

PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles du Pacifique

April 2007

In this Update

1. Secretariat Briefs
2. Pacific NGO Briefs
3. GDP Courses & Dates
4. Pacific Donor and Funding News
5. Pacific Regional NGO News
6. CROP Agencies News
7. Other News
8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities
9. About PIANGO, Suggestions / Feedback

1. Secretariat Briefs

Small Island States National Consultation on the Pacific Plan (27 March, Nauru; 30 March, Marshall Islands; 3 April, Kiribati)

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) invited the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) for a joint effort on the National Consultation on the Pacific Plan to the 3 Small Island States identified above. While the consultation is on the Pacific Plan and how it can be implemented effectively at national level, it is also an opportunity for both Government and NGOs at national level to highlight and agree on national priorities that are not yet included in the Pacific Plan and an opportunity for Government and NGOs too to strengthen their relationship and work together to address national priorities. Carrying out the national consultation in the mother tongue seems to work much better in order to get the most outcomes of the consultation.

PIANGO Board Endorses 2007 Work Plan

The Board held its first meeting for the year at the SUNGO Conference Room, Apia from 31st March-1st April. At the meeting, the Board endorsed the revised 2007 PIANGO Budget and the Secretariat Work Plan for the year. Proposed projects endorsed by the Board included a regional PIANGO project to strengthen the PIANGO communication network and a regional project for governance training for developing NLUs. For more information contact cema@piango.net

PIANGO Expresses Condolence to TANGO

Mr. Simiona Iosia, the President of the Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) passed away and was buried in Funafuti on Tuesday 24th April, 2007. The Board and members of PIANGO wish to express their sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Mr. Iosia, the Board and membership of TANGO. It is with great pride that we the PIANGO network count Mr. Iosia amongst our champions of Pacific Civil Societies and NGOs. Our prayers are with the family of Mr. Iosia, the Board and membership of TANGO.

PIANGO Link

The first quarter newsletter – PIANGO Link scheduled to be distributed to all NLUs, stakeholders and partners this week. There has been a delay in the production of the newsletter, due to the turnover of staff at the Secretariat resulting in the first edition impinging into the month of April. For the next edition, we will continue with the on going news from the month of April to June. The closing date for submissions for the next PIANGO Link is 30th May, 2007. For more information please contact katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO subletting office to AVI

PIANGO & AVI have come to an agreement with PIANGO subletting a room to AVI from May 1st. Apart from the allocation of a room as the AVI office, a part-time staff will also be part of this package. The new staff will be hired as PIANGO's Administrative Assistant seconded to AVI. For more information please contact susana@piango.net

Fiji National Ethics Meeting – 11th – 13th April

Mr. Darryl Macer, UNESCO's Regional Advisor in Social & Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific was in Fiji for the Fiji National Ethic meeting held at the Pacific Theological College (PTC) from the 11th -13th April. PIANGO Executive Director was present at the meeting and shared with other stakeholders on the Role of the Community in dialogue and application of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (UDBHR). For more information please contact cema@piango.net

Workshop on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Everyday Work Practices

On Friday 23 March 2007, PIANGO Administration Manager, Susana Lolohea with representatives from a range of government, non-government and civil society organisations and UN agencies met at the Tradewinds in Lami, Fiji for a workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Local Level Risk Management (LLRM). Workshop facilitator, Ms Angeles Arenas, the Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser from the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), Latin American and Caribbean Region, shared experiences from that region, where development workers have created a network for sharing practices in disaster risk reduction and local level risk management. For more information on the workshop please contact susana@piango.net

Conference Room available for use

The Conference Room located at the PIANGO Secretariat in Nasese, Suva, is available for use by NGOs. The Conference Room will hold up to 15 people, is air conditioned with a whiteboard and has kitchen and bathroom facilities attached. For bookings, contact the PIANGO Secretariat on (679) 330 2963 or email piango@connect.com.fj

2. Pacific NGO Briefs

Kiribati - KANGO

Outer islands express strong support for KANGO's work

Established community-based groups and NGOs in North Tarawa have expressed strong support and commitment for the work of KANGO and vowed to become its new members as soon as they have formalised arrangements for entry as required under the Association's terms and conditions of membership. The support comes as KANGO staff spearheaded efforts to expand their community development outreach and conducted the first island-wide survey and mapping exercise of all existing NGOs and CBOs on the island. Head of KANGO's Communications and Information Resource Centre, Iaram Tabureka, says about a dozen of already established community-based groups at the village level, are quite anxious to become members because of the likely benefits and support that they might get from the umbrella association. The Chairman of Tearinibai Village Project Development Association Temaurinteraoui Tekee, believes that KANGO is the ideal umbrella NGO that can assist in the development and sustainability of outer islands projects for "the benefit of the people for the people."

