

PIANGO

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

July 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

Capacity Building

Strengthening Civil Society in the Pacific. (17th - 24th July)

The International Development Support Services (IDSS) IDSS and PIANGO are responsible to implement a project on Pilot Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Development in the Pacific. With PIANGO as the executing agency, both institutions needed to work in collaboration and cooperation in implementing the project. A team consisting of Tim O'Meara (Team Leader), David Hamilton (Development Economist) and Steven Ratuva (Social Development Analyst) started their work in PIANGO. The team met with PIANGO ED and Programme Manager - Capacity Building to discuss ways forward. The team will present their Inception report on the 1st August in PIANGO Board and attended by people from organisations they consulted during the inception period.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E) Process for PIANGO

NZAid team met with PIANGO ED and Programme Manager - Capacity Building to discuss ways forward for PIANGO M & E Plan. The meeting was held in PIANGO Board room on the 31st July and the outcome of the meeting is developing a road map to achieve some improvements for M & E Plan for PIANGO's Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010.

Information Sharing

PIANGO newsletter

The 2nd issue of PIANGO LINK for 2007 has been collated and produced will be out for distribution this week. Significant features of the newsletter include more emphasis on NLU information. NLUs are reminded to send in news articles on their activities to be included in the secretariat quarterly newsletter. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

Other publications

The 2006 CSO report is in its final stages of publication and will be out for distribution soon. The other pending publication that is due for distribution is the 2006 annual report. Information for the publication has been collated and draft layout and design sent to management for endorsement. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

CAL Program

Katabwena Tawaka, Programme Manager Information Sharing attended the Competency for Local Solution (CAL) program discussion forum on the 23rd July. The half day workshop provided an opportunity for the AusAid funded program to evaluate its program, now in its 18th month. PIANGO was consulted to partake in the discussions for a better solution to disability in Fiji. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

USP Journalism student Communication Internship

The secretariat is very happy to have Ms Sereana Narayan, a final year journalism student from the University of the South Pacific, for the duration of six weeks as a communications intern. Sereana is working on the PIANGO newsletter, writing press releases and developing a Television story for PIANGO.

Administration

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

Papua New Guinea

Birth registration launched at PMGH

Department for Community Development (DFCD) launched the Birth Registration program at the Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH) on 20th July, 2007. The establishment of such an office is a PNG first for enabling birth registrations in a hospital facility. The launching of the birth registration system will contribute towards registering new births and the unregistered births of children aged between 0-5 years accessing the PMGH.

DFCD can contribute to common roll updating

DFCD Secretary Joseph Klapat called on the National Government to strengthen the partnership and networking of relevant agencies and government departments in order to update the population statistics and the common roll. Mr. Klapat made this call after recent media reports on the 2007 National Election stated that more than One million people across PNG were unable to cast their votes because they were not registered on the common roll.

Inter-Faith to establish structure

DFCD and the Inter-Faith Dialogue should cooperate on establishing a structure that would enable better coordination of adequate basic services at the community level of Papua New Guinea. This was a recommendation from Inter-Faith Dialogue member, Yaqub Amaki, who is a senior member of the PNG Islamic Society during the Inter-Faith Dialogue meeting with Secretary Klapat on 17th July. The Inter-Faith Dialogue sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand Governments comprises of representatives from 9 different faiths in the country. (Community Development Nius)

Samoa – SUNGO

SUNGO continues to advocate on Land Bill

SUNGO is mandated to work in partnership with Government on the development of civil society organisations. In doing so, SUNGO continues to advocate on issues affecting its members and wider community. Following its Consultation for Civil Society on the proposed Land Registration Bill 2007 on Tuesday 26 June 2007, SUNGO collated a summary of recommendation that was presented to the Prime Minister last Thursday (28 June 07) for the Committee of Works, Transport and Environment to consider.

SUNGO met again with the Committee of Works, Transport and Environment on 4th July. In its submission, SUNGO proposed to: (1) Have a separate Bill on Customary Lands from freehold and public lands, given the ownership issue. (2) Delay the Bill from its 3rd reading, so that the wider community are consulted for better understanding of the Bill (3) Review the Registrar's portfolio as mentioned in the Bill, because too much power has been vested in the Registrar. *Further information, contact SUNGO at sungo@lesamoa.net*

Solomon Islands - DSE

Play it right toolkit- Commonwealth Human Rights Networks

The 'Play It Right Toolkit' was developed by Equitas with the intention of integrating non-formal human rights education and multicultural training and resources into community based endeavours focusing on children, specifically summer camps.

