



PIANGO LINK

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

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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.



CHECK OUT OUR REVAMPED WEBSITE

www.piango.org

story on pg2

New Executive Director for PIANGO

PIANGO's Programme Manager for Capacity Building and former Coordinator of the Kiribati Association of Non Governmental Organisations (KANGO), Bakanebo Tamaroa is the new Executive Director (ED) of PIANGO.

The Secretariat was without an Executive Director since December last year after the previous ED Cema Bolabola completed her contract of three years.

Drew Havea, PIANGO Board Deputy Chair, said that it was a significant day for PIANGO as the Board fully supported the new ED in taking the Secretariat forward.

"From the Board's perspective, we are confident that Bakanebo with his experience can bring about NLU members to participate and move forward PIANGO's vision and mission."

For information contact katabwena@piango.net



PIANGO's new Executive Director, Bakanebo Tamaroa

PIANGO Focuses on Consolidation

Bakanebo Tamaroa has set his focus on the consolidation of the PIANGO Secretariat in relation to the PIANGO Board's and the National Liaison Units' specific roles and responsibilities.

According to Bakanebo, numerous innovations and initiatives need to be addressed such as the strengthening and closer relationship between the

Secretariat, Board and NLUs.

Bakanebo will also implement the suggested reviews for PIANGO to improve its role in strengthening its members and the NGO Sector at large.

PIANGO over the years has established its image on the International and Regional front in voicing the needs of NGOs.

As part of his plans in consolidating the work of PIANGO, Bakanebo is keen to ensure that the Secretariat staff are exposed and have the opportunity of sharing and learning from the NLUs by actually visiting at least 1 to 2 NLUs annually.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net



PIANGO ED (left) with the Secretariat staff (left - right) Bakanebo Tamaroa, Kiji Faktaufon, Katabwena Tawaka, Litiana Domokamica and Julie Kerrigan.

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PIANGO Board Meeting

The first PIANGO Board meeting for 2008 was held at the PIANGO Secretariat from 24-26 February.

Major events discussed were the PIMER consultation to be held 20-23 April and the PIANGO council.

For more information, contact bakanebo @ piango.net

Executive Director's Courtesy Visits

PIANGO Executive Director, Bakanebo Tamaroa made a courtesy visit to NZAID and the Development Resource Centre (DRC) while he was in New Zealand in February.

The purpose of the visit to NZAID was to discuss further the Grant Funding Agreement.

For more information, contact bakanebo @ piango.net

Revamped PIANGO website

The PIANGO website has been updated to reflect PIANGO's brand as used on all printed media and publications, and is now easily recognisable as PIANGO.

The navigation has also been enhanced to simplify finding information and allows for future growth and development.

View the new look website : <http://www.piango.org>

AUSAID to assist regional CSO media advocacy

AUSAID Regional Manager for the Pacific Leadership, Yeshe Smith met with PIANGO ED and two Board members to discuss the AUSAID / PIANGO collaboration in the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAC).

The project will involve PIANGO working closely with AUSAID to contribute to the development of a diverse, independent and professional Pacific media system within civil societies.

The information will inform all people of the Pacific and provide a voice for them in public life at local, national and regional levels.

For more information, contact katabwena@piango.net

Regional Mapping Project

Katabwena Tawaka and Julie Kerrigan, together with the PIFS



Act. NZ High Commissioner, Hon. Caroline McDonald (centre) with PIANGO ED Bakanebo Tamaroa (left) and Board member Drew Havea (right)

Pacific Plan NSA Liaison Officer, Nainasa Whippy, met with the staff of the Development Resource Centre (DRC) in Wellington on 13 March to discuss progress on the project.

The team managed to elaborate on the progress of the project since its inception in 2005. The meeting allowed clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each organisations.

The team later met with staff of

UNDP Pacific Centre in Suva to share ideas on the issue.

For more information email katabwena@piango.net

Acting New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji visits PIANGO

The New Zealand Acting High Commissioner to Fiji, Hon. Caroline McDonald visited the PIANGO Secretariat on 26th February to

PIANGO Farewell ITC Officer, Julie Kerrigan

PIANGO Information Technology & Communication Officer and Australian Volunteer, Julie Kerrigan was farewelled by the PIANGO Secretariat on 25 March.

According to Bakanebo Tamaroa, Julie will be missed by the PIANGO family for her expertise and assistance she had offered to the Pacific NGOs.

During her service at PIANGO, Julie had upskilled Secretariat staff on the IT and website knowledge. She also had documented numerous reports and compiled the Donor and Volunteers directories. A significant achievement for Julie is the revamping of the PIANGO website to be consistent with its corporate image.

