

# PIANGO

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

August 2007

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## 1. Secretariat Briefs

### *Stakeholder Relations*

Colleen Peacock-Taylor of the Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) and based in Nadi, visited PIANGO to discuss the work of APTC. Plans are that APTC will twin up with technical and vocational providers in the various Pacific countries to offer what is believed to be TAFE level learning programmes. PIANGO welcomes a new provider to up-skill Pacific learners.

Dr Joanna of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission met with PIANGO to discuss the proposed setting up of a regional unit in PIFS to promote human rights work in the region. PIANGO welcomed the mission and the plans as it would further support civil society work to protect and promote human rights and support related NGO networks in the region.

The Executive Director (ED) made a 3 day duty travel visit to ASCV, the PIANGO NLU in Wallis and Futuna. On return the ED presented a brief report on the visit to staff and Pacific Trainers who were attending a regional material production workshop at PIANGO. The ED was unable to visit Futuna as the one inter island plane was grounded. However major findings and observations reported by the ED follows: Wallis and Futuna is 'so close yet so far' from the Pacific, the plane ride is one hour twenty minutes from Nadi, the culture, language, traditional practices, social system, settlement pattern, design and materials of traditional houses, dietary patterns and semi-subsistence economy are very similar to Tongan and Fijian but have a different colonial heritage. NGOs in Wallis are community based and leadership is based on traditional position in the community. Wallis is a social hierarchal system of chiefs and commoners but social mobility unlike Tongans and Fijians, is based on merit and the people vote their representatives to the faipule or the Council of Chiefs. The PIANGO NLU, ASCV is a community based NGO with programmes focusing on culture and sports. Programmes for youth and women are part of the ASCV activities. ASCV has been the PIANGO NLU since 1999 when they applied at the PIANGO Council in Mele village, Vanuatu.

Two members of the EU regional monitoring team, visited PIANGO to discuss regional civil society engagement in EU funded activities especially those funded through PIFS and CROP agencies under EDF 9. PIANGO informed the team that there is no window for regional NGOs under the EDF9 but national NGOs have access to NSA funding under the country programme.

Planning and arrangements for the Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2007, 12-15 October, Nukualofa, Tonga, are being finalised. CSFT is tirelessly working towards finalising the on-the-ground plans for accommodation, venue etc. For those wishing to register please visit the PIANGO website and download the registration form. Send completed forms to [sainimili@piango.net](mailto:sainimili@piango.net). Please indicate if you need accommodation.

CIVICUS senior staff, Claire Doube, will address the Pacific CSO Forum in Tonga. A CIVICUS membership meeting will also take place during the CSO Forum. Clare is in charge of the Civil Society Watch programme of CIVICUS.

The Pacific CSO Forum 2007 Programme is available on the PIANGO website.

Other side events to Pacific CSO Forum 2007 in Nukualofa: PIANGO Board meeting 9-10 October, Pacific Women's Forum organised by PACFAW; Pacific Youth Forum organised by TNYC and SPC Youth section; Tonga Disability Forum organised by CSFT; Pacific Self Determination Mini Forum on 11th October; PIANGO membership meeting evening of 11th October; NGO Media Dialogue hosted by FSPI on evening of Saturday 13th October; CIVICUS Pacific Membership Meeting on evening of Sunday 14th October; Pacific GDP Graduation scheduled for 4pm-6pm, Monday 15th October.

PIANGO met with the cultural section of the French Embassy to seek support for its bilingual policy. Pascal Dayez-Burgeon, the Consular of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, welcome the proposal from PIANGO.

