

PIANGO

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

March 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

Secretariat Staffing

Karalaini Waqanidrola worked in the position of Programme Officer (Information Sharing) at the Secretariat for three months and tendered her resignation in December. Kara produced the third newsletter for the year, the layout and design of the PIANGO Annual Report 2005 and the design and printing of the 2006 Calendar and Year Planner. We wish Kara well in her future endeavours.

Lavenie Josefa, the Administration Officer, completed her contract with PIANGO on February 16th after over one year of service. We wish La the best in her future endeavours.

This month we welcomed Susana (Sue) Lolohea, who commenced work on 1st of March as the new Administration Manager. Susana previously worked for WWF Pacific office and later at WWF (Fiji office).

Katabwena (Kata) Tawaka took up his appointment as the Programme Manager (Information Sharing) on 19th March. Kata previously worked for the SPC Media Centre and the Fiji Government Ministry of Information.

Please add Sue and Kata to your distributions lists. susana@piango.net & katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO Website - New Online Resources

Links to websites for donors, national and regional NGOs, CROP agencies and focus areas are now available from the PIANGO website under "Resources" at <http://www.piango.org/ResourcesOnline.html>

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

Cook Islands - CIANGO

Fundraising for National HQ for CIANGO

We are concentrating on fundraising for a HQ (Centre) for NGOs. CIANGO has been blessed with a piece of land (Crown Land) from Government, to build a centre for NGOs. Our first Radiothon Fundraiser was in December last year and raised \$17,000 NZD, with the second one in January - an Island Night with the Stars (various groups of entertainers - band, dancing, talent quests, etc.) Our next activity is a Movie Night at the Empire Theatre, with proceeds going towards the Centre. The total cost for the two storey building is approximately \$350,000 - \$400,000 NZD. We hope to get this building up before August 2008.

CIANGO as Host for the Global Volunteers

An agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CIANGO, to confirm this new recognition for CIANGO. CIANGO has always been involved in voluntary ventures that have happened in the country, as well as being the national focal point of contact for NGOs in the country.

CIANGO as Host Institution for the GEF Project

In partnership with National Environment Services and UNDP, CIANGO has been recognised as Host for the UNDP Global Environment Facility (Funds). There is also a National Focal Person, based in the CIANGO Office, who is responsible for coordinating environmental related projects from Community Organisations, funded under this project.

MDG Report launch

In partnership with the Government of the Cook Islands and UNDP (Apia), the report on the Millennium Development Goals was launched at the Atukura Ground, in the presence of the UNDP Resident Representative and other Government dignitaries. It was one of CIANGO's achievements in 2006, a credit to Mona Matepi of WWF (for CIANGO) and Ms Maria Tuoro of the Prime Minister's Office, representing the government. Both girls worked so hard to put the report together.

Federated States of Micronesia - FANGO

International Women's Day

The Women of Pohnpei celebrated its 2007 International Women's Day with dances, educational awareness programs, and displays of local produced products among other achievements. The event took place at Pohnpei tract and was filled with Traditional Leaders, Government Officials, and Church groups participated. According to Susana Sohs, there were 15 groups of women participated in this years event representing all the municipalities, church, and other women's groups.

NGO Executives Meet FAO Visiting Mission to FSM

Members of the FSM NGO Executives met with the Pacific FAO Visiting Mission to FSM to consult with key stakeholders on the expansion of the FAO Food Security Program. The meeting was organized by FANGO and held at the SPC Conference room in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Monthly Issue Based Dialogue

FANGO has initiated a monthly issue based dialogue (IBD) to discuss key issues and to organize collective input into policy and decision-making processes. The first inaugural IBD is scheduled for Wednesday, 28th March 2007 at the Sei's Restaurant in Kolonia. The IBD's topic is "Globalization and Trade". Key speakers from the FSM Trade and Commerce Unit and the Department of Foreign Affairs will be solicited. Outcome of the IBD will be a IBD list of issues for future IBDs and nomination of the NSA Representative to the May 2007 Trade Meetings in Nadi, Fiji. Thereafter, the IBD will be held on the last Wednesday of each month. The event is open to the public.