Julie had been PIANGO's ITC Officer for two years.

For more information, email katabwena@piango.net



PIANGO ICT officer, Julie Kerrigan showing off her gift during her farewell gathering



strengthen PIANGO's working relationship with NZAID.

Caroline had an opportunity to discuss the Grant Funding Agreement with the PIANGO Board.

For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO's New Staff

PIANGO welcomes Reshma Prasad to the position of Part-Time Resource Centre Assistant.

Reshma will have the major task of developing PIANGO's Regional Resource Centre.

She is a final year student in Diploma in Librarian at the USP.

For more information, contact katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO Website workshop with DRC

The Information Sharing team and the DRC held a workshop following the Regional Mapping Project meeting to discuss the future plans for the development of the PIANGO Website.

The team looked at the website needs of NGOs as surveyed in late 2007 and options and possible solutions for enhancements to the website to support NGOs



Reshma Prasad sorting books at the PIANGO Resource centre

For more information email katabwena@piango.net

PIMER Circle to be held in April

Invitations have been sent to all Heads of NLUs for the upcoming 4th PIMER Circle to be held in Suva.

The Annual Heads of PIANGO members' consultation will be held at the Pacific Theological College from the 20 April - 23 April.

Areas of discussion will be on strengthening consolidation

between the Secretariat and its members. Also an area of importance will be the preparatory work before the PIANGO Council meeting.

This would include the confirmation on the amendments of the PIANGO Constitution.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO Council to be held this year.

The PIANGO Secretariat and Board are currently preparing for

the PIANGO Council meeting to be held later this year.

PIANGO is governed by the PIANGO Council which meets every three years and is responsible for establishing policy and programme directions.

It is comprised of PIANGO's members, who are national bodies called National Liaison Units (NLUs).

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

Consolidation of the PIANGO Secretariat

As part of PIANGO's consolidation, the positions of the Finance and the Administration Managers have been merged to provide more efficiently to the organisation.

The decision to combine the two positions was due to a recommendation by an HR consultation company that was commissioned to assist in the consolidation process of the PIANGO Secretariat.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

Information team Visits CID

The PIANGO Information Sharing team of Katabwena Tawaka and Julie Kerrigan, together with Nainasa Whippy of the PIFS visited PIANGO NLU representative in New Zealand, Council for International Development (CID).

The team met with CID's new Executive Director, David Cluverhouse and Communication Manager, Sam Buchanan.

It was a good opportunity to learn how PIANGO members operate and to share relative information that would enhance PIANGO's work in the region.

For more information email katabwena@piango.net



(from left - right) Katabwena Tawaka, David Cluverhouse, Nainasa Whippy and Julie Kerrigan



Australia

ACFID applauds Prime Minister's initiative

Australia moved one step forward in its long-delayed national reconciliation process today.

ACFID congratulates the Prime Minister on both the initiative for an official 'welcome to country' ceremony for the 42nd Parliament and the apology by parliament to the stolen generations.

www.acfid.asn.au

ACFID Release 2008-2009 Budget

ACFID's pre-budget submission for the financial year 2008-09 was provided to the Government in January.

This document sets out ACFID's priorities in terms of the scale, sectoral focus and geographic distribution of funding in the upcoming Commonwealth aid budget.

www.acfid.asn.au



Cook Islands

Tornado destroys homes on Rarotonga

Two houses were wrecked when a tornado ripped through part of the Cook Islands main island of Rarotonga at the weekend.

The tornado, in the Nikao area, swept across the airport, near a school and the golf club without causing damage.

www.rnzi.com

Meeting Calls For More Collaborative Partnership

The Cook Islands Voyaging Society is calling on 20 youths from Rarotonga and the outer islands to take part in a course



Australian Prime Minister Hon. Kevin Rudd (third from left) recently have been applauded by Australian NGOs

which will start this month and run throughout the year.

www.cookislandsnews.com



New Zealand

CID has a new executive director

CID's new executive director, David Culverhouse, started work in February.

David was previously working as senior private secretary to Jim Anderton MP and prior to that has occupied all manner of positions including that of general manager of Enterprise Ashburton, chief executive of the Cook Island's Investment Corporation, Head of Industrial Projects for the Papua New Guinea Government and NZ trade commissioner to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia.

CID newsupdate

Disasters and development – articles wanted

The next issue of DevForum magazine will be on the theme 'disasters and development'. If you would like to write something on the impact of disasters on development, on preparing for and coping with disasters or anything else on this subject.

