



PIANGO LINK

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
ASSOCIATION DES ONGS DES ILES DU PACIFIQUE

SPECIAL ISSUE

October 2007

Who are we?

PIANGO is a regional network of NGOs.

It has focal points or coordinating bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLUs) in 21 Pacific Island countries and non-self-governing territories.

PIANGO was formally established in 1991 to assist NGOs in the Pacific to initiate action, give voice to their concerns and work collaboratively with other development actors for just and sustainable human development.

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Pacific CSOs Present Outcome Statement To Pacific Leaders



Drew Havea (right), Chair of CSFT and Board member of PIANGO, presents the Regional CSO Forum communiqué to H.E Mr. Greg Urwin, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Regional CSOs need to be consistent in their perseverance towards a sustainable Pacific Community says Greg Urwin, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Speaking to PIANGOLink in Tonga, Urwin highlighted the importance of the partnership between Pacific Leaders and CSOs.

"It is the responsibility of the CSOs to consistently engage in dialogue with their national governments, to ensure that the Leaders adhere

to the call of civil societies in the region." he said. He added that Pacific CSOs need to continue to work reliably and consistently in what they believe in.

Greg Urwin was at the Pacific Regional CSO Forum in Tonga to accept the Regional CSO communiqué which he presented to the 38th Pacific Islands Leaders Forum also held in Tonga. The Regional CSO Forum 2007 was held from the 12th-15th October.

Tonga Prime Minister Commends PIANGO

The Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Dr. Feleti Vakauta Sevele has commended the work of PIANGO for its efforts in strengthening civil societies in the Pacific.

In his opening address of the Regional CSO Forum in Tonga recently, Dr. Sevele said the initiative of organising regional events must be applauded.

"Let me congratulate PIANGO for their efforts in bringing together the CSOs in our Pacific region. Your commitment to facilitating communication, to providing a common voice of NGOs and to strengthening Pacific forms of social development is highly praised."

More stories on the Regional CSO Forum on page 2-3.



Tonga PM, Dr. Feleti Sevele at the Regional CSO Forum 2007





Partnership With Civil Societies Will Ensure Leaders' Regional Vision: Tonga PM

Pacific Islands Leaders' vision of a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity could only be attained through governments working together with civil societies according to Tonga Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Feleti Vakauta Sevele.

Dr. Sevele said the partnership will make a difference to the lives of Pacific communities.

"Our development rests with us as partners. The future of our nations, our region, demand that the civil societies and governments work hand in hand to ensure a truly sustainable Pacific," he told participants of the annual civil society meet.

Breakthrough For The Civil Society Forum Of Tonga (CSFT)

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) has achieved a milestone by being included as part of the Tongan official delegation to the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum.

This was confirmed by Dr. Feleti Vakauta Sevele at the Regional CSO Forum at the Lopaukamea II, Atele in Tonga.

"For the first time this year, the Tongan government has included CSFT as part of its official delegation to the Leaders Forum," he said.



Tonga PM Dr. Feleti Sevele with the participants of the Regional CSO Forum 2007

Pacific Civil Societies Play Crucial Role in Advocating for MDGs

Pacific CSOs have crucial and significant roles in advocating and holding governments as duty bearers accountable for their respective country's progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These were the comments of Garry Wiseman, Manager of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Pacific Centre) at the Pacific Regional CSO Forum in Tonga.

"UNDP Pacific Centre recognises that the majority of the civil societies present here are already working in these areas and we continue to motivate you to promote and advocate the MDGs," he emphasises to the participants.

CSOs Urged To Raise Voice Against Free Trade

Pacific CSOs have been urged to make their voices heard against the signing up to stringent free trade rules as it would allow richer countries to dominate economic life in the Islands says the Coordinator for the Pacific Network for Globalisation, Roshni Sami.

Speaking at the Regional CSO Forum at the Lopaukamea II, Atele in Tonga, Ms Sami said the agreements will force the Islands to be more dependent on imports, including essentials such as food.

"Once locked into binding free trade agreements with larger economies, it will be very difficult – if not impossible-for future governments to opt out

of those agreements if they want to change things," she told the participants of the annual civil society event.

Pacific Human Security Framework Needs To Be Rights Based

The Pacific Human Security framework must be rights-based says Setareki Macanawai, Executive Director of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF).