## ***Information Sharing***

The Information sharing programme is in the process of producing its year planner for 2008. NLUs are reminded to send in dates of confirmed activities for 2008 to the secretariat so it can be included in the planner. For more information please contact [katabwena@piango.net](mailto:katabwena@piango.net)

As part of PIANGO's contribution to FCOSS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the Information Sharing programme has developed a feature story on the celebrations that will be published in the local media. It will be distributed to all NLUs and stakeholders for information and relevant dissemination. For more information contact [katabwena@piango.net](mailto:katabwena@piango.net)

## ***Capacity Building***

### **GDP Kastomization**

From 13th – 17th August PIANGO hosted a regional workshop on customizing NGO training material based on the Graduate Diploma Not-For-Profit Sector. There were 4 GDP courses customized in this workshop including Governance, Culture & Values, Social Audit and Community Funding. PIANGO invited 4 Lead Pacific Trainers in these areas including Solomon Duru from Fiji, John Liu from Vanuatu, Kathy Solomon from Vanuatu and Ruta Sinclair from Samoa. Garth Nowland from Unitec was our facilitator for this workshop. The outcome of this workshop is the draft customized training manual that includes lesson plans and activities, and is expected to be submitted to the PIANGO Secretariat by mid-September 2007.

### **4th Multi-Stakeholders' Workshop (MSW) Preparation**

The 4th MSW Steering Committee has met twice in preparation for the upcoming MSW to be held in Tokatoka Hotel, Nadi from 12th – 13th September 2007. The theme of this year's MSW is "Strengthening Civil Society towards; Self-Reliance and Self-Sustainable Development". About 30 participants from regional, national organisations, donors and other development partners are expected to participate in this 4th Multi-Stakeholders' Workshop.

## **UNDP – Pacific Centre: Consultation Workshop on UNDP Capacity Assessment & Development Framework and Capacity Building of CSOs: Advancing the Realization of the MDGs in the Pacific**

A workshop on the above was conducted 31st August at the YWCA building on the above. About 20 participants from Pacific Regional NGOs and some Fiji NGOs were involved. The outcome of the workshop is to work on the Terms of Reference for the Capacity Assessment of CSOs in the Pacific region. Participants were divided into 2 groups to discuss and have inputs into the following; the background of the Capacity assessment, Objectives, Scope of Services, Methodology, Expected Outputs, Timetable and Schedule of Deliverables, Coordination and Management arrangements and Tender Requirements. A follow up workshop will be called by UNDP as soon as the final TOR is done.

### **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](mailto:piango@connect.com.fj)

## **2. Pacific NGO Briefs**

### ***Federated States of Micronesia - FANGO***

- The FANGO's "strengthening information and communication clearinghouse capacity" (SICC) project funded by NZAID's regional good governance scheme will be transmitted to NZAID at the end of this month. The SICC project has immensely improved FANGO's public image nationally and greatly enhanced communication and alliance building. As a result, FANGO is receiving regular requests for membership, partnership and participation in key consultations and dialogues.
- FANGO NGO Directory is completed and will be ready for distribution to key partners and stakeholders beginning September 2007.
- FANGO Media Advocacy Training. A 2-day media advocacy training for partner NGO information and management staff was conducted on 9-10 July 2007 at the SPC Conference Center in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM. The media advocacy training was conducted by the SPC Media Publication Manager, in partnership with the SPC DSAP Micronesia Program. Ten (10) participants attended. They learned skills in writing effective news release, using the media as an advocacy tool and simple newsletter publication.
- 1st Biannual FANGO Executive Board Meeting was held 6-8 August 2007. The meeting focused on four key areas: organizational sustainability, amendment of the FANGO articles of incorporation, 2007-2008 budget and programs and partnership building. Seventeen Board Resolutions were adopted to guide 2007-2008 implementation activities and to improve relationships among NGOs and Governments.
- FANGO Chief Executive Officer resigned to take up the FSM Pacific Plan Desk Officer contract. The volunteer chief executive officer (CEO) of FANGO has accepted an independent contract to take up the Pacific Plan desk officer (PPDO) post in FSM for the next 12 months. The PPDO is contracted to promote the Pacific Plan in the nation. The FANGO Executive Board (FEB) is working with the PPDO to secure funding to hire replacement staff to ensure FANGO operation and programs are not disrupted.
- Request for FANGO Membership is gaining momentum. FANGO has received ten new requests for membership since the 2nd FSM NGO Executive Heads Forum and National Consultation on the Pacific Plan. Registration forms were disseminated to these organizations for completion. These organizations will be included in the FANGO 2008 NGO Directory.