For more information contact Sam at sam@cid.org.nz to discuss more on the issue.

CID newsupdate



Fiji

FCOSS executive director Hassan Khan said there was a need for more trained social leaders to promote social and family harmony.

"All other methods such as policing and the courts have failed us miserably," said Mr Khan.

"All social service organisations and religious groups must invest in the program to strengthen families, counselling and healthy relationships within marriage," he said.

www.fijitimes.com

Need to analyse unemployment in Fiji

There is a need to analyse and assess the unemployment situation in Fiji, says Fiji Council of Social Services executive director Hassan Khan.

Mr Khan made the comment after the Fiji Master Builder's Association said 40 per cent of the industry's workers had been laid off since December 2006.

www.fijitimes.com



Kiribati

KANGO Board Director urges adoption of PIANGO's teaching methods

There is a need to introduce and maintain PIANGO's Project Cycle/ PIMER teaching methods by KANGO's staff when conducting local workshops for NGOs and CBOs in Kiribati because it is much more effective and easy to understand by the participants, says KANGO Board Director Raion Bataroma.

www.kango.org.ki/News.php

Increase in submission of EDF9 funded project proposals

Over 60 health related project proposals have now been submitted to KANGO's EDF9 Outer Island Project Office in Bairiki for funding consideration and approval.

EDF9 Project Manager Taiaki Irata said more submissions are anticipated and prioritization may need to be done at the time of grant disbursements around March this year.

www.kango.org.ki/News.php

Government reaffirms its commitment to freedom of expression

Beretitenti Anote Tong has reaffirmed his Government's



commitment to freedom of expression, saying it would vigorously defend and uphold the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual I-Kiribati citizen as guaranteed under the national constitution.

His latest message comes as he delivered and outlined his Government's 2007-2010 policies which he said is based on the principles of good governance.

www.kango.org.ki/News.php



Federated States of Micronesia

FSM Gears up to host the 19th SPREP Meeting

The Federated States of Micronesia will host for the first time the 19th Meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) scheduled for September 4-12, 2008.

This is an historic undertaking for the nation which will require a collective effort from all walks of the FSM society to ensure a successful outcome.

Since offering to host the meeting during the 2007 SPREP meeting in Apia, the Federated States of Micronesia, led by the Honorable Vice-President Alik L. Alik, as Chairman of Overall Committees, has begun the nation's preparatory efforts to host this important meeting.



Nauru

Economic Report Indicates Some Optimism for Medium-Term Growth in Nauru

While Nauru will continue to rely on its relationship with donor nations, the medium-term outlook for the country's economic health is optimistic as

Government reforms begin to take hold, according to the latest Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Economic Report on the small Pacific island nation.

"The Nauru Government is addressing some of the structural problems the economy faces and is making changes to establish a base for future economic growth," says Eugene Zhukov, a Director of ADB's Pacific Department.

"The strong likelihood that Australia's Refugee Processing Center based in Nauru that will be closed soon adds to the urgency of reform as that source of income for the Government is expected to end."

ADB update



New Caledonia/Kanaky

Dengue outbreak for new Caledonia

Health officials in New Caledonia have issued an epidemic warning regarding the mosquito-borne dengue fever outbreak in the French territory.

There have been 48 new cases of the disease so far this month.

The main outbreaks are in the area of the capital, Nouméa, and in the northeastern part of the Loyalty Islands group.

www.eventpolynesia.com

Severe floods hit New Caledonia

Two people have died after heavy rains and severe flooding in New Caledonia.

Oceania Flash reports a tropical depression caused the heavy rains, closing roads and prompting a caution by local authorities.

A Belgian biologist working for the local branch of environment organisation, Conservation International, died after being swept downstream while trying to cross a river which had burst its banks.

www.abc.net.au



Niue

Niue seeks funding help from NZ to host Pacific Leaders forum

The Deputy Premier of Niue says it's frustrating that New Zealand isn't being very forthcoming with funding for the Pacific Leaders Forum that the island nation is hosting this August.

Fisa Pihigia who is currently in New Zealand says Niue had earlier been promised money from the Government to help. On 531 P.I this afternoon Pihigia said it needs cash rather than equipment.

NiuFM



Beautiful scene on the island of Niue where the 38th Pacific Leaders meeting will be held

New Zealand lawyer offers free legal advice to Niue

A Business Roundtable in Niue, which is seeking professional help for people on the island, has got assurance of free legal services from one of New Zealand's leading lawyers.

Gerard McCoy QC, who recently represented the military regime in Fiji in a challenge to the legality of the coup, has indicated he will attend High Court sittings in Niue when required.