The toolkit is also at the heart of two projects run by Equitas in several cities in Canada.

According to the Equitas website "the toolkit is user friendly and includes ideas for games and activities as well as instructions for their use." For further information or to access the toolkits see: <http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/index.php>

NGO lesson learnt workshop on Tsunami

DSE hosted a one day discussion with NGOs who were involved in the Tsunami at Western and Choiseul Province. The workshop was a leading one to the national workshop on lessons learnt organised by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) which happened on the 11 – 14 June. NGOs came up with lots of lesson learnt and ideas for future improvements to disaster relief support and preparedness. Some of the key areas that NGOs would work on were revision of the NGO disaster plan, set up a rapid respond team for disaster and provide further training on all kinds of disasters for NGO workers.

Solomon Islands NGO/CSO National Forum on the Pacific Plan

An NGO/CSO National Forum on the Pacific Plan was hosted by DSE at the Save the Children Conference room on the 20 June 2007. DSE thanked the organisations who committed to the well-being of Solomon Islands to share information and raised issues of concerns in relation to the Pillars of the Pacific Plan.

Solomon Islands NGO Radio program

A radio program that would air through the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation (SIBC) started on Tuesday 3 July. A notice of invitation had been sent out to DSE members to participate in the program. The program would enhance the information sharing mechanism for member access to widely disseminate their profiles and program activities to the public as part of awareness

Tonga – CSFT

Policy Analysis and Advocacy Workshop

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga conducted a three day workshop on Policy Analysis and Advocacy at the Tonga National Council of Churches, Vaololoa on Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 June 2007. The workshop had embarked on methods for effective and efficient analysis of Policies at different levels.

New Zealand Foreign Minister visits Civil Society Forum of Tonga Office

New Zealand Foreign Minister, Hon. Winston Peters visited the Civil Society Forum of Tonga office on Wednesday 6th of June 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the needs and constraint of the Civil Society Organisations in Tonga. Topics discussed had included the proposed Political Reform, the opportunities for Civil Society Organisations to grow, and assistance that may be funded by the Government of New Zealand.

Business Planning & Income Generation Course

It was the first time for CSFT organization members to participate on a Business Planning and Income Generation Course for a week from Monday 18 June to Friday 22. The course was conducted by CSFT Executive Director, Mr. Edgar Cocker and the CSFT Programmed Manager, Mrs. Siale .Ilolahia. The course aimed at developing skills on how to start and plan a business and identification of income generation opportunities. The course was funded by the AusAid under the Tonga Community Development Scheme (TCDS).

Sir Douglas Graham from Commonwealth Secretariat visited CSFT

The Special Envoy of the Commonwealth Secretariat to Tonga, Sir Douglas Graham visited CSFT office on Tuesday 3rd June 2007, for a meeting with NGOs which play a major role on Political Reform. There were 10 representatives from NGOs who participated at that meeting.

3. GDP Courses & Dates

Culture and Values of the Not-for-Profit Sector: Solomon Islands 16 - 20 July; PNG 6 - 10 August

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.

Social Audit: Fiji 6 - 10 August

A social audit is an organisational development process in which an organisation compares its impact against its stated values and goals as seen through the eyes of its stakeholders. This course will enable participants to critically determine if a social audit is useful for an organisation and facilitate planning for a social audit in a not-for-profit organisation.

Volunteerism, Employee Motivation and Management: Samoa 20 - 24 August

This course investigates the special attributes of volunteers and paid staff and how these can be utilised for maximum mutual benefit. People who complete this course successfully will be able to recruit, motivate, empower, manage and retain volunteers and paid staff for 'NFP' organisations.