PIFS creates awareness of Pacific Plan

A one day National Consultative Workshop on the Pacific Plan initiative conducted by the Pacific Forum Secretariat in conjunction with the Suva-based PIANGO, came to a formal close on Wednesday April 4 with participants drawing up recommendations on areas of collaboration and identifying priorities for Kiribati. The workshop, attended by more than a dozen NGO representatives from around the main island of South Tarawa and Betio, created awareness and provided information on the Pacific Plan and how it can benefit Kiribati and Non State Actors.

Samoa - SUNGO

SUNGO Elected new Council Members

Following its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th January, a new National Secretary has been elected. Falanika Salevao from Faataua le Ola is now elected to the post for a 2 year term. Six members of the Board plus three reserve board members were also elected for a one year term in office. The President, Treasurer and Auditor's Reports were endorsed. Members also endorsed SUNGO's Strategic Plan, Workplan for the next 5 years and Budget for the Financial Year 2007-2008.

More NGOs funded by NGO Support Fund Program

The NGO Support Fund (NSF) Coordinating Committee has accepted 3 more NGOs to receive Capacity Building Core Funding of \$70,000 tala per annum, through its NGO Support Fund Program, funded by NZAID. They are Tagiilima Handicrafts Association, Animal Protection Society and Samoa Victim Support Group, who make up the total of 12 NGOs supported by the Program. The NSF Program or Core Funding provides support to NGO administration costs, staffing, modest capital purchase and recurrent costs.

SUNGO Members trained on Report Writing

The In-Country Training Program started its training for this year with the Report Writing Course, held in the last week of February. About 12 organisations participated in the course that was led by Mary Cretney from New Zealand. The course aimed at training participants in the principles and practice of sound report writing with an emphasis on report writing against a project or organisation annual plan

Capacity Building on Project Design and Proposal

In January and February, 4 workshops, 2 in each island, were conducted to promote grant schemes available and building of the capacity of members and community organisations on project design and proposal. The workshops were conducted by SUNGO and funded by the EU and UNDP.

EU Micro-Projects Review

SUNGO in collaboration with the EU office, successfully completed the annual review of the EU Micro-Projects Program (MPP) in early February. Members from community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations that have either benefited or potential beneficiaries of the program, were invited to assess its third phase. The MPP has been in Samoa for many years with its objective of providing support for community groups on alleviation of poverty.

Data Collection & Analysis Training (ICTP) – 2 – 5 April 07

A Data Collection and Analysis training course took place in the first week of April, at the SUNGO Office, as part of the In-Country Training Programme, jointly funded by NZAID and AusAID and coordinated by SUNGO. This is the third ICTP training for this year to be implemented. About 12 participants from various NGOs and Community-based Organisations (CBOs) took part in the workshop, conducted by Mary Cretney of Cretney's in Partnership from New Zealand. The Data Collection and Analysis training focused on training participants on the key principles and practice of data collection and analysis for the monitoring of a simple NGO project. 75% of the course time was spent doing practical work and one full day spent on field work doing a baseline questionnaire at a local school. According to Mary, this was a particularly useful exercise, which everyone found interesting, enjoyable and practical. Three SUNGO staff also assisted with this process so that 150 completed questionnaires were obtained. This gave enough relevant data to be able to carry out analysis, both manual and computerised, the following day.

Financial Management Unitec course – 16-20 April, NCC Hall Mulinuu

The second Unitec course 'Not for Profit Accounting and Financial Management' was conducted in the third week of April (16-20 April 07) at the National Council of Churches Hall, Mulinuu from 8.30am to 7pm. 19 participants, including two students from Tonga, participated in the course, that investigates the concepts, purpose and processes of accounting, and key financial

management practices, for financially healthy 'NFP' organisations. Unitec trainers, Lindsay Jeffs and Dave Marra with Pacific local trainer, Kattrina Esera-Take, took the participants through a number of interactive lectures, group discussions and activities during the whole week. According to Mrs Take, the participants were thankful for the training, because it has built their knowledge on accounting processes.