The Roundtable's spokesperson, Stafford Guest, says they are also seeking insurance advice, and an accountant to help with growing tax demands on the island.



Papua New Guinea

MNCL Annual Planning Meeting 2008

The year began with an Annual Planning Meeting (APM) for the staff of Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL). The Meeting was held at the Canossa School of Life at Bomana outside of Port Moresby from 01st -03rd of February 2008.

On the MNCL Calendar Activity the Annual Planning Meeting is a yearly activity, the purpose of which is to have the Staff Activity Plans formulated for the Calendar Year.

"It must be made clear in our minds that we contribute as a team and reflect the lessons of 2007 to sharpen our planning". According to the Executive Director, MNCL is improving all the time.

MNCL update

NGO carries out TB awareness

Tuberculosis is a major health issue in the community and this was the message that World Vision through its awareness team explained to members of



the Kone Sharks Rugby Union club yesterday at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby.

Kone Sharks RFUC thru its management invited World Vision representatives to visit the club during training to pass the message of TB and its effect on individuals and the community.

The club has taken the initiative to have guest speakers visit the club at regular intervals for motivational talks as well as speeches on various issues affecting their community.

Also present to support the club and its off field community programmes were representatives of major sponsor Trukai Rice who have indicated their continued sponsorship for the club over the next two years.

www.thenational.com



Samoa

Land Registration Bill 2008 and consultations for the village of Sogi

The Government's proposed Land Bill aims to change the system by which title to freehold land is transferred to register Samoa's customary lands. Samoa is currently adopting the use of the deed system and under the proposed bill, it will change to using the Torrens system.

This system is by nature used for title registration of freehold lands or private property ownership.

SUNGO's motives for opposing the bill are as follows;

- Customary land is never owned as a private property of the present holder of matai titles.
- The holder of matai titles are only the caretakers or trustees of customary land
- The matai titles of Samoan extended families heirs are vested with the proprietorship of Samoa families customary lands.

SUNGO update

SUNGO strengthening working relationship with Government

The Ministry of Justice proposed to the Samoa Umbrella for Non Government Organisation (SUNGO) for the purpose of assisting them in the Rehabilitation process and Minimizing youth re-offenders in Samoa.

SUNGO's thematic groups of Social Services and Community Development have outlined some of the objectives that might have enabled the participants to find strategies on how SUNGO and its members can contribute in achieving this purpose.

SUNGO update



Solomon Islands

Capacity to Talk

The Capacity Development Network is thriving as an informal place for Solomon Islands Government public servants, RAMSI advisers and others to meet, discuss and share common experiences of working training and learning together.

Network coordinator Ben Goodman is delighted to see the network grow and help people. He said that like any network, the Capacity Development Network is about linking people who are doing similar things.

Marktus Forau, Solomon Islands Prisons Service Director Human Resources, said attending the Network has been very good for sharing ideas with other agencies which can be brought back to the Solomon Islands Prisons Service.

www.scoop.co.nz



Tonga

CSFT meets with Australian Parliamentarian

The Australian Parliamentary Secretaries, Hon. Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for

International Development Assistance and Hon. Duncan Kerr, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs met with Civil Society Forum of Tonga members on the 5th of January 2008.

According to Hon. Duncan, this was to give a greater sense on the network with the Pacific region and to make sure there is a continuous engagement across all the Pacific countries.

CFST Update

TCDT presentation on Participatory Budgeting

Tonga Community Development Trust (TCDT) in partnership with its international Affiliates—Foundation of the People of the South Pacific International (FSPI) discussed possible synergies for community Government engagement on Participatory Budgeting.

CSFT was part of the focus group presented at this forum. Participatory Budgeting is a very interesting issue and CSFT is looking forward to a more thorough discussion on the topic at community level as part of TCDT programme.

CFST Update



Tuvalu

Endangered Islands

At first glance, Tuvalu is an island paradise, 26 square kilometers of white sand and lush foliage in the Pacific Ocean, north of Fiji.

But the sea level is rising, so much so that the nation's water has become too salty to drink and to grow vegetables, especially taro, a vegetable that was once the island's staple food.

"As they don't have water and food, they began to import food from overseas, says Endou, who set up the NGO Tuvalu Overview to highlight their cause.

www.edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/03/31/tuvalu.climate



Vanuatu

Vanuatu NGO welcomes arrival of mobile phone company

Vanuatu umbrella NGO, VANGO, says the arrival of a new mobile phone company into the country will improve the living standard of many residents.

