

PIANGO

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

June 2007

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1. Secretariat Briefs

Stakeholder Relations

Application for Consultative Status with the Pacific Islands Forum

On 27 June 2007, the PIANGO Secretariat received Greg Urwin's letter stating "I would like to offer my congratulations to the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) on the Consultative Status Committee's (CSC) decision to extend to PIANGO, consultative status with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat... As you will be aware, consultative status now affords PIANGO the opportunity to apply for accreditation to selected PIF meetings (as per part II of the Policy) on a case by case basis and in accordance with the relevant policy and associated guidelines."

Information Sharing

New Brochure for PIANGO

The Information Sharing programme has designed and printed the PIANGO corporate brochure. The brochure actively promotes PIANGO as it expresses the broad objectives, mission and vision statements, strategic focus areas of the organisation and membership listing of the organisation. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net or download a copy of the PIANGO Brochure from the PIANGO website at www.piango.org

Resource Centre training

Through the Information Sharing programme, the staff of PIANGO had the opportunity to learn more on the use and importance of Resource Centres. PIANGO was privileged by the presence of Ms. Bernadette Masianini, SPC's Land Resource Division Communications Officer, who has vast experience in assisting SPC member countries in setting up Resource Centres. According to Information Sharing Programme Manager, Katabwena Tawaka, the awareness was informative, relevant and timely for PIANGO as the organisation was in its initial stages of setting up its Resource Centre. For more information contact katabewna@piango.net

PIANGO Constitution Published

Under Goal 1.1 of the PIANGO Strategic Plan, the Information Sharing team designed and published the PIANGO Constitution. The A5 sized booklet contains the PIANGO Constitution that was amended and adopted at the 5th PIANGO Council held in Papua New Guinea in 2005. The NLU heads were issued copies of the Constitution during the recent PIANGO 3rd PIMER Circle. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

Programme provide SKYPE demonstration

The Information Sharing Programme Manager, Katabwena Tawaka and Information Communication Technology Officer, Julie Kerrigan provided a SKYPE demonstrating to NLU heads at the 3rd PIMER Circle. The objective of the demonstration was to upskill NLU Directors on the latest and cost effective technology. For more information contact julie@piango.net

Information Officers Network

Since joining PIANGO, Information Sharing Programme Manager, Katabwena Tawaka introduced an email network forum of all NLU Information Officers. Positive responses are emerging from the NLUs and the Secretariat humbly requests all Information Officers to utilise this network. The Information Sharing programme is also promoting the use of SKYPE because of its cost effectiveness and it is envisaged that the email network will slowly divert to the easier and effective SKYPE. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

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

Federated States of Micronesia - FANGO

The month of June 2007 has been a busy one for FANGO. Highlights include:

- Completion of the FANGO's "strengthening information and communication clearinghouse capacity" (SICC) project funded by NZAID's regional good governance scheme. The SICC project contributed to (a) design and development of the FANGO website, (b) updating FANGO's membership directory and NGO database, (c) setting up of the NGO Resource Center, (d) restructuring of the FANGO Executive Board and (e) convening of the 2nd FSM NGO Executive Heads Forum. Details of these processes will be ready for dissemination in August 2007.
- FANGO Organizational Audit. A FANGO SWOT analysis was conducted on 11-15 June 2007 to determine its institutional strengths and weaknesses and to identify challenges and opportunity for organizational sustainability and impact. The SWOT result will be presented to the 3rd PIMER.
- Government-FANGO Dialogue and Consultations. FANGO has received numerous requests to disseminate and/or inform the NGO sector on meetings requiring NGO/NSA participation. At least 10 notices of meetings have been processed and forwarded to the FSM NGO community by PIANGO.
- EU Trade Workshop. A national workshop on the EPAs was held in Pohnpei, FSM from 18-22 June 2007. FANGO facilitated dissemination of information to the NSAs and NGOs.
- FANGO-Pohnpei Rotary Club Presentation. FANGO was requested by the Pohnpei Rotary Club (PRC) to present FANGO's programs and to discuss areas of cooperation and collaboration with PRC, including membership with FANGO. FANGO gave the PRC presentation on 14th June 2007.
- EPA Social Impact Assessment. FANGO was requested by PANG to assist on-site logistical assistant for the EPA social impact assessment in FSM. The SIA was carried out from 18-21 June 2007. FANGO assisted with accommodation and meeting arrangement.
- Pacific Women Forum Teleconference. The FSM Women Action Network, one of FANGO's members, participated in the June 21st, 2007, teleconference on the outcome document of the Pacific Women's Forum (PWF). FSMWAN is a member of the PWF strategic planning meeting. The teleconferences are held to progress the PWF and to

finalize PWF financing proposal for submission to donors. The PWF is tentatively scheduled for April 2008 in Nadi. The International Women Development Agency (IWDA) of Australia is the PWP project organizer and project manager.