## ***Fiji - FCOSS***

### **Social Forum: Trade, Social and Community Justice – 11th and 12th May, 2007**

Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) is grateful to the European Union and the AusAID funded Australia/Fiji Community Justice Sector Program for providing funding support to accomplish the objectives of the social forum. The forum consisted of a full day programme incorporating Guest Speakers and Parallel Workshops. Topics discussed included Trade Industry; Business & Wealth Creation; Commerce, consumers and justice; and Social Impact of Trade & Business. A total of sixty four (64) individuals took part in the Forum and who indicated in their evaluation that they had benefited from the Forum and the activities. For more information please contact [iris@fcoss.org](mailto:iris@fcoss.org) or [www.fcoss.org/programme/social/forum](http://www.fcoss.org/programme/social/forum)

### **Baseline study on impact of Social Impact Assessment of Economic Partnership Agreement [EPA] – 31st May, 2007 to 27th July, 2007.**

“From Lome to Cotonou and the Economic Partnership Agreement” and from FCOSS Social Forum to Baseline Social Impact Assessment Study. The main aim of Social Impact Assessment was to identify the potential social implications as result of the implementation of EPA on P(ACP)S and provide mitigating policy measures that would cushion the likely impact. Participatory approach was used for consultations and interviews to gather data to meet the objectives of this survey. Total of almost 500 individual representing various sector organization were consulted and interviewed for Baseline Social Impact Assessment study. The baseline study compilation discusses the potential impact and risk of EPA, suggestive mitigating measures and gender impact of restructuring, need for development assistance and EPA vs WTO and other general comments. [ambalika@fcoss.org](mailto:ambalika@fcoss.org)

### **Basic Quality Care for Senior Citizens, June, 2007**

Title: HelpAge – Basic Quality Care for the Elderly. “ To Improve and Enhance the Basic Quality Care for the Elderly in Fiji”, The basic quality care for senior citizens course were attended by 22 participants in the vicinity central eastern. The specific objectives were to; 1) Increase the current number of certified home caregivers on Basic Quality Care for Senior Citizens, 2) provide training on of In Family and In Community Care for Senior Citizens Days, 3) promote better health and living conditions for the elderly, 4) enable participants to teach elderly and his/her family on self care, 5) enable the community to develop awareness on the lifestyle on the elderly as being distinct from general health care of the people under sixty years of age and 6) enable participants to be aware of the processes of ageing affecting the elderly.

For more FCOSS news and to join their distribution list, please contact Ben at [Ben@fcoss.org](mailto:Ben@fcoss.org)

## ***Samoa - SUNGO***

### **Safe Games Campaign underway for SPG**

As part of its efforts in hosting the best South Pacific Games ever, a Safe Games Campaign is currently underway, aiming to focus on the key points of promoting a focus on the Games, and not engaging in unsafe (unprotected sex) behaviour. The campaign was officially launched last year, during the celebration of the World AIDS Day (Dec 1) after more than 6 months of preparation and planning. Implemented under the guidance of the Safe Games Committee, the campaign consists of 3 main components namely, (1) media and communications, (2) a Safe Games Kit, (3) Peer Education and referral services, all of which are carried out during the SPG weeks. UNFPA has also donated more than 50,000 male condoms and 5000 female condoms to ensure no shortage of safe sex information and equipment available to the masses during the Games. The Safe Games Committee comprises of Government and Non-Government entities (Samoa Aids Foundation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development, Samoa Red Cross, Samoa Family Health and SASNOC) working together towards the same goal. The Committee wishes to thank the sponsors of the Safe Games Campaign,

namely Canada Fund, Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Project, Global Fund, UNFPA, UNAIDS and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) for their support in making this campaign possible. For further information, contact Neli Wightman of the Samoa Aids Foundation, at [nellewightman@hotmail.com](mailto:nellewightman@hotmail.com)