The company, Digicel, has won a mobile phone licence for Vanuatu, breaking the monopoly by Telecom.

Digicel plans to create about 70 new jobs and invest about 35 million US dollars into the network.

VANGO's Secretary General, Henry Vira, says Digicel's plan to offer its services to rural areas, where about 80 percent of residents live, is vital.

www.rnzi.com



CSFT Executive Director Siale Ilolahia (left) with her staff during the 2007 Regional CSO Forum in Tonga



Kiribati Association of Non Governmental Organisations (KANGO)

Our vision is to work with all NGOs and associations in a spirit of cooperation, collaboration networking and partnering in order to facilitate Human Development of the Kiribati Community.

Coordinator - Nei Roko Timeon

Location: Bairiki, Tarawa, Kiribati

Postal Address: P. O. Box 162, Bairiki, Tarawa, Kiribati



Roko Timion (left), Coordinator of KANGO and Claire Baiteke (right) PIANGO Board member from Kiribati

KANGO is the umbrella organisation for all NGO's in Kiribati.

It was established in 1986. We are a community based membership organisation, run by our Members for our Members on a not for profit basis.

Currently 52 Kiribati NGOs are members of KANGO. (NGO)

A Non - Governmental Organisation can be defined as an independent, voluntary association of people acting together on a continuous basis, for some common purpose, other than achieving government office, making money or illegal activities.

KANGO is looking forward to working closely with local NGOs, the Government of Kiribati, local, regional and international Donors and regional affiliates.

What services do KANGO offer?

KANGO assist individual NGOs in achieving good governance (writing constitutions, writing policies and procedures, board development, registration with the Kiribati Government under

the Incorporated Societies Act 2002)

Resource Centre

KANGO maintains a small resource centre for its members at its Bairiki office. KANGO stresses the importance of developing a Resource Centre within the Secretariat to maintain the relevant resources for NGOs and other stakeholders in the country.

The purpose of the Resource Centre is to:

1. Establish and maintain an up-to-date resource centre to support the information needs of NGOs and CBOs
2. Design an appropriate cataloguing system and catalogue existing resource materials
3. Regularly survey NGOs workers to identify their resources, review new materials and evaluate services.

Gender and domestic violence awareness on Makin

OVER 600 family members including wives and husbands

on Makin are now more aware of their rights as individuals to seek court redresses or to resolve their own family problems/differences by themselves over domestic issues as a result of a recent KANGO's awareness workshop on gender and domestic violence conducted on the island from March 25 – April 1, this year.

Increase in submission of EDF9 funded project proposals

OVER 60 health related project proposals have now been submitted to KANGO's EDF9 Outer Island Project Office in Bairiki for funding consideration and approval.

EDF9 Project Manager Taiaki Irata said more submissions are anticipated and prioritization may need to be done at the time of grant disbursements around March this year.

KANGO gets new AVI Health Project Support Officer

KANGO has a new Health Project Support Officer from the Australian Volunteers

International.

She is Catherine Crane, a Bachelor in Applied Science (occupational therapy) and certificate holder in International and Community Development from the University of Sydney and the Deakin University in Victoria.

Catherine will work with KANGO's EU-EDF9 NSA Outer Islands Project for the next 18 months, commencing from January 16.

KANGO Board Director attends consultation workshop on Safeguard Policy in Sydney

THE KIRIBATI ASSOCIATION of Non-governmental organizations (KANGO) sent a representative to a one-day Pacific Consultation for ADB's Safeguard Policy Update workshop (SPU) held in Sydney .

Timau Tira, a current board member with the KANGO Executive Board. attended the meeting that was held from January 30-31, 2008.

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 Website - www.kango.org.ki



Commonwealth Funded Management of Fishing Industries

The Commonwealth has also helped to introduce modern business management practices to the fisheries sector in Papua New Guinea, where a training programme was established for small businesses working in the fishing industry.

'Start and Improve Your Fisheries Business' is specifically designed for coastal fishermen and has become a flagship training programme in the Pacific.

After it was initially set up in Papua New Guinea it has since been transferred to Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu as well as the Commonwealth associated states – the Cook Islands and Niue.

www.thecommonwealth.org

NZ to help build Solomon Islands homes

Thousands of homes damaged or destroyed by earthquake and tsunami in the Solomon Islands last April are to be rebuilt with help from New Zealand, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced today.

"Funding from New Zealand of \$1.5 million over two years will help communities in Western Province to rebuild and repair around 3500 houses," Mr Peters said.