- FANGO ICO, Mr. Pius Roby is no longer working with PIANGO. All information have to be directed to fango@mail.fm until a replacement is on Board in July 2007.
- FANGO's P.O. Box number is changed to P.O. Box 429, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941.

Fiji - FCOSS

Basic Quality Care for the Senior Citizen's Course

Basic Quality Care for the Senior Citizen's Course is a NAC initiative and has been conducted since 1989. From Jan to April, 4 successful trainings have been implemented in Suva, Sigatoka and Tavua. A total of 100 participants have benefited so far. The major objective is to promote in-family and in-community care for the elderly. The course runs for a total of 35 hours being compliant with the requirements of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji. Participants also undergo extensive practical sessions at the Tanavua Rehabilitation Unit and the Home of Compassion. At the end for the course, participants are presented with a certificate of participation and the skills and knowledge they acquire by attending the training has enabled many to secure jobs as caregivers both locally and internationally.

PALM Youth Camps

A total of 40 participants attended FCOSS PALM camp and workshops that were held in various centres in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Various range of strategies were implemented to generate discussion and dialogue around the different topics on: 1. Life Skills Training; 2. Youth Creativity and Social Enterprise; 3. Tapping into youth resources; 4. Youth Social Health; 5. youth Action in Social Leadership; 6. Youth in Nation Building; and 7. Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention. The camp was seen to be beneficial to the youths and similar camps/workshops of this nature have been requested by the participants, trainers and stakeholders.

Nauru - NIANGO

Endorsement of reviewed NIANGO Constitution

Twenty five (25) NGOs endorsed the reviewed NIANGO Constitution at a Special Meeting held 5-6 June 2007. The completes the NIANGO constitutional review process which started in may 2006. The process was initiated by the new Executive Committee elected in April 2006 when it agreed to restructure NIANGO to corporate body. Over sixty (60) members of the NGO community contributed to the final draft in a workshop held in September 2006.

NIANGO Secretariat

Julie Olsson was appointed Coordinator for NIANGO in December 2006. The interview panel for the position included PCPI, PIANGO, Forum Secretariat NSA and NIANGO. The position of Coordinator is generously funded by NZAID through PCPI. The Secretariat is based in the Development Planning and Policy Division (DPPD) / Aid Management Unit (AMU) in the Government Offices. Contact: nauruislandngo@hotmail.com or julienauru@cenpac.net.nr. Phone: (+674) 444 3869 or (+679) 444 3133

European Union Visit

On 30 May, NIANGO met with European Union team Bernard Blazkiewicz (Attache for Kiribati and Nauru, Natural Resources and Environment) regarding EU Nauru project on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The team also met with representatives of NGOs the next day. Discussion was on the engagement of NGOs in the public campaign on household energy efficiency. This programme is part of the 9th EDF.

National CSO forum on the Pacific Plan

A national CSO Forum on the Pacific Plan was held in April in collaboration with the Government of Nauru, Aid Management Unit, Forum Secretariat NSA and PIANGO. The consultation provided the opportunity to feedback directly to the Government on CSO concerns. One of PP Other Initiatives Identified recommended to be adopted to address Nauru needs to include: "improve self sufficiency in food production through revival of traditional practices and methods."

Papua New Guinea - MNCL

First Strategic Plan comes to a close

The year 2007 can be likened to a sunset. It is setting with our final year of the first Strategic Plan of the Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL). Since 2005 MNCL has planned and carried out many activities such as experiencing increased number of senior NGO leaders in our Graduate Diploma Program Courses, and many working very hard to complete the compulsory units and taking optional units.

