



PIANGO

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

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MEDIA RELEASE

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

The inaugural PIANGO consultation for Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PIMER) was held from Monday 24th to Friday 28th April 2006 at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

PIANGO, as the lead umbrella organisation for national NGOs in the Pacific region, hosted the consultation to discuss the PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006-2010, presented by the PIANGO board. These strategies, and the implementation planning process, provide guidance for the NGOs on communicating and sharing information, building capacity, strengthening key relationships and ensuring quality performance.

Directors of National Liaison Units (NLU), umbrella organisations representing NGOs from their respective Pacific island countries, and PIANGO board members attended the week long consultation. It was the first opportunity for all the directors to meet and share good ideas on best practice for enhancing the national representative NGOs.

Presentations were heard from guest speakers; Carol Flore-Smrecznik about the MDGs, Nainasa Whippy and the Pacific Plan, and Jese Sikivou and the Commonwealth Values, giving directors a good understanding of how these international and regional strategies and goals interact with the PIANGO and national NGO Strategic Plans.

A round table discussion was held with representatives from University of the South Pacific (USP), the British High Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), NZAID and Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF), providing directors the opportunity to ask questions directly to the organisations that support them.

“Information sharing and capacity building among national NGOs was agreed as a priority to strengthen NGOs to continuously improve their services for people of the Pacific Island countries. With a strong Board and skilled secretariat, the renewed evolution of PIANGO will provide regular opportunities for national NGOs to share and discuss common courses of action as well as areas of concern. It was the individual and collective participation and informed contribution of all involved that made the consultation a participatory activity and also a success.” says Cema Bolabola, Executive Director, PIANGO.

PIANGO would like to sincerely acknowledge the partnership and support of NZAID, PIFS and UNDP PSRC for their support and participation throughout the week.

About PIANGO:

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGOs. It has focal points, or coordination bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLU) in 22 Pacific Island countries and 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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