"This assistance will complement \$3 million provided by Solomon Islands Government, which has been distributed through members of parliament. Australia is also providing \$A1.6 million to help rebuild homes on Gizo island and in Choiseul province.

www.beehive.govt.nz

Pacific Economic Survey 2008

The Pacific Economic Survey 2008 is the first of a series of annual reports on the economic performance of Pacific Island

countries and Timor-Leste.

The Pacific Economic Survey 2008 was prepared by AusAID, with regional consultation, to promote discussion and debate on the regional economic outlook and to focus on ways to reduce poverty and promote development. The theme for this Survey is 'Connecting the Region' and it includes chapters on reform in telecommunications, aviation and shipping to improve regional connectivity.

www.ausaid.gov.au

ADB and Samoa Using ICT to Improve Access to Education and Training

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending a \$5.9 million grant to support Samoa's efforts to increase the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education.

The SchoolNet and Community Access Project will support the Samoan Government's efforts to improve the overall efficiency of the education sector and develop the capacity of the Government, teachers and students from Government and mission secondary schools, in delivering education using ICT.

www.adb.org/Media

Pacific NGOs and CSOs at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The Pacific Centre supported the participation of four Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the Pacific at the 52nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

This was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from February 25 - March 7.

The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body.

The NGOs and CSOs include the Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre, Pacific Islands News Association, Solomon Islands National Council of Women, and Vois Blong Mere. After attending the CSW, these organisations will be required to undertake CSW related activities at the local, national or regional level.

<http://regionalcentre.pacific.undp.org.fj/>

Special Session of Heads of Fisheries

A Special Session of Pacific Island Heads of Fisheries was held at the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands (FAO-SAPA) headquarters in Apia, Samoa, on 11 to 13 February.

The purpose of the Special Session was to review and endorse a revised strategic plan for fisheries management and sustainable coastal fisheries in the Pacific Islands.

The original strategic plan was adopted in 2003 by member countries and territories of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

www.spc.int

USP Launch Research on Tropical Cyclones

The much awaited book describing the behaviour of tropical cyclones in the South Pacific and investigating the effects on physical environments and people who live on them, was launched recently at the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus.

The book titled Tropical Cyclones by James P. Terry Associate Professor and former Head of the School of Geography at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji was launched by the

Ambassador of Taiwan to Fiji Mr Victor J Chin at the Faculty of Islands and Oceans.

www.usp.ac.fj

SOPAC calls on the public to make efficient energy use an everyday practice

In marking the earth hour, the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) calls on the public to practice efficient energy use everyday.

SOPAC encourages the public to seize the Earth Hour moment and use it to cut down on unnecessary future costs.

SOPAC joined Earth Hour, the climate change initiative, led by the World Wildlife Fund which asked people to turn off their lights for one hour on 29 March

www.sopac.org

Steady Growth in South Pacific Tourism

Visitors to the South Pacific continued to grow in 2007. Visitor arrival statistics indicate that 1,334,685 people visited the region in 2007, an increase of 4.1 percent.

South-Pacific.Travel Chief Executive Tony Everitt said "Given the increased cost of oil, this level of growth is a pleasing result. It shows that Tourism continues to lead economic development in the South Pacific.

Growth in visitors to the South Pacific Islands was double that to Australia and New Zealand in 2007, which both recorded a 2% increase in visitors. Globally visitor arrivals grew by 6.2%, but this was dragged up significantly by Asian destinations (eg China grew 10%) which have fast growing economies (World Tourism Organisation).

www.spto.org



39th Pacific Islands Forum Dates Confirmed

The 39th Pacific Islands Leaders' Forum and related meetings will be held in Niue in the week of 18th August 2008.

The dates were confirmed following consultations between member countries.

The official opening of the 39th Pacific Islands Forum will be held on 19th August to be followed by the Plenary Session. The Forum Leaders' Retreat will be on 20th August.

Smaller Island States Leaders' and Pacific ACP Leaders' meetings will also be held in conjunction with the Forum Leaders' meeting.

The 20th Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' Plenary Session will be held on 21st August.

The Pacific Plan Action Committee, Pre-Forum Forum Officials Committee and Smaller Islands States Officials' Meetings are also confirmed for 21 – 22 July, 23 – 24 July and 25 July respectively. These meetings

will be held at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

for more information email bakanebo@piango.net

Call For Project Proposals: Ambassadors Fund For Cultural Preservation

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) is an annual U.S. Department of State competition which awards grants for projects in the following categories:

- a) Objects and collections of objects from a museum, site, archive, or similar institution;
- b) Cultural sites;
- c) Forms of traditional cultural expression.