Telefomin villagers take initiative on family planning, health and hygiene

In one of the most remote parts of Papua New Guinea, a women's group has embarked on some pilot projects that will help sustain and support lives in their local communities. The Ankem Council of Women (ACOW) is a local non governmental organisation created in 2005 by women of the Ankem village. Located in the heart of Telefomin District, ACOW attracts men and women from surrounding villages and afar to participate in activities such as life skills training which involves sewing, cooking and handcraft making. MNCL attended ACOW's planning meeting, with the key outputs of the meeting being a review of the 2006 activities, development of activity plans for 2007, development of a risk management plan and a monitoring and evaluation system for ACOW.

Samoa - SUNGO

Tagiilima Handicrafts Association celebrates new development

The official opening of Tagiilima Handicrafts Association's new office in early June, is yet another important milestone achieved by the association, in its history. Established in 2000, Tagiilima focuses its work on the production and selling of high quality traditional handicrafts, to assist with the income generation of their families. They are now adding elei making and sewing to their line of work. It consists of 26 skillful members, who have worked individually in their own homes, but they are now able to work together under one roof. The new office was funded by JICA and has a workshop, computer and display rooms, along with equipment and tools. Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, at the opening, congratulated Tagiilima for such an achievement, and acknowledged its contribution to Samoa's efforts in achieving one of the MDGs, namely the reduction of poverty through income generating activities, and Samoa's national vision of opportunities for all. He also acknowledged the work and assistance of the donors (NZAID, AusAID, EU Micro projects, JICA) and SUNGO, for Tagiilima's development. Tagiilima is one of the 12 member NGOs, who receive core funding from NZAID, through the NGO Support Fund Program, coordinated and implemented by SUNGO. With this new office, the organisation is aiming to improve the quality of its handicrafts, for selling and marketing their products both locally and internationally.

NSF Program Review

The NZAID has just completed the review of the NGO Support Fund Program, which is coordinated and implemented by SUNGO. More than twenty NGOs have been reviewed by Mary-Jane Rivers (overseas consultant) and Ruta Sinclair (local consultant), as contracted by NZAID, and included 12 NGOs supported by the NSF Program, other NGOs that applied but were not accepted, SUNGO as administrator (NSFC), NZAID administration, and NSF Coordinating Committee (made up of NZAID, SUNGO and Government representatives). The review aimed at reviewing the NZAID NGO core funding impact on beneficiaries and communities whether it has made any difference to them. This will assist with the future development of the fund, linked to a proposed NGO monitoring and Evaluation framework. NSF Coordinator, Ronicera Fuimaono commended the considerate approach by NZAID to partner up an overseas and local consultants to implement the review, because it has further confirmed the 'participatory approach' being exercised in this NSF Program. It has allowed the consultants to conduct site visits and gave them the opportunity to actually receive feedback from direct and indirect beneficiaries.

WTO Workshop – 11-13 June

SUNGO in its capacity as advocates for civil society on issues affecting them, participated in a 3-days training, conducted by the Ministry of Trade with WTO members, in early June. The workshop focused on raising the awareness of the public on the Opportunities and Challenges

facing Samoa, whilst joining WTO. SUNGO had extensively researched around the globe with the help of local and International NGO expert partners supporting them in finding facts so that they can counter and question the WTO on issues that will impact Samoa's accession to the WTO. Some of these issues were trade wise, culture, human rights, our pride and heritage, our intellectual property, and the concern over our vulnerable environment against over development through the WTO Focus on Money and Economic Growth. At the end of the training, Vaasiliifiti Moelagi of SUNGO expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Trade and the Team from the WTO, for creating an open forum in discussing the above issues and voicing SUNGO's concern that will put some light in our understanding and our preparation in rejecting or supporting Samoa's entry into the WTO.

Data Collection Group presented back to school

SUNGO conducted a training on Data Collection and Analysis, as part of the In-Country Training Program, in early April. About 10 organisations participated in the one week course, that focused on the key principles and practice of data collection and analysis for the monitoring of a simple NGO project. As part of the course, the group did a survey on Healthy Lifestyle of 140 students of the Congregational Senior College. In June, the group was fortunate to visit the school, and presented the findings of the survey. "When collecting data, it is important to give back the analysed data to the people we got them from, because they own the information" said lead trainer, Mary Cretney. The group also presented a gift for the school, for allowing the group to use their students for the survey. As they said, the group's decision to use their school for the survey, made them feel like they are more important than the other schools.