Pacific Trade Education Programme Conference – 23-27 April, NCC Hall Mulinuu

SUNGO, in collaboration with Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) organised a one week workshop on Pacific Trade and Education Programme (PTEP) at the end of the month, which aims to build an advocacy platform on trade issues amongst civil society groups across the Pacific. Participating Pacific Civil Society groups from Fiji, Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Samoa, have issued a challenge to the European Union either to negotiate a trade deal in the Pacific that is to the benefit of the Pacific's people or to offer alternatives that are at least as good as the current trade regime. Participants also agreed with the Mid-Term Review of the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations commissioned by the Pacific Trade Ministers, using a highly respected European research institute, which concluded that the Pacific and EU were still far apart in negotiations and that the Pacific was not ready to conclude a deal by the end of the year. The participants call for suspension of further negotiations between the Pacific and the EU until the results of the recently initiated social impact assessment are fully incorporated into negotiating positions. The one week workshop is the first of four workshops to be conducted around the Pacific by PANG, to address issues around trade, building networks and capacities on trade advocacy, and identifying strategies leading to a greater involvement of civil society in trade discussions.

Human Resource Management Training – 30 Apr-4 May 2007

SUNGO continues to coordinate In-Country Training Programmes for its members and interested NGOs, Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations. A one week training course will be held on Monday 30 April until Friday 4 May, on Human Resource Management, that focuses on teaching principles and practice of good human resource management relevant to the needs of Samoa Non Government Organisations. More than 10 participants from NGOs, CSOs and CBOs will be trained on the principles of sound human resource management, staff appointment processes, staff employment, performance management, staff disciplinary matters and dispute procedures and natural justice provisions, and risk management. The training will be conducted by John Cretney of Cretneys' in Partnership in New Zealand, and CEO of SUNGO, Roina Faatauvaava-Vavatau.

SUNGO farewell one of its staff

SUNGO has farewelled one of its staff members, Magele Isaako, who worked as the Capacity Development Organisation (CDO) Coordinator, for the Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Project, that was housed under SUNGO. Mr Issako joined SUNGO earlier in 2006, and was responsible for providing capacity building, mentoring and technical assistance to funded, Government agencies, NGOs and CBOs, and liaise with PRHP on all Project development matters. SUNGO would like to thank Magele for all his contributions to the work and development of the organisation, during his time as one of its employees. SUNGO also wishes him the best of luck on his future plans.

Solomon Islands - DSE

Tsunami Response

Development Services Exchange (DSE) and its members and other partners are helping and supporting the National Disaster Council (NDC) in the tsunami relief through providing personals and materials for the victims of the tsunami. A non-government-organisation (NGO) desk was established at the NDC action desk. The desk will be liaising with the Central Control Group which is the peak decision making group for any reports and actions to be taken towards the relief support.

Graduate Diploma course postponed

The Not-for-Profit course, Graduate Diploma Program, accredited through Unitec in New Zealand, has been postponed to 16 - 20 July. DSE will advise those who have been accepted of any changes, while the venue is still the SWIM complex.

DSE Welcomes Capacity Building Officers

DSE welcomes George Pitakoe as the Senior Capacity Building officer, and Fred Talo as Training officer who will be supporting George in the areas of capacity building training, focusing on provinces and national NGOs. George started work with DSE on 18 April and Fred started on 28 March 2007.

NGO Management Program

DSE will soon be advertising an NGO Management Program targeting line managers and those who have the potential to move up the ladder in managing a non government organisation. The program will run for 10 working days and members of NGOs are encouraged to apply once the advertisement is distributed to the network. The proposed date for the management program will be in May 2007.

Tonga - CSFT

CSFT Members Directory

The first draft of the CSFT Members Directory has been circulated for the members for any comments prior to the final draft.

National NGOs Leadership Retreat 2007

The theme for the retreat was, "Creating Solutions for Better Leadership and Governance". The retreat is designed to help NGO's to progress the dialogue, unity and progress of excellence in service in 2007. The National Retreat Committee featured guest speakers, workshops, group discussion as well as an opportunity for NGO leaders to network and establish partnerships that can lead to positive exchange.

The New Zealand High Commissioner, H.E. Dr. Michael McBride made the opening remarks and expressed their fully support to the theme for all NGOs in the Kingdom by funding the retreat. The first plenary speaker was the Chief Executive Officer, of Ministry for Education and Women Affairs, Dr. Uili Fukofuka, who spoke about "The Importance of Talanoa or Dialogue between NGO and Government". The second speaker was Mr. Suliasi Kaufusi, the Director of LDS Service Centre, who acknowledged the day with encouraging words on the topic of "The Value of NGO Ethics & Standards for Excellence".

When coming to the end of the day, there were many perfect ideas collected from the CSFT member organisations. The members hope there will be another retreat in 2008.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Negotiation is currently being undertaken but it's highly likely that CSFT will be the host institution for this program in Tonga. Progress at this stage includes the selection of the National Steering Committee, the appointment of a National Focal Person and drafting of the Country Program Strategy (CPS).

The Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Program in the Pacific (MORDI)

The objectives of the Program are to strengthen the institutional capacity of target communities and groups, as well as community institutions and increased employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women. The host institutions are CSFT, TNYC and CWL.

EU Technical Cooperation Facility

The Facility aims to facilitate the cost of proposals in the area of Technical Assistance Facility, General Training and Support for Consultation processes on political reforms. The CSFT office will be assisting any interested organisations under this facility.

Assistance to NGOs and the Government of Tonga

- The CSFT Executive Director, Mr. Edgar Cocker, participated at the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the European Union last month in Nadi, Fiji.
- The CSFT Program Manager, Mrs. Siale 'Ilolahia participated in the workshop on Trade Negotiation coordinated by the Tonga National Council of Churches.

- Joint Donor's Country Strategy Mission was an opportunity for development partners, who wished to consult with officials from the Government, and also representatives from Civil Society Organisations, on their individual country programme of assistance to Tonga.
- NZAID Committee for Community Development Fund. CSFT is a permanent member of the committee.
- Workshop on Food Processing conducted by NZAID and the Government of Tonga – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- CSFT participation at the National Effort to promote economic development. Direct involvement in National Committee for Economic Recovery.

3. GDP Courses & Dates

GDP Course News

5 Graduate Diploma (GDP) courses have been conducted to date in 4 host National Liaison Units (NLUs) including Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and PNG. 23 to 25 continuing and new students have attended each of these courses. 2 Pacific trainers assisted Unitec trainers in delivering the courses outside their own country while potential trainers at national level assisted in the delivery of the GDP courses in their own countries as local trainers. From February to April this year, the Secretariat has supported 125 regional students from Kiribati, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, Niue, Solomon Islands, PNG, Vanuatu and Fiji to attend courses in the nearby host NLUs as part of its continuing service to strengthen the NLUs and the NGO sector in the Pacific region.

Social Policy, Social Change and NFP Organisations: PNG 14 - 18 May and Vanuatu 18 - 22 June

This course equips students with an appreciation of the wider contexts of social change and social policy within which not for profit organisations operate. It examines constraints and opportunities as well as the two way process of influence and change. On successful completion of the course students will have developed practical skills and identified effective strategies to influence government policy.

Community Funding and Entrepreneurism: Tonga 25 - 29 June

This course analyses how community organisations are funded - from contracting with the state to community owned businesses. Students explore fundraising and philanthropic models, as well as sponsorship, membership-based systems and entrepreneurial opportunities. The concept of funder capture is developed along with strategies to minimise this. By the end of the course students will have developed funding strategy for a 'NFP' organisation.

Culture and Values of the Not-for-Profit Sector: Solomon Islands 16 - 20 July

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 organisation in Aotearoa, overseas and of your organisation in particular. Students analyse what this means for their approach to management, leadership and their learning on this programme.

To find out more about the GDP, the course timetable and the GDP brochure for 2007 are available on the PIANGO website at <http://www.piango.org/capcitybuilding.html>

To apply for a place on these courses, please contact your local country contact:

Ashiana Shah; Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)

Email: fcoss@connect.com.fj and ashiana_s@hotmail.com

People applying from: Kiribati, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands. Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.

Katrina Juliet Esera-Take, Samoa Umbrella of NGOs (SUNGO)

Email: sungotraining@lesamoa.net

People applying from Fiji, Tonga, Niue and Samoa.

Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Civil Society Forum Tonga (CSFT)
Email: csft@kalianet.to
People applying from Samoa, Fiji and Tonga.

Henry Vila, Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO)
Email: vango@vanuatu.com.vu
People applying from Solomon Islands and Fiji

Tony Wale, Development Services Exchange (DSE)
Email: teamleader@dse.org.sb
People applying from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Nauru.

or PIANGO's Programme Manager - Capacity Building, Bakanebo Tamaroa on
bakanebo@piango.net or piango@connect.com.fj

4. Pacific Donor and Funding News

Asian Development Bank (ADB): www.adb.org

4 April 2007 - ADB Communicates Offer of Support, Following Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in Solomon Islands

Following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck the Solomon Islands on 2 April, ADB has communicated its offer of support to the Solomon Islands Government. ADB is coordinating closely with its development partners to mobilize resources and expertise needed to restore essential services to the affected areas of Western and Choiseul Provinces. ADB has conveyed condolences to the Solomon Islands Government.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11719-solomon-islands-tsunamis-responses/>

16 April 2007 - ADB Asked to Assist Solomon Islands Government in Coordinating Recovery Process after Tsunami

In the aftermath of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, people are starting to talk about reconstruction of their communities. "Sound infrastructure is vital to bringing normality back to peoples' lives," said Solomon Islands Finance Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo. "We want to see economic activity flourishing in the west once again," he said.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11749-solomon-islands-tsunamis/>

16 April 2007 - ADB President Makes First Visit to PNG

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda met with Papua New Guinea Deputy Prime Minister Don Polye, government ministers, and other senior government officials during his first visit to the country, as part of efforts to further strengthen ADB's already solid relationship with PNG.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11755-papua-new-guinea-developments/>

19 April 2007 - ADB, Microsoft Forge Partnership to Promote ICT in Asia and the Pacific

ADB and Microsoft Corp. have forged a partnership to enable countries in the Asia Pacific region to benefit from new opportunities created by Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), which ADB views as a critical component in ensuring sustainable economic growth in the region. "In the Asia and Pacific region, concerns are mounting over the growing 'digital divide,' the difference between those developing member countries of the ADB that have the capacity and resources to access ICT and those that do not," said ADB Vice President C. Lawrence Greenwood, Jr.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11769-microsoft-forge-partnership/>

AusAID: www.ausaid.gov.au

2 April 2007 - Australia Assists Solomon Islands in Response to Earthquake-Tsunami

The Australian Government has made an initial offer of up to \$2 million in emergency and reconstruction assistance to the Solomon Islands Government following the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=4503_4991_3576_2680_3727

10 April 2007 - Australia Provides More Support to Solomon Islands

Australia is providing additional assistance to Solomon Islands to support critical sanitation needs, deliver further medical relief and rebuild health infrastructure following last week's earthquake and tsunami. This brings Australia's immediate humanitarian assistance to around \$3 million.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=2487_6962_835_600_2821

European Commission in the Pacific: www.delfji.ec.europa.eu

Quarterly Review of EU Activities in Fiji and the Pacific - January to March 2007

Including EPA meeting, more EU funding for the Cook Islands, International Women's Day and the EU Celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

Further information at <http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/whatsnew/News@EU%20FJ%20Jan-Mar07.doc>

NZAID: www.nzaid.govt.nz

3 April 2007 - Emergency supplies, \$500,000 for Solomons

New Zealand is making an initial \$500,000 contribution to the Solomon Islands as well as providing humanitarian supplies in the wake of yesterday's earthquake and tsunami, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced.

Further information at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28903>

13 April 2007 - Aid for Fijian children in wake of floods

New Zealand will provide \$209,000 (\$F240,000) to support families struggling to recover after serious flooding in Fiji, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced. "The recent floods on the main island of Vanua Levu caused an estimated \$F15 million in damage," Mr Peters said.

Further information at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28971>

Oxfam Australia: www.oxfam.org.au

3 April 2007 - Oxfam Australia aid worker leads response to tsunami in the Solomon Islands

A disaster management expert working with Oxfam Australia in the Solomon Islands is helping to coordinate the relief effort following the tsunami that is feared to have claimed dozens of lives

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=339>

18 April 2007 - Oxfam Solomons response in full swing

Thanks to the generous support of major institutional donors and the corporate sector in Australia and New Zealand, international aid agency Oxfam continues its humanitarian response to meet the needs of the thousands of people left homeless in the aftermath of the Solomon Islands earthquake and tsunami.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=343>

Oxfam New Zealand: www.oxfam.org.nz

19 April 2007 - Oxfam action against unfair trade deals between Europe and the Pacific

Oxfam campaigners performed a protest stunt in Wellington city as part of an international call to action against unfair trade deals the European Union is imposing on the Pacific. The European Commission (EC) is pushing the world's poorest countries, including those in the Pacific, to sign Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU by the end of the year.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1427>

Rotary International: www.rotary.org

Call for Applications: Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program - Strengthening Today's Leaders to Build Peace

The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies (RPCS) Program announces a call for applications for the January 2008 program session. The deadline for district-endorsed applications to be submitted to The Rotary Foundation for this session is 1 July 2007. The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program is a professional development program held in Bangkok, Thailand through which up to 30 participants embark on three months of intensive study instructed by some of the leading specialists in the peace and conflict resolution fields. The customised curriculum has been crafted by specialists in the field to capitalise on the experience of both participants and lecturers while balancing theoretical and practical learning.

Further information at <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/rpcsp/index.html> or contact Jenn Weidman, Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program Specialist, at jenn.weidman@rotary.org

The World Bank: www.worldbank.org

15 April 2007 - Poverty Drops Below 1 Billion, says World Bank

Global poverty rates continued to fall in the first four years of the 21st century according to new estimates published in the World Development Indicators 2007. The proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day fell to 18.4 percent in 2004, leaving an estimated 985 million people living in extreme poverty. By comparison, the total number of extreme poor was 1.25 billion in 1990. Two-dollar-a-day poverty rates are falling too, but an estimated 2.6 billion people, almost half the population of the developing world, were still living below that level in 2004.

Further information at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21299914~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

World Challenge

Shell World Challenge 2007 - applications close 6 May 2007

Now in its third year, World Challenge 2007, in association with Shell, is a global competition that seeks out projects and businesses that not only make a profit, but also put something back into the community. In association with Shell World Challenge is all about rewarding individuals or groups that truly make a difference through enterprise and innovation at a grass roots level. The prize: The winner will receive a US\$20,000 from Shell to benefit their project. One representative from each of the three final projects will be flown to The Hague, The Netherlands to attend the award ceremony in December 2007.

Further information at <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk>

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

DAWN Pacific and FWRM announce feminist advocacy training programme, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 16-21 July 2007

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) Pacific and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) are seeking young feminist activists (aged 25-35) from the Pacific who are already engaged, or have a strong interest, in global advocacy work for gender justice, and who wish to sharpen their analytical capabilities and advocacy skills. Participants will be trained by experienced feminist advocates who will assist them to understand the changing terrain of the struggle for gender justice. They will be exposed to the ideas and work of other activist scholars, and will examine critical issues under the themes of *Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights* and *Political Restructuring & Social Transformation* in the context of current debates at the regional and global level, and inter-linkages with issues under other themes. The course will involve lectures and discussions, case study presentations and analysis, organised debates and role-plays, and practical skill building exercises in research, analysis and advocacy. Up to 25 participants will be admitted to the programme this year. Applications close on 18 May 2007.

Further information and application form, email info@fwrp.org.fj

6. CROP Agencies News

Forum Fisheries Agency: www.ffa.int

11 April 2007 - 64th Annual Meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC)

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) will be hosted by New Zealand and held in Wellington. Related PNA meetings will precede the FFC meeting. These meetings will bring together FFA member country representatives and advisers from supporting governments, organisations and institutions working in the Western Pacific region. The enclosed information aims to provide basic information to participants to make the event as enjoyable as possible.

Further information: <http://www.ffa.int/node/859>

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS): www.forumsec.org

3 April 2007 - Forum Assists Tsunami Victims in Solomon Islands

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is to make available FJD\$20,000 from the Regional Natural Disaster Relief Fund to the Solomon Islands following the loss of lives and property as a result of the tsunami generated by a large underwater earthquake in the western region of the country yesterday.

Further information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/forum-assists-tsunami-victims-solomons.html>

25 April 2007 - Regional Conference on Women, Peace and Human Security

"Be assured some of us are champions of your cause and we are committed to advocating and raising women, peace and security issues at the regional level." These were the words of His Excellency Peter Eafeare, Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Fiji and Pacific Island Forum Chair, speaking at the opening of the Regional Conference on Women, Peace and Human Security at the Tokatoka Resort in Nadi on 24 April 2007.

Further information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/regional-conference-on-women-peace-human-security-.html>

SOPAC (Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission): www.sopac.org

24 April 2007 - Pacific Ministers unite to tackle regional energy challenges

For the first time in more than a decade, energy ministers from around the Pacific, including Fiji, Kiribati, FSM and Samoa, have gathered in the Cook Islands this week to discuss critical energy security challenges facing the region. The two-day (25-26 April) Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting will involve 12 Pacific Island Ministers, more than 60 regional energy officials and observers, New Zealand's Minister of Energy David Parker, and the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Bob Baldwin.

Further information at http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=56

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC): www.spc.int

SPC invites NGOs to Tobacco Conference

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Health Pacific Lifestyle is inviting NGO delegates currently working in tobacco control to the Oceania Tobacco Control Workshop that will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. SPC is offering travel grants (value of \$2,500 for registration, travel and accommodation) for 2 Pacific NGO delegates. Interested candidates are invited to write to Jeanie McKenzie, JeanieM@spc.int the Tobacco and Alcohol Adviser.