Grants generally are for less than US\$35,000, but have in the past ranged between US\$9000 and US\$111,000. Grantees must be a Non-Governmental Organisation, museum, ministry of culture, or similar institution. The applications closed on 8 February

EU Call for Proposal for Non State Actors & Local Authorities

Under the European Commission's 'Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development' programme one Call for Proposals,

The Call concerns 'Actions in partner countries (multi-country)' and is open for NSA globally.

The proposal under this Call must include actions in at least two countries advocating for multi-country or regional NSA partnerships.

At this stage, NSA are being invited to submit only a Concept Note of not more than 4 pages by 11 February 2008.

Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal.

For more information on PIANGO's application to the above proposal please email bakanebo@piango.net

Regional NGOs discuss engagement with PIFS

Regional NGOs meet in Suva for a week as part of the PIANGO/ADB RETA workshop to deliberate on the process of engagement with the Forum Secretariat.

The workshop outcome presented action points for PRNGOs. The outcome would be a base for discussions towards the development of the PRNGO platform as a mechanism to engage collectively in a Regional policy dialogue, while recognising the individual mandates of regional CSOs.

Respecting the diversity among regional CSOs, PRNGOs may choose to establish working groups in specific interest areas to develop position papers to input into regional policy dialogue.

Advancing the collaboration among PRNGOs to implement the MOU on the Regional NGO Capacity Building Framework.

For more information email katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO ED Visits Guam NGOs

The ED had taken the opportunity to travel to Guam to meet NGO Leaders from Guam, Palau and Saipan.

The NGO workers and leaders were very happy to hear about PIANGO Board's decision to look into effective ways in assisting them in their development.

As a result of the visit, Sanctuary Inc. and Palau Community Action Agency directors were invited to attend the 4th Annual PIMER Circle to be held from 20th – 23rd April 2008.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net



Sanctuary Incorporated, PIANGO NLU in Guam.



USP intern Itintaake Etuati at the PIANGO Secretariat

Culture & Values Course, Vanuatu

Two PIANGO Board members Sitiveni Kunaika Turaganibure, Marie Madeleine Ayawa and a PIANGO secretariat staff Litiana Domokamica attended the Culture & Values course in Vanuatu from the 31st March to the 4th April 2008.

The course was conducted at the Korean Mission Centre in Port Vila and was opened by Henry Vira from VANGO.

There were a total of 17 participants representing different organizations in Vanuatu including the three from the Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisation in Fiji and New Caledonia.

For more information email litiana@piango.net

PIANGO/ADB RETA Workshop

Through a partnership between ADB and PIANGO, Regional NGOs were brought in to discuss policy analysis topics of concern to CSOs in the region.

In a two workshop held back to back, Regional NGOs discussed topics on engaging with PIFS and Education & Labour Mobility.

According to the participants, the workshop was a stepping stone to broader discussion between Regional NGOs in terms of engagements in policy and labour mobility in the region.

for more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO welcomes USP intern

PIANGO welcomes USP Development Studies Masters Student, Itintaake Etuati as part of the Capacity building programme team for 3 months.

As part of his internship with PIANGO, Itintaake will assist PIANGO in facilitating Regional workshops and meeting and

developing a strategic direction for PIANGO.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

Capacity Building Programme manager to be advertised soon

PIANGO is looking at advertising for the position of Capacity Building Programme manager soon.

The position has been vacant since January this year after bakanebo moved on to become the new Executive Director.

Bakanebo is currently looking after the programme until PIANGO recruits a programme manager.

For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

GDP Pacific Advisory Committee

Bakanebo Tamaroa attended the Pacific Advisory Committee meeting held at the UNITEC campus in Auckland on Friday 8th February.

The meeting was attended by Pacific Advisory trainers from Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and PNG.

For more information, contact bakanebo@piango.net

GDP Courses held this quarter

Small Team Leadership: Samoa, 18-22 February

This course equips students with the skills needed to create and sustain effective teams, design and run training for staff and clients, make the most of meetings, and facilitate groups and teams at work. Students will also analyse the nature of conflict within an organisation and will be able to harness it creatively to empower individuals and teams.

Community Research: Fiji, 3-7 March

The focus of this course is on the two most common uses of research in NFP organisations - needs and assessment and programme evaluation. This course aims to equip students with the skills and confidence to plan their own community research, evaluation or assessment, as well as to demystify research concepts so that they can more confidently evaluate the research findings of others.

Culture and Values: Fiji, Vanuatu, 31 Mar - 4 April

This course explores what is different about managing a NFP organisation than a business or government department. Students examine the distinct values, culture and characteristics of NFP organisations in Aotearoa, overseas and your organisation in particular.