Facilitation, Small Team Leadership, Negotiation: PNG 3 - 7 September. 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/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

13 July 2007 - ADB and Japan to Help Improve Economic and Infrastructure Management in Palau

The Government of Japan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would help the Republic of Palau improve economic and infrastructure management. The technical assistance grant of \$1.4 million would begin in August 2007. ADB will administer the project, and provide \$1 million of funding from the Japan Special Fund, with the balance provided by the Palau Government.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12029-palau-infrastructure-managements-projects/default.asp>

AUSAID: www.usaid.gov.au

23 July 2007 - Australia sets \$1 billion benchmark in global fight against HIV

Australia has committed to contribute \$1 billion by 2010 to the ongoing global fight against HIV. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer announced the \$400 million increase in Australia's existing \$600 million commitment at the Third Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS - an unprecedented gathering of Asia-Pacific region business and government leaders. The meeting committed to greater private-public sector partnerships to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region by 2015.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=7743_1483_3785_2662_9940

Commonwealth Foundation: www.commonwealthfoundation.com

24 July 2007 – Pre CHOGM civil society consultations begin

Energising the debate on Realising People's Potential, the theme of the Commonwealth People's Forum, the Commonwealth Foundation sponsored a series of regional and national consultations between May and July. These consultations would mobilise civil society around the CHOGM theme, transforming Commonwealth Societies, and prepare civil society input into the CHOGM process.

Further information at: <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=333>

NZAID: www.nzaid.govt.nz

9 July 2007 - Tsunami recovery package for Solomon Islands

New Zealand is to fund a major tsunami recovery programme in the Western Province of Solomon Islands, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced in Honiara.

Further information at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=30004>

Oxfam Australia: www.oxfam.org.au

18 July 2007 - Australian Government must speak up against unscrupulous 'big pharma' whose actions cost lives, warns Oxfam Australia

At the opening of a major international conference on AIDS in Sydney, Oxfam urged the Australian Government to help guarantee the supply of affordable drugs to combat HIV & AIDS in the world's poorest countries.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=371>

Oxfam New Zealand: www.oxfam.org.nz

18 July 2007 – New numbers on agriculture inch in right direction, but WTO development deal remains a long way off

A proposal at the WTO to unblock global trade negotiations continues to offer too little and cost too much to developing countries to constitute the basis for a development deal, said international agency Oxfam.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1491>

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

Greenpeace Australia Pacific: www.greenpeace.org/australia/

24 July 2007 – Ending fossil fuel addiction key to solving Pacific nations' climate chaos
Labor's plan to give \$150 million to Pacific nations to adapt to climate change alone will not help the region avoid its dangerous impacts and a target to reduce greenhouse emissions by 30 per cent by 2020 is necessary, said Greenpeace.

Further information at:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/news-and-events/media/releases/climate-change/ending-fossil-fuel-addiction-k>

UNDP Regional Centre Pacific: regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj

20 July 2007 - Pacific Private Sectors Organisations to Convene at Regional Meeting

Private sector organisations, business leaders, government officials and regional policy makers from the region will convene at the Pacific Islands Business Forum (PIBF), to discuss private sector – led economic growth. The meeting is organised by Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) with support from UNDP Pacific Centre and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and will be held at the Radisson Resort Fiji Denarau Island from August 6-7. An estimated 150 participants are expected to attend. The theme of the meeting is 'Pacific Businesses - At the Threshold of Regional and Global Competition'.

For further information, contact Shobhna Decloitre, Media, Communications and Advocacy Officer at the UNDP Pacific Centre on 3300399 or shobhna.decloitre@undp.org, or Mue Bentley, Media Officer, Pacific Plan on 3312600 or MueB@forumsec.org.fj

WWF – South Pacific Programme: www.wwfpacific.org.fj/

4 July 2007 – Tsunami Impact Assessment in Western Province Reveals Marine Environment Damage

Efforts to gauge the degree of impact of the April 2nd disaster on the marine environment and coastal community livelihoods in affected Marine Protected Areas (MPA) of Western Province have now been completed by WWF staff based in Gizo, Solomon Islands.

Further information at: http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj/current/news/press_releases/si/07-07_Tsunami_assessment.cfm

World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org/en/wcc.html

30 July 2007 – Christians around the world pray for peace on 21 September

This coming 21 September Christians from Congo to the US and from Colombia to Switzerland to South Korea will join in prayers during the International Day of Prayer for Peace.

Further information at: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/all-news-english/display-single-english-news/article/2141/christians-around-the-wor-1.html>

6. CROP Agencies News

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

Niu Pasifika

Niu Pasifika, the Pacific Islands Forum quarterly publication - this edition has a focus on the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy (see pages 6-8), highlighting the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) initiative, as well as the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC). Other stories include: 'Oil price shocks drive Pacific ministers to endorse action', 'PIFSO sets up secretariat', 'Forum supports world press freedom day', 'Vanuatu ratifies PIASA', 'Niue embarks on new chapter in aviation', 'Pacific maritime sector prioritises health', 'Partnership launched for HIV/AIDS prevention', 'Regional workshop powers up sustainable development issues', and 'Serving Pacific island communities (contribution from FSPI)'.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/e-bulletins/niu-pasifika/>

12 July 2007 - FEMM Endorses Forum Economic Action Plan 2007

The 11th Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) held in Koror, Republic of Palau, from 10 – 12 July has endorsed the 2007 Forum Economic Action Plan.