17 April 2007 - 2007 PIJAAG summit on HIV: Putting the pieces together

The Pacific Island Jurisdictions AIDS Action Group (PIJAAG) ended its three-day summit on HIV last week with a groundbreaking meeting between United States and international Pacific-based agencies working in HIV and AIDS and their country counterparts. The theme of the conference, 'Pacific in action: Putting the pieces together', called on participants to strengthen their response to HIV by sharing different perspectives and strategies on HIV prevention, counseling, testing, care and treatment.

Further information at http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-April/000057.html

18 April 2007 - The sea - a rich source of job opportunities for the Pacific

Training in maritime law is opening up new job opportunities for Pacific Islanders. Five Samoans have completed training in this field, which is so specialised that only a few dozen Pacific Islanders have qualifications in it. The nine-month training course at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta is helping to build local capacity within the region.

Further information at http://www.spc.int/mrd/highlights_maritime_jobatsea.htm

SPREP (Pacific Regional Environment Programme): www.sprep.org

17 April 2007 - Pacific climate change features in UN Security Council debate

The United Nations Security Council held its first-ever debate on the impact of climate change on security on 17 April 2007. This was prompted by recently published reports by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) which concludes that climate change is unequivocal and that natural resources will become scarcer in the coming years. Climate change may irreversibly alter the face of the planet and will have major implications for the Pacific.

Further information at http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=351

2 April 2007 - Pacific Future Environment Leaders gather in Samoa for skills building workshop

More than 40 young people from 17 Pacific islands countries and territories gather in Apia this week to attend the Pacific Future Environment Leaders Forum jointly facilitated by SPREP, UNEP, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Pacific Youth Environment Network. The Future Leaders Forum is a leadership programme designed to build the skills of young people working in the environment sector across the Pacific.

Further information at http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=349

7. Other News

Australian Council for International Development (ACFID): www.acfid.asn.au

19 April 2007 - Release of the 2007 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific

The United Nations economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has launched their 2007 Economic and Social Survey, entitled "Surging Ahead in Uncertain Times". This is the region's oldest and most comprehensive annual review of economic and social developments. The forecast for 2007 has the external environment to be less favourable, mainly due to the slowing of the US economy and a moderate decline in global electronics demand, but sees continued dynamism despite risks of further oil price shocks, and a sharp depreciation of the US dollar.

Further information at <http://www.acfid.asn.au/release-of-the-2007-economic-and-social-survey-of-asia-and-the-pacific>

4 April 2007 - Pacific Islanders with Disabilities face negative attitudes, prejudices, ignorance, apathy

Pacific Disability Forum Chairperson, Ms Tewai Halatau, speaking at a UN-backed Pacific-wide meeting in Nadi, emphasised the need to strengthen partnerships between governments, civil society, disability self-help organisations and the wider community to create a society that is inclusive to people with disabilities.

Further information at <http://www.acfid.asn.au/pacific-islanders-with-disabilities-face-negative-attitudes-prejudices-ignorance-apathy/>

Council for International Development (CID): www.cid.org.nz

3 April 2007 - NGOs respond to Solomon Islands tsunami

Reports coming in from the Solomon Islands indicate that emergency supplies in the country are insufficient to meet the immediate needs of the people following yesterday's massive earthquake and tsunami says the Council for International Development (CID) Executive Director Rae Julian.

Further information at <http://www.cid.org.nz/news/nr1176253613.html>

IPS Publications

Call for manuscripts

IPS Publications at the University of the South Pacific (USP) is currently seeking details of high quality manuscripts for possible publication in the latter part of 2008 and 2009. IPS publishes books related to all aspects of Pacific life and culture - particularly those written by Pacific Islanders - in order to ensure that traditional knowledge is not lost and to contribute alternative views to international debate. Authors do not need to be associated with USP. To have your work considered, send an 800-word (max) précis of the work, including its topic, approach, expected length (word count), place in the body of similar literature, originality, target audience, author details etc. to editorips@usp.ac.fj. Do not send unsolicited manuscripts. Currently, IMPS Publications is particularly interested in works in the areas of art/craft, architecture, economics, the environment, health, women, youth. However, works on other areas will be considered.

Islands Business: www.islandsbusiness.com

April 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. April edition includes Can the Forum expel Fiji?, Telecommunications and ICANN, Chinese businesses, and Health: a vision to restore vision.

