communications coordinator, Deep Sea mining.

I thought beforehand that they this impact of deep sea mining would be way too big to be significant, but I see now that the impacts in the outer-lying countries of the region could be significant too. I’m sure the information we had from the MSG/GSD will enable all PIC countries to voice their opinion. I think the final ISMS and the Regional Marine Minerals Database will be a huge positive to discuss and address their different concerns.”

Vira Atalifo, Project Assistant of the Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project

The Project is funded by the European Union and managed by the University of the South Pacific (USP) on behalf of the SPC-GSD Team for the Pacific Islands (P-ACP States) of the Project and the project hopes to continue the programme until all 15 countries have benefited. Recent participants in the legal trainee schemes include:

Lisa Paeansil (DSM Project Legal Advisor - pictured above) worked for three years in the Vanuatu Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and legal drafting for the DSM Team, she was an intern with the DSM Team Office in the Solomon Islands. Mr Gallen is a Senior Crown Council Attorney with the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals Project Office in the Solomon Islands. Mr Gallen is a Senior Crown Council Attorney with the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals Project Office in the Solomon Islands.

Mariana Tassere, Minister for Minerals Development and Investment, Waiden and Madang, PNG. Students who attended the DSM workshop learned a great deal on “communications”. A number of us have entered the field of communications and are now CEOs at various times in their careers.

Workshops participants share their thoughts:

The和他的故事在帕劳的胜利

The second option of The Project is presented to the SPC-GSD Team for the Pacific Islands (P-ACP States) of the Project and its implementing partners and agreements, the Project hopes to continue the programme until all 15 countries have benefited. Recent participants in the legal trainee schemes include:

Lisa Paeansil (DSM Project Legal Advisor - pictured above) worked for three years in the Vanuatu Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and legal drafting for the DSM Team, she was an intern with the DSM Team Office in the Solomon Islands. Mr Gallen is a Senior Crown Council Attorney with the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals Project Office in the Solomon Islands. Mr Gallen is a Senior Crown Council Attorney with the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals Project Office in the Solomon Islands.

Mariana Tassere, Minister for Minerals Development and Investment, Waiden and Madang, PNG. Students who attended the DSM workshop learned a great deal on “communications”. A number of us have entered the field of communications and are now CEOs at various times in their careers.
In July the Solomon Islands Government held opening hearings and information-sharing meetings in Lautoka, Tanna Province, where deep-sea exploration activity is underway for manganese nodules and seafloor massive sulphides (SMS). These two-day meetings included a second awareness meeting held in Tanna in the same month. The stakeholder meetings were made possible with the financial support of the SPC-EU Project.

The Solomon Islands is currently working towards developing its national deep-sea minerals legislation and the Government began consultation programmes with the people of Tanna and Tanna on the potential social and environmental impacts of any future deep-sea mining activity. The SPC-EU Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project has emphasized the importance of taking a precautionary approach and sharing public involvement in a fair and transparent decision-making process.

A key issue discussed at the meeting was the need for: 
- more information about the potential benefits and impacts of deep-sea mining in the Pacific; 
- increased public awareness of the potential for mineral wealth in the Ocean; 
- more transparency in the process of decision-making; 
- more stakeholder engagement in the decision-making process; 
- more research and development in the field of deep-sea mining; 
- more capacity-building opportunities for Pacific Island nationals.

Congratulations to Fiji for passing its International Seabed Minerals Management Decree in January 2013 and provided ongoing sponsorship or contract-holding in ‘the Area’. The SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project prepared a first draft of sponsorship or contract-holding in ‘the Area’. The SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Management Decree was included in the terms of future exploration contracts signed with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and must be in addition to the US$200,000 application fee.

A proposal from Nautilus to negotiate a joint venture with ‘the Enterprise’ (the commercial branch of the Authority, which does not yet exist) for exploration of 8 reserved areas was discussed, and rejected as ‘premature’. It was decided that further study would be required before making any proposal of exploiting the area. In the meantime the 35 reserved areas of the Nautilus proposal are open to applications.

There was no specific discussion at the meeting of deep-sea mining issues, as the meeting focused on the implementation of the recently passed International Seabed Minerals Management Decree. However, Key issues discussed at the meeting included:

- A proposal from Nautilus to negotiate a joint venture with ‘the Enterprise’ (the commercial branch of the Authority, which does not yet exist) for exploration of 8 reserved areas was discussed, and rejected as ‘premature’. It was decided that further study would be required before making any proposal of exploiting the area. In the meantime the 35 reserved areas of the Nautilus proposal are open to applications.

- The overall winner of the debate will be invited to accompany the Prime Minister, Mr. Tawake, to an international conference and will receive a modest stipend to cover travel expenses.

- The workshop included presentations by international experts including Professor Colin Bat, who specialises in the social impacts of mining, and Tim O’Hara, an expert on stakeholder participation processes. The workshop ended with a practical role play on how to increase community and wider stakeholder participation in decision-making processes for development projects.

- The workshop included discussions on the potential social impacts of deep-sea mining, and the importance of public debate and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes.

- The workshop aimed to discuss the potential social impacts of deep-sea mining, and the importance of public debate and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes.