



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

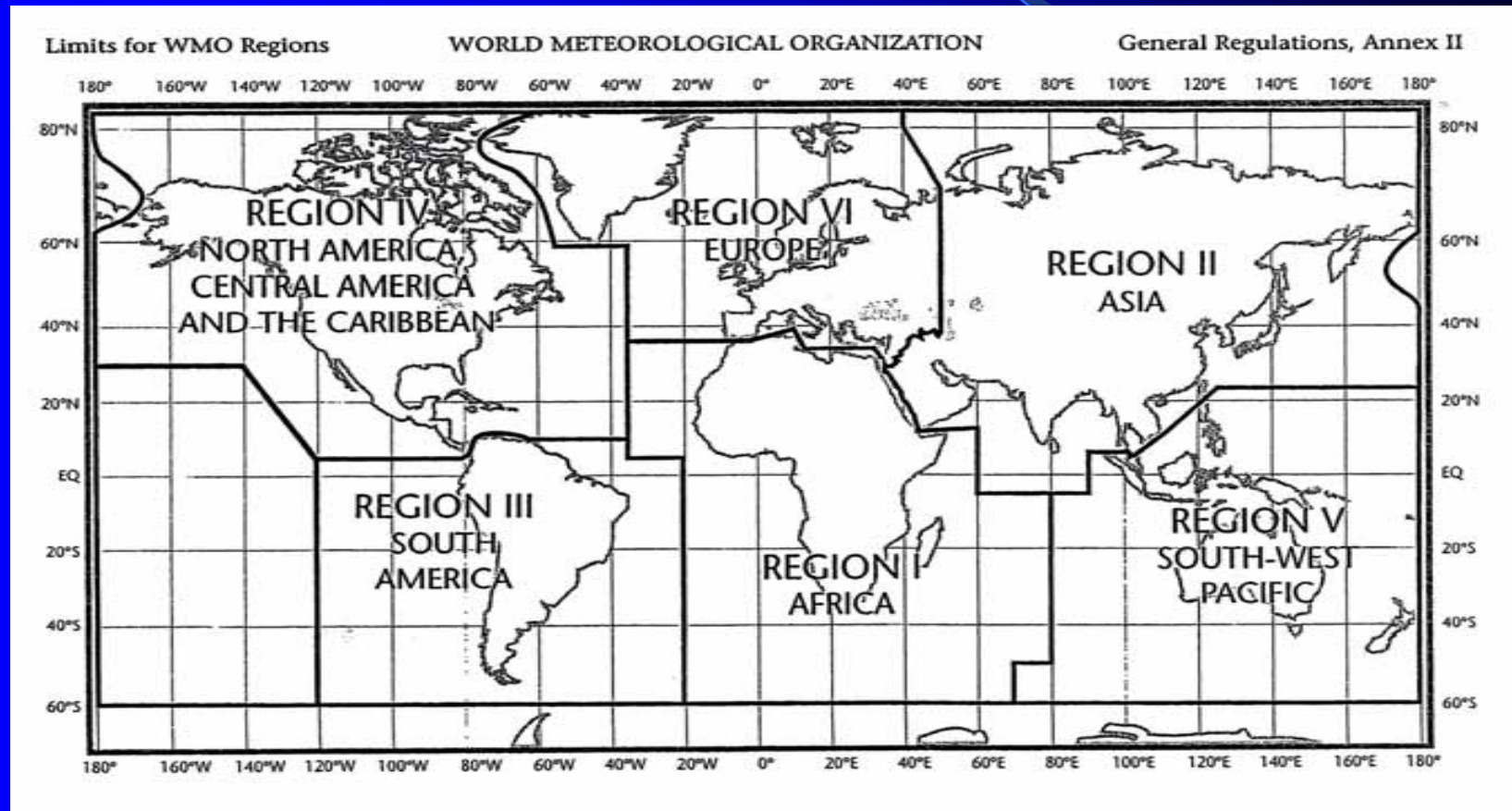
Capacity building in the SW Pacific

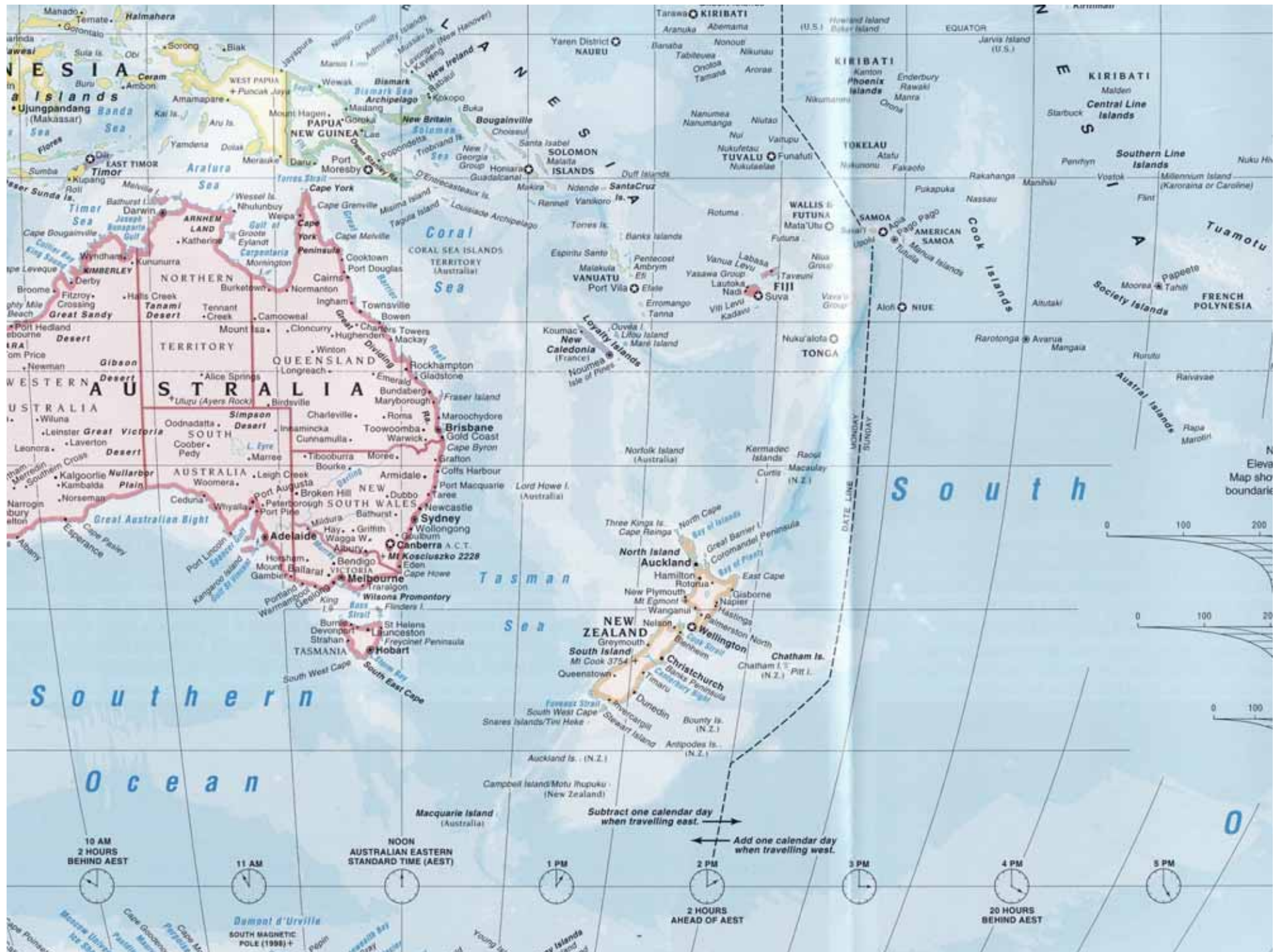
by

Dr Venantius Tsui

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WMO Regions





GEO membership

- Existing Members: Australia*, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand* & Philippines* (not counting USA, France and UK).
- Potential Members: Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu & Vanuatu.
- Participating Organization: SOPAC.

Interests in GEOSS

- Climatic variability caused by ENSO – droughts, bushfires, heavy rain, tropical cyclones
- Climate change – biggest threat is inundation caused by sea level rise
- Active seismic belt from New Zealand to Indonesia to Philippines
- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Fresh water deficiency in Australia
- Importance of 9 societal benefits of GEO to Region

Australian participation

- Founding Member of GEO
- Coordination through an Inter-Departmental Committee chaired by BoM
- Participants include: BoM, CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, DEWHA, DCC, AusAID, DAFF, DIISR, DEST
- Dedicated Australian GEO website
- Major GEO project to contribute to societal benefits is on forest monitoring/carbon tracking.
- Co-Chair of S&T Committee (Stuart Minchin)
- BoM and AusAID participating in capacity building, especially for the South-West Pacific; Australian development scholarships/awards (including ISSS) and Endeavour Awards (Masters or PhD): Asia-Pacific and Africa; Link: www.ausaid.gov.au.

Requirement for capacity building

- Prone to natural disasters
- Economic vulnerability (low GDP, unstable agricultural yield, low gross national income per capita, global financial downturn)
- Low human development (health, education, literacy)
- Reliant on sea and air transport for manufactured goods, hence expensive
- No big industries other than agriculture & fisheries
- Lack of adequate energy sources
- Environmental degradation
- Needs capacity building for individuals, institutions and infrastructure

Status of capacity building

- Major aid agencies include: AusAID, NZAID, USAID, JICA, Asia Development Bank, European Commission, GEF
- Meteorology-related GEO issues: Capacity building coordinated by SPREP, WMO Sub-Regional Office in Apia and INTAD5
- Current campaign: expanded GEO Membership; more Regional participation in GEO activities; awareness of donors on GEO societal benefit areas