### **SUNGO assists with the set up of an Umbrella Body for American Samoa NGOs.**

The 13 member Coalition on Domestic Violence in American Samoa has agreed to become a full member of the Pacific Island Association of NGOs (PIANGO) and acts as the National Focal Point for American Samoa. However, decision on whether they will open up their doors to other NGOs working in other areas, has yet to be confirmed. This came about following a meeting with SUNGO's Vice President Vaasiliifiti Moelagi Jackson, and CEO, Roina Faatauvaava-Vavatau in early August. According to Roina, one of the outcomes of the third PIMER meeting held in June, was for full members to assist with the set up of umbrella bodies in their neighbouring countries who are interim members and observers in PIANGO. This initiative was seen as more effective given that it's not only cheaper, but there are already connections between the island countries. During the meeting, representatives from SUNGO shared with their American Samoa colleagues, the roles and activities carried out by SUNGO, the advantages of having an umbrella body, and the connection of their roles with PIANGO. Consequently, Roina said that the Coalition was overwhelmed with the sharing of knowledge and experiences, therefore, agreed to register as a member of PIANGO. SUNGO offered to assist American Samoa's set up in terms of capacity building, either through trainings delivered by SUNGO such as the In-Country Training Program by the Samoan Government and UNITEC course by PIANGO, or staff attachments to SUNGO. As of to date, American Samoa is one of the three island countries, that are observers in PIANGO. Despite American Samoa being the birth country of PIANGO's set up.

### **SUNGO participated in UNITAR Regional Training Programme.**

SUNGO CEO, Roina Faatauvaava-Vavatau represented SUNGO in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) training to enhance the conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities of Indigenous people representatives of the Pacific. The workshop was held from 8 – 14 August in Canberra Australia, which saw a number of presentations and discussion on UN Human Rights, particularly on Indigenous Rights. One of the common issues faced by indigenous groups is the land rights and political unrest of many pacific island countries. More than 30 participants from the Pacific, including participants from NZ, Hawaii, and within Australia participated in the training programme.

### **Volunteerism UNITEC course – 20 – 24 August 2007**

The third course for the Graduate Diploma for Not for Profit Management, Volunteerism, Employee Motivation and Management, was conducted in the third week of August, by UNITEC trainers, Margy Jean Malcolm and Petra van den Munckhof, with pacific co-trainer, Ruta Sinclair. More than 15 participants, including participants from Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, were able to participate and complete the 5 day course. Volunteerism is all about recruiting, motivating, empowering, managing and retaining volunteers and paid staff in our organisations.

### **SUNGO participates in South Pacific Games.**

As the host for the XIII South Pacific Games, everyone in Samoa is participating fully or partly in various areas. SUNGO members are also engaged in their own or collective promotional works during the games. Apart from the Samoa Aids Foundation, the Samoa Hotel Association (SHA), is also engaged in supporting the Event Polynesia Village, an initiative by the tourism industry with support from the private sector, to promote our culture, Samoa trade and tourism. It is also set up to provide a hospitable environment for visitors and athletes participating in the SPG, to meet each other and get a first hand experience of the Samoan culture. The village opens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, until the end of the SPG. The final days of the SPG Torch Relay, also saw one of SUNGO staff, carrying the torch, not counting other members who were also involved in the relay, in various parts of the country. SUNGO was invited by UNDP, to represent the Samoan NGOs, and one of the eight Millennium Development Goals.

## **Solomon Islands - DSE**

### **Members Information Forum**

DSE held the Members Information Forum on the 9 August 2007. The forum took place at the DSE conference room. AusAid update the members and other NGOs that the Community Sector and Civil Society Engagement Strategy will be finalized at the end of August 2007.