Economic Ministers reaffirmed their responsibility to provide leadership on regional economic integration and agreed that FEMM must facilitate the implementation of the Pacific Plan in the areas pertaining to economic growth and good governance.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/11th-femm-endorses-economic-action-plan.html>

18 July 2007 - Pacific Island Countries and Donor Partners Endorse Aid Principles

Pacific Island Countries and Donor Partners in the region have endorsed the Pacific Aid Effectiveness Principles at the PIC/Partners meeting held in Koror, Republic of Palau on 13th July 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/pic-donor-partners-endorse-aid-principles.html>

24 July 2007 - Forum Island Countries Urged To Implement PICTA

Forum Island Countries (FICs) have been urged to implement the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) expeditiously as only three of 14 FICs are currently trading under the agreement.

PICTA came into force on 13th April 2003 but the FICs are yet to fully implement it.

Further information at:

<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/fics-urged-implement-picta.html>

30 July 2007 – Forum Trade Ministers Discuss Trade and Economic Cooperation

Trade and economic co-operation between Forum Island Countries and the rest of the world will feature high on the agenda of the meeting of Forum Trade Ministers to be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 2 – 3 August.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/forum-trade-ministers-discuss-trade-economic-cooperation.html>

31 July 2007 – Development dimension must not be compromised in any EPA with EU

Pacific ACP Trade Ministers have been urged to stay focused on the 'development' dimensions, which must not be compromised in an attempt to swiftly conclude an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU).

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/epa-with-eu-must-emphasise-development-dimension.html>

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

4 July 2007 – Play it clean and green at the XII South Pacific Games

It's hoped the spirit of the 13th South Pacific Games in Samoa will branch towards the environment with a 'Play it clean and green' campaign to be launched by SPREP, UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=362

18 July 2007 – Turtle Monitoring Programme for Tuvalu

There is a wave of change as Pacific people have come to understand that the turtle is not sighted as often as it used to be and most marine turtle species are now labelled as 'threatened', with one common species in the Pacific, the Hawksbill turtle labelled as "critically endangered". Lui Bell, the Marine Species Officer with SPREP has returned from Tuvalu where he began the initial process of developing a marine turtle conservation (monitoring) programme for the small island nation. This falls in line with SPREP's regional Marine Turtle Action Plan 2003 – 2007.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=365

7. Other News

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

5 July 2007 – Plan Report: State of the World's Girls 2007

Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls 2007 was launched recently. It is the most comprehensive report ever published on why millions of girls and young women are being condemned to a life of inequality and poverty.

Further information at: <http://www.acfid.asn.au/plan-report-state-of-the-world-s-girls-2007/>

CHRN: Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from Least Developed Countries

A Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from Least Developed Countries (LDC) has been instituted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To increase the understanding of the LDC fellows of current human rights issues at the international level and give them an insight into the work of the United Nations and OHCHR; and
- To provide OHCHR and the United Nations human rights mechanisms with the assistance and contribution of outstanding students or graduates from LDCs.

For applications and further information see: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/ldcfellowship.htm>

CHRN: Online Courses on Mental Disability Law

The New York Law School is offering three online courses on mental disability law for the fall 2007 semester on the following topics: Survey of Mental Disability Law, Mental Health Issues in Jails and Prisons and Sex Offenders. The New York Law School describes its Online Mental Disability Law Programme as a "ground breaking" programme and it is further reported to be supported by learning and course material from leading experts in the field.

For further information see: www.nyls.edu/MDL or contact: Liane J. Bass: lbass@nyls.edu

Island Business: www.islandbusiness.com

July 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. July edition includes Energy: Oil Shock, Super Powers Assert Themselves in the Region, On an Impressive Run and Rheumatic Heart Disease on the Rise.

