



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles de Pacifique

P. O. Box 17780, Suva, Fiji. 30 Ratu Sukuna Road, Nasese, Suva. Phone: +679 330-2963 / 331-7048
Fax: +679 331-7046 Email: piango@connect.com.fj Web: <http://www.piango.org>

MEDIA RELEASE

**1st PIANGO NGO Directors' Consultation meeting
24th – 28th April, Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji**

Monday – Wednesday update

Following the official opening of the Consultation by His Excellency, Mr. Michael Green, New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji, Nauru and Tuvalu, Gabriel Tetiarahi made a call to the Pacific people by constructing a marae, the symbol of Pacific people coming together to cooperate and share their knowledge and strengths. A brief history of PIANGO's origins, recounted by Gabriel Tetiarahi from Tahiti, set the scene for PIANGO to start building its future.

The individual country reports of the national umbrella organisations provided a forum to share achievements and challenges, and learn from others experiences. And an evening social function provided the opportunity for directors, PIANGO board members and PIANGO partners to interact in a relaxed environment.

The second day was dedicated to the discussion of the draft PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010, led by the members of the PIANGO Board. After debate, and some excellent team work, the four key objectives were fine-tuned and approved, a great achievement for both the Board and the membership.

On the third day, the directors were encouraged to analyse their own national organisations in terms of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis). There were similarities in experiences from across the region confirming the preliminary assessment conducted by PIANGO Director, Cema Bolabola.

An update and overview of the Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management, delivered in conjunction with Unitec of New Zealand, demonstrated the success of the diploma with up to 30 students likely to graduate next year. There are almost four hundred students currently enrolled in fourteen Pacific countries and territories. The afternoon closed with discussion about PIANGO and its relationship with other Pacific Regional NGOs, and PIANGO's unique role in the region.

The consultation continues through until Friday, when Mr Iosefa Maiava, Deputy Secretary General PIFS will conduct the official closing address at 3:30pm.