### **DSE signs Partnership Agreement with CSP**

A partnership agreement was signed in July between the Development Services Exchange (DSE) and Community Sector Program (CSP). DSE board and staff welcomed the partnership agreement as it strengthens the relationship between Non-Government Organisation (NGO). DSE is now discussing the collaborative implementation of programs with CSP to strengthen DSE's programs in the provinces.

### **Conference Hall for DSE**

The DSE board has agreed to build for a conference hall. The conference hall will provide a venue for NGOs and other development partners to use for conferences and meetings. The DSE office is seeking funding from EU to build the conference hall.

For more DSE news and to join their distribution list, please contact the DSE Networking Officer at [networking@dse.org.sb](mailto:networking@dse.org.sb)

## **3. GDP Courses & Dates**

### **Community Funding and Entrepreneurism: Vanuatu 17-21 September**

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.

### **Facilitation, Small Team Leadership, Negotiation: Tonga 15 - 19 October**

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. Theories and models are actively tested and the learning is designed for students to develop skills and strategies that can be applied directly to their organisation.

### **Governance: Solomon Islands 3 - 7 September; Fiji 8 - 12 October**

This course enables students to clearly distinguish between governance and management, to critically evaluate the relationship between the two roles and to understand the complex functions of a not-for-profit governing body. On successful completion students will be able to work effectively with and within the governing body of a not-for-profit organisation.

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/capacitybuilding.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](mailto:fcoss@connect.com.fj) and [ashiana\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sungotraining@lesamoa.net)  
People applying from Fiji, Tonga, Niue and Samoa.

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

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

Tony Wale, Development Services Exchange (DSE)  
Email: [teamleader@dse.org.sb](mailto: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](mailto:bakanebo@piango.net) or [piango@connect.com.fj](mailto:piango@connect.com.fj)

## 4. Pacific Donor and Funding News

### Asian Development Bank (ADB) [www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

#### **14 August 2007 - ADB Helps to Address HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea's Rural Areas**

The ADB's HIV Prevention and Control in Rural Development Enclaves project has made significant progress following the signing of agreements with two more private sector operators to improve primary health care and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention facilities.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12091-png/>

#### **21 August 2007 - Papua New Guinea, ADB and Japan Partner to Promote Good Governance**

The Government of Japan and the ADB will assist Papua New Guinea in promoting good governance by helping the Pacific island nation re-build public financial management institutions and systems. This partnership includes a \$500,000 technical assistance grant expected to be implemented over 12 months, commencing in July 2007 and finishing in June 2008.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12109-papua-new-guinea-governances-projects/>

#### **22 August 2007 - Japan, ADB and PNG Partner to Rehabilitate Key Highway System**

The Government of Japan and the ADB are assisting Papua New Guinea in implementing a master plan to help rehabilitate vital links along a key highway system in the country, improving access to market centres in rural areas.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12118-papua-new-guinea-roads-projects/>

#### **27 August 2007 - ADB Supporting Microfinance in PNG during Pacific Microfinance Week**

The ADB-supported Microfinance and Employment Project has entered a new phase with the Papua New Guinea Government announcing its decision to establish a new microfinance bank. The announcement follows a highly successful pilot project.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/media/articles/2007/12125-papua-new-guineas-microfinancing/>

**AusAID** [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)

**9 August 2007 - Australia Supporting the Asia-Pacific's Best and Brightest**

Many of the Asia-Pacific leaders of tomorrow were in Canberra to receive special recognition as part of a major Australian Leadership Awards initiative. Over 150 current and emerging leaders from 23 countries are attending the inaugural Australian Leadership Awards Conference.

*Further information at:*

[http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=3594\\_171\\_7417\\_3326\\_1276](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=3594_171_7417_3326_1276)

**16 August 2007 - Australia and Tonga Sign Performance Partnership**

Australia and Tonga signed a Performance Partnership to assist the Government of Tonga in implementing its program of essential economic and public sector reforms.

*Further information at:*

[http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=8023\\_4375\\_8606\\_4480\\_8873](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=8023_4375_8606_4480_8873)

**Commonwealth Foundation** [www.commonwealthfoundation.com](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com)

**23 August 2007 - Registration for People's Forum is now open**

Registration for the largest gathering of civil society on the Commonwealth calendar opened on August 1. The Commonwealth People's Forum, organised by the Commonwealth Foundation, will take place from November 18 -22, 2007 at the Africana Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. More than 500 delegates of more than 200 civil society organisations are expected to attend this year's CPF, which will be based on the theme, Realising People's Potential.

*Further information at:* <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=335>

**European Commission's Delegation for the Pacific**

**3 August 2007 - EC Statement on EPA**

The European Commission wishes to correct the serious misrepresentations which have been made of the EU's position on the link between its planned development funding to the Pacific and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) now being negotiated between the EU and the 14 Pacific ACP States.

*Further information at:*

[http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/press\\_release/EC%20Media%20Statement%20on%20EPA%20030807.doc](http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/press_release/EC%20Media%20Statement%20on%20EPA%20030807.doc)

**Oak Institute - Nomination for the 2008 Oak Fellowship**

The Oak Institute at Colby College in the USA has called for nominations for the 2008 Oak Fellowship.

The Fellowship will be offered to one human rights practitioner working as a journalist outside of the USA. According to the website, "Possible areas of human rights activity may include, but are not limited to: racial or ethnic discrimination; workers rights in both formal and informal markets; land and resource struggles; environmental human rights; victims of state or organized violence; gender and social exclusion; gay, lesbian, or transgender sexual discrimination; children's rights; rights of displaced peoples and refugees; rights to religious freedom; or freedom of information." The fellowship will offer a semester in residence at Colby, a \$32,000 stipend, plus medical insurance, transportation, housing and utilities.

*Further information at:* [http://www.colby.edu/academics\\_cs/goldfarb/oak/](http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/goldfarb/oak/)

## **Oxfam New Zealand** [www.oxfam.org.nz](http://www.oxfam.org.nz)

### **3 August 2007 - Europe backs down on Pacific aid conditionality threat**

Oxfam New Zealand expressed relief today that the European Commission (EC) has backed down from its threat to cut EC development aid funds to the region if the Pacific does not conclude the EPA by the end of the year.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1506>

## **Oxford Internet Institute**

The Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford) invites applications from the global South to fill two places in its Civil Society Practitioners Programme, who wish to visit the Institute for a period of six weeks between February and December 2008, to undertake research concerning the social impact of the Internet and related ICTs. The successful applicants will receive a subsistence allowance of GBP3800 to cover living and research expenses and travel grant up to GBP1000.

Applications close 26 September 2007

Further information at: <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/cspp/>

## **United Nations Development Programme**

### **Annual Report 2007**

Annual Report publication gives an overview of UNDP, including its operations and resources, and showcases some of our successful programmes on the ground. It is available in English, French and Spanish.

Further information at: <http://www.undp.org:80/publications/annualreport2007/>

## **The World Bank** [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

### **Communications for Sustainable Development Grant**

In December 2007, two COM+ Communication Awards of US\$10,000 will be granted: one for a campaign that communicates science for people and the planet; and another for a climate change campaign. Issued by COM+ and thus backed by its members, the awards recognize the role of communications in attaining sustainable development goals. Nominations are invited through September 30, 2007.

Further information at:

<http://web.worldbank.org:80/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21435219~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

## **5. Pacific Regional NGO News**

### **Greenpeace** [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

#### **16 August 2007 - Pacific Islands drowning due to climate change**

Carteret Islands, off the coast of PNG, are drowning as a result of climate change related sea level rising. This idyllic south pacific paradise is rapidly turning into a climate change disaster site. The combined effects of sea level rising, erosion, storm surges and increased salinity of the soil are making the Carterets uninhabitable.