Civil Society consulted on Land Titles Registration Bill 2007

SUNGO in collaboration with the Government coordinated and conducted a fruitful consultation for civil society, on the proposed Land Title Registration Bill 2007 on the 26 June 2007. This came about following SUNGO's meeting with the Bills Committee in May. The consultation aimed to provide a better understanding of the present Land Law versus proposed Land Titles Registration Bill 2007, so to provide sound recommendations to Government on a best way forward for Samoa. It also aimed to assess the possible social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts on society and its people. The one day consultation was successful, in the sense that members present left the consultation with an understanding of the impacts the Bill would have on Samoa, and agreed on a number of recommendations to put forward to Government. All in all, civil society felt that this Bill should never have been drafted in the first place, and therefore, should never be passed. Following the consultation, SUNGO then met with the Prime Minister, to present the recommendations from the consultation, in which he reassured the delegation, that the Legislative and the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment will be notified of the recommendations for consideration.

New Training Manual on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Customized to the Pacific NGOs

Monitoring and Evaluation continues to play an important part in the sustainability of any organisation. However, the traditional M&E system has more of an "input/output" focus, which means that the results are not transparent enough or not meeting the requirements. Following the recent Workshop conducted by PIANGO, focusing on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM), a RBM training manual was developed, of which is customized user-friendly. NSF Coordinator, Ronicera Fuimaono representing SUNGO at the workshop, said that the workshop was productive, despite the short period of time. "We've been revising it more to keeping it as "simple" as possible, and keeping our target communities (i.e: generally the grassroots & Civil Society) in mind throughout" she said. RBM & evaluation has an inclusive process which involves getting it "right from beginning" as per simple cycle persuading the idea of "better performance" This new RBM takes us to a higher level of Monitoring and Evaluating for "results" that enables us to measure the impact of a policy, program or project on the lives of our people by having evidence of how their quality of life has changed. SUNGO as an organisation has realised from experience the inevitable need by stakeholders such as donors to see the results or impacts of our work within our target communities or country as a whole.

Solomon Islands - DSE

NGO Management Training

The two week NGO management training run by DSE for NGO upcoming leaders winded up successfully on 25 May. The training was intensive, as it was targeted at Non Government Organisations and Community Based Organisations potential and upcoming leaders. Participants in the training expressed their appreciate to the trainers for the opportunity to access hands on training in core areas in NGO management.

Mapping and Profiling Project Phase II

The Mapping and Profiling Project officers will be visiting NGOs starting the week beginning 4 June. The purpose of the visit is to get updated information from NGOs who are already in the development database and also get information from other NGOs who may wish to be included in the second phase of the database. An electronic version of the questionnaire has been sent out.

National Pacific Plan Forum

DSE hosted a forum in relation to the Pacific Plan on 20 June. The purpose of the forum was to provide the opportunity for civil society organisations to express their views and concerns to the government on pressing issues according to the pillars in the Plan. The forum looked at Security in a broader send through the thematic areas of Environmental Security, Human Security and Economic Security.

Tonga - CSFT

Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Small Grant Projects (SGP) Meeting

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) has been working very closely with the United Nations Development Program on Global Environment Facility to initiate and set up the Small Grant Program for Tonga. This program will enable the people and various communities in Tonga to work closely with the Government and Civil Society in the effort to protect, prevent and maintain the uniqueness of our environment.

ADB and NGOs meet about Social Welfare

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) representatives held a meeting with CSFT members about Social Welfare. Attendees included: the Director of Tonga Family Health Association, Mrs. Imaima Havea, Director of Tonga Community Development Trust, Mr. Sione Faka'osi, Major Rex Johnson from The Salvation Army and representatives from National Centre for Women and Children and Catholic Women Leagues.

Tongan Parliament Opens

The 2007 session of the Tongan Legislative Assembly officially opened by His Majesty, King George Tupou v on May 31. It was the first time for King George Tupou v to open the Tonga Legislative Assembly. He closed parliament last year early at the Parliament Building because of the riots on the 16/11.

New Zealand Foreign Minister visits Civil Society Forum of Tonga Office

New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Hon. Winston Peters visited the Civil Society Forum of Tonga office on Wednesday 6th of June 2007. The Executive Director of CSFT, Mr. Edgar Cocker warmly welcomed the NZ Foreign Minister and the distinguished delegates from the New Zealand Government including the New Zealand High Commission, His Excellency Dr. Michael McBride. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various issues in relation to the on-going political reform in Tonga, the needs and the constraint of the Civil Society Organisation, and other related matters of public interests.