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

The Millennium Development Goals Report:

www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html

2 July 2007 – Progress towards Development Target Is Mixed, UN Finds

Halfway to a 2015 deadline, there have been clear progress towards implementing the Millennium Development Goals, a set of global commitments to lift millions of people out of extreme poverty. But their overall success is still far from assured, a progress report by the United Nations has found.

Further information at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007-globalpr.pdf>

Oxford Internet Institute – Civil Society Practitioners Programme

The Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford) invites applications from the global South to fill two places in its Civil Society Practitioners Programme.

This visitor programme is intended for Civil Society Practitioners of distinction or outstanding promise 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.

For details on how to apply, please download: Information for Applicants (PDF, 45kb) at

http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/people/CSPP_Application_Information.pdf

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP): www.unescap.org/

23 July 2007 – UN Committee Monitoring Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women observed the 25th anniversary of its work on Monday, 23 July. The Committee is the 23-person expert body established to monitor State party compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women -- often described as the international bill of rights for women. States parties to the Convention have legally committed themselves to take all necessary steps to end all forms of discrimination against women in any field – whether political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other type.

Further information at: <http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/2007/jul/n34.asp>

13 July 2007 – UN Meeting to Promote Global Women's Rights Treaty in Asia-Pacific

A United Nations meeting in Bangkok, 18-20 July, will look at ways to promote gender equality in the region through integration of the international norms – as enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) -- into national legislation.

Further information at: <http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/2007/jul/n30.asp>

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM): www.unifem.org/

2 July 2007 – At Women’s Summit on HIV and AIDS, UNIFEM Calls For Action to Break Vicious Cycle of Violence against Women and HIV and AIDS

At the first international conference on women and HIV and AIDS, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM, stressed the importance of new approaches to tackle the link between violence against women and the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Further information at: http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=604

World Trade Organization (WTO): www.wto.org/index.htm

27 July 2007 – Tonga becomes the 151st member of WTO

The WTO, on 27 July 2007 welcomed the Kingdom of Tonga as its newest member. Tonga applied for accession to the WTO in June 1995, but negotiations effectively started in April 2001. The terms of membership, which include the Report of the Working Party for the Accession of Tonga, the Protocol of Accession, and the Schedules of Tonga’s commitments on Market Access for Goods and Services, were adopted by the WTO at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005.

Further information at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres07_e/pr488_e.htm

2007 Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) Competition

Submissions are welcome for the Global Development Network's annual competition for the Most Innovative Development Project, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US \$50,000! The finalists will present their proposals at GDN's Annual Global Development Conference in Brisbane, Australia in January 2008. Submissions are accepted for an ongoing development project implemented in a developing or transition country. Criteria include the degree of innovation and the potential for broad application of the project in other countries. Applicants are requested to use the new application template available on our website.

For more information on the competition visit our website at <http://www.gdnet.org/2007awards>

8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
1-2 August	PIFS	Pacific ACP Trade Ministerial Meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu
2-3 August	PIFS	Forum Trade Ministerial Meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu
19-23 August	World Bank	8 th International congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Colombo
30-31 August	PRNGO	4 th Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
11-14 September	SPREP	18 th SPREP meeting of officials, Apia, Samoa
12-13 September	FFA	Pacific Tuna Forum, Port Moresby, PNG
25-26 September	SPREP	Pre-Forum FOC Meeting, Nukualofa, Tonga
27 28 September		Conference on Civil Society and Law Reforms, Port Vila, Vanuatu

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 – 19 October	SPREP	8 th 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
November		Francophone NLU Dialogue, Noumea
18 – 22 November		Commonwealth Peoples Forum, Kampala, Uganda
18 – 23 November		CHOGM, Kampala, Uganda
4 - 20 Dec	WTO	Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France

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 August e-Update is Wednesday 29 August 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

Secretariat Contact

Address: 30 Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji
Postal: PO Box 17780, Suva, Fiji
Phone: (679) 330 2963 / 331 7048
Fax: (679) 331 7046
Email: piango@connect.com.fj
Website: www.piango.org

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

Subscription Information

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e-Update in French language

The e-update is also available in French. Please advise us if you would like to receive the e-Update in French by sending an email to piango@connect.com.fj

Privacy Policy

This newsletter will be used to inform you of new and upcoming events and postings related to PIANGO and its activities. You will receive an e-newsletter about once every month and the quarterly PIANGO Link four times a year. Your information will not be sold, rented or leased to a third party. You can remove your name from the list at any time by following the instructions above.

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