"In an era where the human rights of individuals and groups are being protected under various international human rights instruments, a Pacific human security framework must therefore be rights-based by way of design, scope, content and application," he told participants of the Pacific Regional CSO Forum.

According to Macanawai, human security will be difficult to realise without the recognition, protection and advancement of the rights of all citizens.



Drew Havea (right) greeting Dr. Feleti Seveli (left) to the Regional CSO Forum 2007



Nuku'alofa communiqué

PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) of seventeen Pacific nations meeting in Tonga, appreciate the opportunity given to us by the Pacific Leaders to contribute to the improvement of the Pacific Plan.

We also welcome the Policy on Consultative Status and Accreditation Between the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and Pacific Regional Non State Actors (PRNSAs). We believe that civil society's understanding, support and input into the Pacific Plan is integral to its success, and can only be achieved if our contributions are given active and serious consideration. We look forward to working closely with the Pacific Forum Leaders to determine priorities for the next stage of the Pacific Plan, and urge that they establish mechanisms at regional and national levels to ensure that meaningful consultation occurs.

We draw to the attention of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders that there are other pertinent issues challenging Pacific peoples that should be addressed by the Pacific Plan as set out below.

To ensure maximum support for the Pacific Plan by the people of the Pacific, we call upon the Leaders to address the following issues under the four pillars of the Plan:

1: ECONOMIC GROWTH

A: TRADE PARTNERSHIP

Pacific CSOs recognise and appreciate the increased engagement by governments with CSOs over the past two years and look forward to a stronger relationship in the future. Pacific CSOs appreciate the expertise the Pacific has brought to the negotiations, and support the efforts Pacific governments have made in the past in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.

B: ENERGY

CSOs recognise the work undertaken by Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies and national governments; in particular the outcomes of the recent Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands (April 2007). CSOs note that approximately 70% of our Pacific communities, in particular women and children, continue to be disadvantaged by the lack of access to modern energy services.

2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A: CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change is already a reality and poses an immediate danger to the survival of Pacific Island communities, particularly those living in Small Island States, in coastal areas and those dependent on agriculture and natural resources. We acknowledge the leading role played by Pacific Island Countries in negotiating the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol.

There is an unprecedented scientific consensus, notably through the IPCC, about the threat that climate change poses. Although Pacific Island countries contribute negligibly to greenhouse gas emissions, they are profoundly affected by the impacts.

We are deeply concerned with the lack of action by the major polluting countries and those that have not signed the Kyoto Protocol.

B: HIV and AIDS

We commend the leadership shown by the Pacific Islands Forum leaders in the fight against HIV and AIDS, the development of the Pacific Islands Regional Strategic Plan and the work of the Secretariat of the Pacific

Community to oversee the implementation of such plan.

3: GOOD GOVERNANCE

A: ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

In our work with communities of the Pacific, we have recognised that responsible leadership, accountability and the respect for the voice and the active and equal participation of the people are crucial to achieving good governance that recognises Pacific values at community, national and regional levels as well as securing a prosperous and peaceful future for our people.

4: HUMAN SECURITY

The state and its interests have been at the centre of conventional approaches to human security. Changing the focus to a people-centered approach guarantees the twin values of "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want" which are the basis of human security. CSOs believe that in order for human security interventions to work in, and for the Pacific, the approach must also take into account relationships within and between Pacific communities.

We note that the outcomes of the women and civil society consultations on Human Security in the Pacific Region (Nadi, Fiji, April 2007) provide a people-centred perspective to assist in the formalization of a Pacific human security framework.

5: SELF DETERMINATION

We commend the Forum Leaders for the continuous support they have shown to the issue of political self-determination in the Pacific region and in other parts of the world. However, the Pacific Plan still needs to reflect that support. We acknowledge that Leaders have granted observer status to Te Ao Maohi/ French Polynesia, Kanaky/New Caledonia and Timor Leste and support efforts to advance the issues of all territories who have not yet gained their sovereignty. We have great concern about the conflicts emerging in the

region that are destabilizing our countries and threatening the sovereignty of our people; Hence, we are expressing strong hopes that parliamentary democracy will be restored in Fiji by March 2009, and particular assistance be provided to facilitate and accelerate democratic reform in Tonga.

We warmly welcome the overwhelming vote by the UN General Assembly in favor of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and commend the Federated States of Micronesia for their support to the resolution; We deeply deplore the vote against the Declaration by Australia and New Zealand and convey our disappointment to those Pacific Islands states who either abstained or absented themselves from the vote.