Further information at http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/

PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Partnership Project

PeaceWomen Across the Globe has launched a Partnership Project, and is now inviting community groups and organisations to work with us to challenge the way our communities and our leaders approach security and peace, and help to make visible more women who are peacebuilders. Becoming a Partner opens up opportunities for public discussions and debate, learning, public advocacy and action-based networking. Most importantly by becoming a Partner, more of the important peacework of women will be brought to light; the sort of work which has sustained communities, and created and protected life, often without thanks and at personal cost. Further information at www.1000peacewomen.org or email the pacific team at pacificwomen@unwired.com.fj

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) United States

Paul Getty Award for Conservation Leadership - nomination deadline 15 May 2007

Nominations are welcome for scientists who have made recent and significant contributions to biodiversity conservation through their research and other efforts. Nominees may be from any part of the world. However, preference will be given to scientists from developing countries. Deadline: May 15, 2007. Email: gettyaward@wwfus.org

8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

May

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
30 Apr – 4 May	PIANGO / UNITEC	GDP - Not-for-Profit Accounting and Financial Management. Fiji
2-3 May	SPREP	PILN invasive species action planning workshop in the Marshall Islands
4 – 7 May	ADB	ADB 40 th Annual Meeting, Kyoto, Japan
9 – 10 May	WTO	WTO General Council
14 – 18 May	PIFS	Pacific ACP Trade Ministers Meeting, Nadi, Suva
14 – 18 May	PIANGO / UNITEC	GDP - Social Policy, Social Change and NFP Organisations. PNG
21 – 26 May		2007 Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) workshops and biennial convention hosted and organised by Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI). Honiara, Solomon Islands
23 May	CIVICUS	CIVICUS AGNA AGM, Glasgow
23 – 27 May	CIVICUS	CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow
27 May – 31 May	SPREP	Planning Meeting on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Arctic and SIDS, Belize
27 May – 1 June	SPC	10th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women & 3rd Women's Ministerial Meeting, Noumea, New Caledonia
28 May – 1 June	FFA	FFA Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting, Wellington, NZ

June

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
6 – 8 June	WTO	G8 Summit
11 – 12 June	PIFS	Heads of CROP Meeting, Suva, Fiji
18 – 29 June	WTO	Human Rights Council, fifth session, Geneva
27 June – 2 July	PIANGO	PIMER 3, Suva, Fiji

Future

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
8 – 19 July	East-West Center	Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program, Honolulu, Hawaii
10 - 12 Jul	Forum Secretariat	Forum Economic Ministerial Meeting, Koror, Palau
August	PRNGO	4 th Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
11-12 October	CID	CID AGM
12 – 15 October	PIANGO	CSO Forum
15 – 19 October	SPREP	8 th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Alotau, PNG
19 – 21 October	WTO	2007 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund
24 October	SPTO	UNESCAP Tourism and Poverty Alleviation Workshop
4 - 20 Dec	WTO	Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France

Note: Further information is available at the following websites:

ADB - <http://www.adb.org/News/calendar.asp>

East-West Center - <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/events-ce.asp>

Forum Fisheries Agency - <http://www.ffa.int/event>

Forum Secretariat - <http://www.forumsec.org/fj/> -> Events

SPREP - <http://www.sprep.org/> -> Events

WTO - <http://www.wto.org/> -> Events Calendar

9. About PIANGO, Suggestions / Feedback

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

The closing date for article submissions for the May e-Update is Tuesday 29 May 2007. Article submissions should be brief and text only. Please email to piango@connect.com.fj

About PIANGO

The Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGO focal points or coordinating bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLUs) based in 21 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. PIANGO's primary role is to be a catalyst for collective action,

to facilitate and support coalitions and alliances on issues of common concern, and to strengthen the influence and impact of NGO efforts in the region

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National Members

Member contact details can be found on the PIANGO website www.piango.org

Aotearoa / NZ - ANGOA
Australia - ACFID
Cook Islands - CIANGO
Fiji - FCOSS
Kiribati - KANGO
Micronesia (FSM) - FANGO
Nauru - NIANGO
Niue - NIANGO
PNG (interim) - MNCL
Samoa - SUNGO
Solomon Islands - DSE
Tahiti - Hiti Tau
Tonga - CSFT
Tuvalu - TANGO
Vanuatu - VANGO

Interim Members

Bougainville - Nikana Ma'atara
East Timor - CSCBF
Guam - Sanctuary Inc
Palau - PCAA
Wallis and Futuna - ASCV
West Papua

Observers

American Samoa
Hawaii
Marshall Islands

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Archive

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