Participants at the recent GDP - Culture and Values course held in Vanuatu from the 31 March - 4 April



Gender and the Pacific Plan

Improved gender equality is one of the fifteen key strategic objectives identified under the Plan, and this is attempted via mainstreaming of gender issues throughout the other initiatives where appropriate. Of these, the key initiative for gender is the ratification and implementation of rights-based international and regional conventions and agreements, and associated support for meeting, reporting and other requirements. This initiative will include:

The drafting, harmonisation and promotion of awareness of rights-based domestic legislation within the Pacific covering:

CEDAW on gender; the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC); the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD);

the International Labour Organisation Convention 169 on Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Article 50 of the Cotonou Agreement on labour rights; the 1990 International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families; and the Biwako Millennium Framework for people with disabilities.

While the Pacific Plan attempts to mainstream gender and development, other specific initiatives to support gender equity identified for immediate implementation under the Plan include:

Strengthening police training, coordination and attachments, with a focus on domestic, gender and sexual violence, drug control, and accountability mechanisms,

Development and implementation of national policies and strategies on regionalism that include clear statements of national interests, and the establishment of appropriate national mechanisms and approaches.

Milestones for this initiative include the undertaking, dissemination and use of cost-benefit analyses of regional activities, including of social (for poverty, gender and youth) and environmental impact and risks;

Building stronger partnerships with national and regional stakeholders, and with development partners. This includes an annual outcomes-oriented conference with Non-State Actors (NSA) representatives from the business sector, academia, media and civil society organisations, to provide feedback to Leaders and a platform for wider debate on Pacific regionalism and the longer term direction of the Pacific Plan;

Investigating the potential impacts under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) of a move towards a comprehensive framework for trade (including services) and economic cooperation, between Australia, New Zealand and Forum Island Countries;

The upgrade and extension of country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors to support effective policy making through the provision of sex disaggregated data;

Consolidation of commitments to key integrity institutions including establishment of a regional ombudsman and other human rights mechanisms to support the Forum's accountability and leadership principles.

Gender specific initiatives requiring formal agreement or further analysis include:

Development of a strategy to support participatory democracy and consultative decision-making (including NSAs, youth, women and disabled), and electoral processes.

The Pacific Islands Forum

Secretariat (PIFS), in collaboration with UNIFEM, has commissioned research on barriers to women's election into parliaments, focusing on Fiji, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu and on electoral systems as well as socio-economic factors. PIFS, in collaboration with the Pacific Women's Bureau (PWB), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Pacific Sub-regional Centre, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and UNIFEM, also organised a regional workshop on advancing women's representation in Parliaments in April 2006 to discuss strategies to encourage women's election into national parliaments in light of existing gender commitments of member countries and relatively poor performance. Delegates, including parliamentarians, ministers, national directors and civil society representatives from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, endorsed an outcomes document with recommendations for follow-up action at regional and national level, which will be presented to the Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference (FPOCC) in 2006;

Investigation of the potential for expanding regional technical and vocational education training (TVET) programmes to take

advantage of opportunities in health care, seafaring, hospitality/tourism, peacekeeping, and for enhancing and standardising regional training programmes. The Pacific Association of Technical and Vocational Education Training (PATVET) has been established as a peer network of regional training institutions, with interim secretariat services provided by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) until the association is fully effective and operational. To expand regional TVET programmes, PATVET/SPC has already completed an inventory framework on TVET institutions and are now working on country data sets, which will be followed by setting a baseline for a regional qualifications framework;

Delivery of specific studies and scholarships on regionalism, pro-poor economic growth, peace and conflict, traditional structures, leadership, gender-specific indicators, and cultural policy to support regional cooperation and integration.

Formal programmes at postgraduate level are currently being offered at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance (PIAS-DG).



Gender equality is highly emphasised in the Pacific Plan. Photo courtesy from NZAID newsletter

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Tonga: CSFT

Tuvalu: TANGO

Vanuatu: VANGO

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East Timor: CSCBF

Guam: Sanctuary Inc.

Palau: PCAA

Wallis & Futuna: ASCV

West Papua: West Papua

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American Samoa

Hawaii

Marshall Islands

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.



New Zealand International
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Pacific Centre



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AusAID



Your Feedback & Suggestions

Your suggestions for future articles are welcome, as well as any feedback on recent articles.

The closing date for article submissions for the next quarterly PIANGO Link is 15 June 2008. Photographs and images are welcome. Please email to piango@connect.com.fj

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