Further information at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/news-and-events/news/Climate-change/pacific-islands-drowning>

## **Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) [www.rrrt.org](http://www.rrrt.org)**

### **RRRT Pacific Human Rights Awards**

Know of any group making a difference in your community, country or across the region? Each year RRRT seeks nominations and applications for its annual Pacific Human Rights Awards in recognition of Pacific organisations that have helped make our region a better place to live through promoting social and economic justice, defending human rights, promoting respect and understanding, or enhancing the dignity of the poor and disadvantaged. Applications close 9 November 2007.

Further information at: [http://www.rrrt.org/page.asp?active\\_page\\_id=183](http://www.rrrt.org/page.asp?active_page_id=183)

## **WWF [www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org)**

### **14 August 2007 - Post PNG and WWF join forces to save turtles through postal stamps**

Post PNG and conservation organisation WWF have formed an alliance to promote turtle conservation in PNG in a bid to address the rapidly diminishing turtle populations in the country. Post PNG philatelic bureau in conjunction with WWF have produced six stamps featuring the six species of marine turtles found in PNG.

Further information at: [http://www.wwf.org/fiji/current/news/press\\_releases/png/07-08\\_PNG\\_Stamps.cfm](http://www.wwf.org/fiji/current/news/press_releases/png/07-08_PNG_Stamps.cfm)

## **6. CROP Agencies News**

### **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)**

#### **2 August 2007 - Trade and Economic Growth Key Driver for Development**

Trade, and more broadly economic growth, must be a key driver for the region's development. "in a time of relative global prosperity, the Pacific as a region stands to gain much should it be able to capitalise on emerging opportunities that are presented by the opening of market to trade and services," Greg Urwin said at the opening of the Forum Trade Ministers meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/trade-economic-growth-key-driver-development.html>

#### **9 August 2007 - FICs want Review of SPARTECA Rules of Origin**

FICs have called for the review of the SPARTECA Rules of Origin to be done quickly with a view to improving market access for FIC products into Australia and New Zealand. And the review should be done quickly and independent of any consultations pertaining to negotiations on the PACER, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations with Australia and New Zealand.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/fics-want-review-of-sparteca-rules-of-origin-1-1.html>

#### **13 August 2007 - Forum to Commission Study on Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights**

Forum Trade Ministers have requested the PIFS to commission a study on the establishment of a regional institution to advocate for and protect Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as envisaged by Pacific Leaders in the Pacific Plan.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/forum-commission-study-on-traditional-knowledge-ipr.html>

**21 August 2007 - Niue announces its readiness to trade under PICTA**

Niue has announced that it is now ready to trade under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) terms and conditions effective from 1 August 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/niue-ready-trade-under-picta.html>

**SOPAC** [www.sopac.org](http://www.sopac.org)**24 August 2007 - SOPAC Governing Council 36th Annual Session 2007**

The 36th Annual session of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) will be hosted by Tonga in Nuku'alofa from Thursday 22nd to Thursday 29th November 2007 at the Government Conference Centre. The purpose of the Annual Sessions is to bring together member country representatives, advisors from supporting governments, organisations and institutions and, scientists and technicians working in the Pacific Islands region.

Further information at: [http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read\\_article.php?articleId=72](http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=72)

**Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC)** [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)**9 August 2007 - International Youth Day - Young people key to development**

This year's theme, be seen, be heard: youth participation for development, highlights the importance of young people's contribution to development. Dr Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director-General, says that young people represent a significant potential for development in Pacific countries and territories.

Further information at: [http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases\\_lists.spc.int/2007-August/000070.html](http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-August/000070.html)

**27 August 2007 - ICAAP - Married Women are among most vulnerable to HIV**

In the face of gender inequality, married women are most vulnerable to HIV. A lively debate at ICAAP ended in the conclusion that in countries with high levels of gender inequality, such as PNG, the ABC approach on its own - Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condoms - is ineffective in reducing HIV infection.