3. GDP Courses & Dates

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.

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

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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

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

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 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

18 June 2007 - ADB Assisting Palau in Development of Master Plan

The ADB is assisting the Republic of Palau to update its master development plan and help strengthen economic policy formation and budget management. ADB's assistance will focus on widespread community consultation and technical expertise in selected areas.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11957-palau-development-master-plan/>

27 June 2007 - ADB Approves Emergency Assistance Project in Tsunami Affected Solomon Islands

The ADB approved a US\$4.95 million grant from its Asian Development Fund (ADF) to help finance a Project which will rehabilitate essential infrastructure that was damaged by the earthquake and tsunami which devastated parts of the western Solomon Islands.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11980-solomons-tsunamis-assistances/>

AusAID: www.ausaid.gov.au

5 June 2007 - Australia Funds Climate Change Adaptation in Most Vulnerable Countries

Australia will contribute \$7.5 million to the Least-Developed Countries Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to limit the impact of climate change on some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries. This funding will help many of our Pacific island neighbours, such as Samoa and Kiribati.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=2290_3126_5249_45_8382

19 June 2007 - Australia Provides \$2.7 million for Solomon Islands Post-Tsunami Reconstruction

Australia will provide an additional \$2.7 million to its tsunami relief assistance package to Solomon Islands following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Western and Choiseul Provinces. The additional funds will go to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=3327_5054_6012_1972_5722

Commonwealth Foundation: www.commonwealthfoundation.com

6 June 2007 - Where is the money for women's rights?

The Partners Forum will bring together representatives from over 200 civil society organisations, private sector, and professional associations to debate the theme: *Financing Gender Equality for Development and Democracy*. The Forum will precede the Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting which will also take place from 11-14 June in Uganda.

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=325&cat_id=85

14 June 2007 - Experts voice concerns over fisheries and explore Commonwealth's role

A serious attempt to conserve global fish stocks, and to promote the sustainable exploitation of sea fish resources, has been launched with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) and the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU).

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=326&cat_id=137

NZAID: www.nzaid.govt.nz

June 2007 - NewZAID No. 36

NewZAID updates you in brief on key issues and events on the NZAID agenda. Read about Advancing gender equality in the Pacific and the Pro-Poor Tourism workshop.

Further information at: <http://enews.nzaid.govt.nz/index.php?id=180>

Oxfam Australia: www.oxfam.org.au

8 June 2007 - Oxfam reaction to G8 agreement on climate change

The group of G8 countries meeting in Germany announced an agreement on climate change. Executive Director of Oxfam Australia, Andrew Hewitt said "It is welcome that G8 leaders have endorsed the UN process to tackle climate change and agreed to negotiate a post-2012 framework within this Forum....However, it is profoundly disappointing that some members..have failed to sign up to specific targets or even an indicative global stabilisation goal."

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=358>

UN - Division for the Advancement of Women - Online discussion forum

The UN is hosting the online discussion on "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women". The discussion, which will be conducted in English, will run for four weeks from 18 June to 15 July 2007. The purpose of the online discussion is to contribute to a further understanding of the existing mechanisms and processes of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women at the national, regional and global levels; identify good practices and lessons learned and highlight gaps and challenges requiring further action. The online discussion is part of the preparatory process of the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held 25 February to 7 March 2008, which will consider "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" as its priority theme.

Further information at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/forum/forum-daw-financing.htm>

5. CROP Agencies News

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

28 June 2007 - Regional Disaster Managers Endorse Strategy for Pacific Early Warning System

Regional Disaster Managers today endorsed the Strategy for Enhancing Early Warning Systems for Pacific Island Countries at the 13th Regional Disaster Managers meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The strategy addresses the main challenges faced in relation to early warning systems for Pacific Island countries, details the actions needed and identifies potential donors and other partners to ensure successful and sustainable implementation.