6: WOMEN

We commend the vision of the Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration but believe that in order for the Pacific region to be a true region of peace, harmony, security, economic prosperity and sustainable development, women must be fully integrated into all processes of the Pacific Plan, including the Digital Strategy.

We support the various commitments to gender equality in the Pacific Plan, but note that the Pacific Plan process has marginalised women CSOs' involvement in the formulation of implementation strategies as well as potentially undermining women's Human Rights and the status of women through its approach to development. The situation is exacerbated by the current lack of accurate and relevant data on Pacific women relating to the four pillars of the Pacific Plan. Without the voice of women to define the type of development they want and without the successful incorporation of women and indigenous strategies in the Plan, development goals cannot be adequately achieved. (*full communique can be downloaded from - www.piangoo.org*)



GDP Programme a Major Pillar for NZAID

The New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) considers its involvement with the Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP) as a major pillar of its regional governance programme according to NZAID Executive Director, Dr. Peter Adams.

In his keynote address at the GDP graduation in Tonga recently, Dr. Adams said the programme has provided an ever growing body of NGO leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully run their organisations.

"The GDP programme aims to achieve skills transfer to individuals, and also organisational and sector capacity building. The development of a strong cadre of local trainers has been a critical factor in the delivery of training in the participating countries." he said

Dr. Adams also acknowledged PIANGO's initiative in effectively serving its members and engaging with other regional organisations and help build capacity of civil society in the region.

He said NZAID is looking forward to a fruitful relationship with PIANGO in future years.



Dr. Peter Adams, Executive Director of NZAID at the GDP graduation in Tonga

Pacific NGOs Celebrate GDP Graduation, 15th October, Nuku'alofa

Pacific NGOs celebrated the graduation of 16 NGO leaders in the Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management Programme (GDP) in Tonga recently. The programme, a product of a partnership between Unitec and PIANGO culminated in a grand finale to end the year with 38 Pacific graduates.

According to Bakanebo Tamaroa, PIANGO Capacity Building Programme Manager, the

GDP programme allows the organisation to fulfill its objective highlighted in the PIANGO Strategic Plan for 2006 – 2010.

"PIANGO has focused and continues to concentrate on five major issues related to the Pasifika Indigenous Management Initiative (PIMI) values. These include accessibility, relevance, process, ownership and partnership." Tamaroa said.

PIANGO NLUs Commended For Excellent Role In GDP

The PIANGO Secretariat and its NLUs have been commended for their excellent role in coordinating and executing the GDP courses in the Pacific region by the Deputy Executive Director of Unitec, Dr. Andrew Codling – Deputy Director Academic and chair of academic Board of Unitec New Zealand. Speaking at the GDP graduation in Tonga recently, Codling said the NGOs deserve special thanks.

"You have all done a tremendous amount of work individually and collectively to bring us to this special moment of graduation celebration. Your organisations are the essential vehicle for our programme delivery in the Pacific – it is a development partnership of mutual learning and mutual benefit and trust that is truly valued."





UNITEC Acknowledges Partnership

GDP Programme Director, Margy – Jean Malcolm has acknowledged the Unitec/PIANGO partnership that has guided the GDP programme in the Pacific since 1999.

In her closing address, Ms Malcolm particularly attributed to the key role NZAID played in the partnership.

“I would like to acknowledge the role that NZAID has played as a vital partner in this initiative as well and for supporting the many worthwhile civil society initiatives in the region.”

Ms. Malcolm added that the partnership journey was more than an achievement.

“We have done more than survive – we are in fact thriving – and that is a tribute to the people who have carried the vision and kept it alive, through calm

and stormy weather...the PIANGO secretariat, the NLU's who have worked hard on the marketing and management of courses, the Pacific trainers who have taken on a huge challenge to teach the programme to their peers.”



Dr. Codling of Unitec (right) presents a gift to NZAID Executive Director, Dr. Peter Adams (left)

Graduation Celebrated the Tongan Way

The GDP Pacific Graduation held in Tonga on the 15th October was celebrated in spectacular Tongan culture. With the presence of the Tongan Princess the scene was set for a culturally rich and vibrant celebration.

More than 100 people witnessed the Pacific Graduation that saw 16 Pacific NGO leaders receiving their spoils for their hard work during the GDP course.