Further information at: [http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases\\_lists.spc.int/2007-August/000071.html](http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-August/000071.html)

**SPREP (Pacific Regional Environment Programme)** [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)**2 August 2007 - The Green Challenge**

The challenge has been set to plant 2,015 native trees during the XIII South Pacific Games in Samoa. The 'Play it clean and green' campaign will break new ground on 27 August, Day One of the Games, at Tuanaimato Park, next to the athletics site in Faleata. Athletes, visitors and locals alike will have the opportunity to plant a tree for the entire duration of the Games.

Further information at: [http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=366](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=366)

**17 August 2007 - Pacific lessons to help rid our environments of invasive species**

Invasive species are the biggest current threat to island biodiversity. Rats, well-known invasive species, have been responsible for killing off many indigenous birds throughout the Pacific. There are also a lot of invasive plants, of which one of the more commonly known is the Merremia vine that can cause economic losses and is a threat to native forest.

Further information at: [http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=368](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=368)

## 7. Other News

### Australian Development Gateway [www.developmentgateway.com.au](http://www.developmentgateway.com.au)

#### Ask the environment specialist - Dr Kate Duggan

Between 27 August and 10 September Dr Kate Duggan will answer questions on environmental management and natural resource management in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further information at: <http://www.developmentgateway.com.au/jahia/Jahia/pid/4867>

### Islands Business [www.islandsbusiness.com](http://www.islandsbusiness.com)

#### August 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. August edition includes SPG 2007, politics in CNMI, PNG and Solomon Islands and Deep Sea Mining

Further information at: [http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands\\_business/](http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/)

### World Trade Organisation (WTO) [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

#### 17 August 2007 - Completing the Doha Round is a "political must" - Lamy

Director-General Pascal Lamy said today's challenges are "resisting protectionist tendencies, investing in policies which ensure that the benefits of trade are spread fairly among and within countries and investing in a stable multilateral trading system.

Further information at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/sppl\\_e/sppl65\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl65_e.htm)

## 8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
2 – 7 September	PIANGO/Unitec	Governance Course, Solomon Islands
3-5 September	PIFS	Technical Assistance on PICTA Trading Arrangements, Apia, Samoa
8 September	PIANGO / MNCL / Unitec	GDP / MNCL Graduation, PNG
11-14 September	SPREP	18 <sup>th</sup> SPREP meeting of officials, Apia, Samoa
12-13 September	PRNGO	4 <sup>th</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
12-13 September	FFA	Pacific Tuna Forum, Port Moresby, PNG
17-21	PIANGO	GDP Training, New Zealand
19-20 September	ADB	Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Asia and the Pacific, Manila, Philippines
24 September		PPAC Meeting, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
25-26 September	SPREP	Pre-Forum FOC Meeting, Nukualofa, Tonga
27 28 September		Conference on Civil Society and Law Reforms, Port Vila, Vanuatu
28 September	PIFS	Small Islands States (SIS) Officials Meeting,

		Nuku'alofa, Tonga
6-10 October	PIANGO	Board meeting 3/07, Tonga
9-10 October	WTO	WTO General Council
11-12 October	CID	CID AGM
12 – 15 October	PIANGO	Pacific Regional CSO Forum
15 October	PIANGO / Unitec	Pacific GDP Graduation, Nukualofa, Tonga
15 October	PIFS	Small Islands States Leaders' Summit, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
15 – 19 October	SPREP	8 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Alotau, PNG
16 – 17 October	PIFS	Pacific Leaders Forum, Nukualofa, Tonga
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
5 – 10 November	SPC / PIANGO	Workshop for Francophone Farmer's Association, Noumea
18 – 22 November		Commonwealth Peoples Forum, Kampala, Uganda
18 – 23 November		CHOGM, Kampala, Uganda
26-29 November	PIFS	Forum Educational Ministers Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand
3-14 December	UN	Climate Change Conference, Bali, Indonesia
4 - 20 December	WTO	Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France
19-20 December	WTO	WTO General Council

**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/>

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

Forum Secretariat - <http://www.forumsec.org> -> 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 September e-Update is Wednesday 26 September 2007. Article submissions should be brief and text only. Please email to [piango@connect.com.fj](mailto: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](http://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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