Further information at: http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=69

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

11 June 2007 - Regional study to address skills shortage

Skills development needs to be a priority in the Pacific. This was the resolve of a 15 month study of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the region, recently concluded by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The study found that the region suffers from a paradox when it comes to technical vocational skills, and while unemployment levels are high, Pacific Island Countries continue to import skilled workers from overseas to fill jobs which Pacific people do not have the skills or experience to perform.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/regional-study-address-skills-shortage.html>

21 June 2007 - CROP Heads Meet

The 20th meeting of Heads of Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) was held last week at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji. Forum Secretariat General, and

Chair of the Heads of CROP meeting, Greg Urwin, noted the significant role CROP agencies play in providing efficient and appropriate services to assist Pacific peoples address their development priorities.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/crop-heads-meeting.html>

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

5 June 2007 - SPREP calls for conservation of coral reefs and mangroves to strengthen Pacific islands

SPREP has called on its members to strengthen the conservation of coral reefs and mangroves to improve adaptation to climate change. The director of SPREP, Mr Asterio Takesy, says that healthy coral reefs and mangroves will reduce Pacific islands' vulnerability to the effects of climate change including sea level rise and storm surges.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=355

5 June 2007 - World Environment Day

World Environment Day is a global event that aims to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment, to secure commitment at all levels, and to stimulate action. The focus for this year is climate change - and its adverse impacts and responses around the world.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=356

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

28 June 2007 - SPC welcomes visitors to Open Day celebrating its 60th anniversary

A constant stream of visitors came through the gates of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's headquarters at Anse Vata, Noumea, during its recent Open Week leading up to a Grand Open Day on Saturday 23 June. The theme of the week, which was part of the celebrations for SPC's 60th anniversary, was "SPC, at the crossroads of cultures and communities".

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/AC/art_openD_press_release.htm

6. Other News

Diplomacy Training Program and the University of New South Wales

The Diplomacy Training Program is calling for applications for its 17th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia/Pacific Region and Indigenous Australia which will be held from 29 October - 16 November 2007 in Wellington, New Zealand in partnership with Amnesty International New Zealand and the Council for International Development, New Zealand. The deadline for applications is 3 August 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au>

Forum Regional Security Committee meets with Civil Society on Human Security

The Pacific People Building Peace Network (PPBP) has requested that the broader notion of security, human security, which is already mentioned in the Pacific Plan, be included in the discussions of the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting. This request was made by PPBP on 26 June 2007 in Nadi, Fiji, in a presentation of the outcome document of their latest regional consultation which took place in April 2007. In the coming months, PPBP member organisations want to continue to engage with the Forum on the issue of human security as an active contribution by civil society to peacebuilding in the region.

For more information, contact Marie-Pierre Hazera (+679) 330 8379 or marie-pierre@ccf.org.fj

Pacific Women's Forum announced for 2008

The Pacific Women's Forum will bring together more than 150 women's rights advocates, feminists, women leaders, policy makers and civil society actors from all 24 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The forum will provide a unique opportunity for women working in community development, gender equality and social justice to come together to share resources

and experiences, learn new skills, develop action plans and consolidate networks. The venue for the forum is Nadi, Fiji and scheduled for 21-25 April 2008.

Further information contact IWDA through www.iwda.org.au

World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Eleven women from the Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Asia have received scholarship awards worth more than 80,000 Swiss Francs as part of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) support for women in the South studying for the ordained ministry. This includes four from the Pacific region - the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu; the Kiribati Protestant Church; the United Church in the Solomon Islands.

Further information at: http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=1158&part_id=0&navi=6

Islands Business: www.islandsbusiness.com

June 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. June edition includes: Urban Crisis, Polynesia's last titan passes away; and A year in power, Sogavare gets his way.

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

7. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
3 July	PIANGO	Canada Fund visits PIANGO
8 – 19 July	East-West Center	Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program, Honolulu, Hawaii
10 - 12 July	Forum Secretariat	Forum Economic Ministerial Meeting, Koror, Palau
18 19 July		Commonwealth pacific Prep CSO Forum for CPF, Wellington, New Zealand
23 – 24 July	PIANGO	PIANGO Board Meeting, Nadi, Fiji
23 27 July		ASPBAE CEAL Workshop, Nadi, Fiji
August	PRNGO	4 th Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
August	PRNGO	PRNGO CSO Forum, Suva, Fiji
27 28 September		Conference on Civil Society and Law Reforms, Port Vila, Vanuatu
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

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

8. 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 July e-Update is Friday 27 July 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 (NLU) 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

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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

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Archive

Archived and current version of e-updates are available from the website at www.piango.org