The Tongan graduation was the icing on the GDP cake for 2007 after an impressive celebration that saw 22 Pacific NGO Leaders graduate in Papua New Guinea in September.



Tongan dancer performing a traditional 'tau'olunga' at the GDP graduation

GDP Graduates To Strengthen Community Organisations

The 16 GDP graduates have been reminded of their vital work in strengthening organisations within their home countries and congratulated for their achievement by Unitec Deputy Director, Dr. Andrew Codling.

“You have worked hard on your studies over a number of years, not simply to gain a qualification for yourselves but to strengthen your community organisations’ vital work

within your home countries and across this Pacific region.” he said.

He added that the graduation was their moment to be proudly acknowledged by their families, tutors, colleagues and friends for their achievement in completing the Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management Programme (GDP).

Graduates’ view of GDP



Ambalika Kutty
Fiji

“Having had experience with government/local government, private sector, Educational Institutions and now CSOs, GDP has endowed me with exceptional Not for Profit Management knowledge, skills and positive attitude that is enabling me to share these with Fiji’s social leaders for multiplier effect”.



Wycliff Bakeo
Vanuatu

“GDP has provided me with a broad-based knowledge and skills to assist me to impact on my organisation’s effectiveness in terms of improving service delivery and having a dynamic organisation. It has provided me an opportunity to put into practice some of the learning into real work context inducing more meaningful perceptions on management issues affecting the Not-for-Profit sector.”



Adimamalaga Tafuna'i
Samoa

“The Unitec Graduate Diploma programme has been a wonderful learning experience for me. As an NGO manager and then for the past four years with the PIANGO board, I have grown with the programme. It has been so encouraging to see NGO leaders and workers around the Pacific grow more confident in their roles, as the courses give them the tools to do their work.”



Aporora Robaigau
Fiji

“Graduate Diploma for Not-For-Profit Management for me is so satisfying because it puts into perspective what has been the invisible force of passion and which has been driving me along all these years as an NGO volunteer. The programme has also made me understand more about my culture and those of my Pacific Island friends. It has increased my knowledge on all aspects of NGO work.”



Other Events

PIANGO Membership meeting, 11th October, Nuku'alofa

The PIANGO membership meeting was held on the eve of the CSO Forum 2007, at the Pacific Group Training Centre in Nuku'alofa and was attended by 12 of PIANGO's full members as well as four (4) Interim members and Observers and three (3) secretariat staff.

The meeting began with an open forum whereby the members had the opportunity to discuss issues with the members of the Board.

M&E Framework for PIANGO

A major issue discussed at the Membership meeting was the PIANGO Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework presented by Bakanebo Tamaroa, Programme Manager Capacity Building. In his presentation, he stressed that PIANGO had been utilising the M & E system however it was not fully documented for key internal and external stakeholders.

Mr. Tamaroa revealed that earlier this year, in consultation with NZAID, PIANGO committed to conducting a rapid review of its current Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PIMER) tools and to preparing a revised M&E framework for PIANGO and its membership - PIMER M&E Framework.



PIANGO Board, staff and NLU representatives at the PIANGO membership meeting in Tonga

Self - Determination Forum, 11th October, Tonga

"Political Reform in Tonga" was the introductory panel discussion for the Self Determination Forum hosted by PIANGO at the Tonga National Council of Churches and facilitated by Pacific Concerns Resource Centre's (PCRC) Tupou Vere on Thursday 11 October.

The guest speakers were Hon. Luani, Chairperson of Parliamentary Select Committee on Political Reform, Ms 'Akanete Tahai, Executive Director of Friendly Islands Human Rights and Democracy Movement and Ms. Salamo Fulivai, Programme Manager, Langafonua 'a Fafine with an informative and lively

discussion about political reform and the current situation in Tonga.

Following the introduction on Tonga, speakers from West Papua Dr. John Ondawamme, Secretary General, West Papua National Coalition for Liberation, spoke about the situation in West Papua.

Mr Kamal Fadel introduced the audience to the situation in Western Sahara, while "Koo" (Mr Clarence Ching) and Mr Isaac Harp briefed participants about the indigenous situation in Hawaii and their relationship with the USA.



Participants at the Self - Determination Forum in Tonga

VINAKA!

PIANGO sincerely acknowledges the support of the following organisations and thank them for their support and continued commitment to capacity building in the Pacific.



Australian Government
AusAID



Pacific Centre