FANGO Board General Annual Meeting 13-15 April 2007

The FANGO Board is holding its annual general meeting on 13-15 April 2007 in Pohnpei, FSM. The Board will adopt new board members, elect officers and review its constitution, By-laws and articles of incorporation.

2nd FSM NGO Executive Heads Forum 16-17 April 2007

The 2nd FSM NGO Executive Heads Forum (EHF) is scheduled for 16-17 April 2007 in Pohnpei, FSM. Theme of the EHF is "Harmonizing efforts: Maximizing Impact". Interagency cooperation, organizational sustainability, participatory development and donor harmonization are sub-themes of the EHF. Expected outcome will be a NGO Communiqué on partnership and development cooperation. Approximately 30-50 NGOs, CBOs, Government, businesses, training institutions and development partners' officials will participate in the EHF. Sponsors of the EHF includes NZAID, PIFS, Devint Micronesia and FSMWAN.

National Forum on the Pacific Plan 18 April 2007

The National Forum on the Pacific Plan is planned for 18 April 2007. The NSA Focal Point from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is scheduled to do a presentation on the Pacific Plan. An outcome report will be produced to assist advocacy on regional cooperation and integration at both national and regional level. The National Forum on the Pacific Plan is expected to be attended by government, NGOs, NSAs, the private sector and the media.

FANGO on the Net

The new FANGO website is now officially accessible at <http://www.fango.fm>

New FANGO Postal Box Number

FANGO new postal address is P.O. Box 429, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941. All official mailing for FANGO should be directed to this new postal address.

Fiji - FCOSS

New email address for Executive Director

Please note that Hassan Khan, Executive Director for FCOSS, can now be contacted via email on hassankhan@fcoss.org and cc to fcoss@connect.com.fj

Kiribati - KANGO

Kango Members Assist In Reducing Coastal Threats Vulnerability

Community groups on South Tarawa and Betio, which included members of KANGO, were among 26 other government ministries and organisations invited to a workshop on coastline protection held at the Otintaai Hotel from March 12-13. Called "Caring for our coastlines; Protecting lives and Livelihoods in Kiribati," the workshop looked at issues affecting coastal vulnerability in the country and what can be done to mitigate their threats. The workshop was conducted by the Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) base in Fiji in close collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (MFMRD).

Thumbs Up for NZAID as it continues to provide funding support for KANGO

The Kiribati Association of Non-Government Organizations, KANGO, has received the first initial payment of AUD\$83,932.10 core funding from NZAID to cover expenses and costs of its operations for six months, commencing from January 1 to June 31. He says the second tranche of NZAID support of \$35,296.00 will be made to KANGO on May 1. Executive head of the KANGO Secretariat, Roko Timeon, says New Zealand government, through NZAID, has played a crucial and active role in supporting KANGO in a number of important projects, one of which was the funding and provision late last year of a strategic planner/consultant to assist with the formulation of the Secretariat's 2007 – 2010 Strategic Plan that has been successfully completed and launched in December last year. Roko says the four year strategic plan will help guide the direction of KANGO in achieving its goals.

Niue - NIANGO

Proposal Writing workshop

NIANGO has no full time staff as yet, but we do have a lot of work. In the week of 12 March, we held a workshop targeting women, using government personnel as resource people. The next workshop will be on actual proposal writing. NZ High Commission here will start, (although the date is not finalised yet), to teach women how to write proposals for the NZ funded projects. We will then move to GEF proposals, given that each donor has different requirements. The aim is build the capacity of our women to write good proposals.

Samoa - SUNGO

SUNGO welcomes new Information Communication Officer

SUNGO now has a full-time and qualified Information and Communication Officer. Her name is Vavaemumutiti Fepuleai and her email address is sungoico@lesamoa.net. Please add Vavaemumutiti to your distributions lists.

Tuvalu - TANGO

People & Policy 4th Planning Meeting

On the 26 – 28 February, the People & Policy Programme 4th Planning Meeting took place at the Golf Terraces Apartment, Denarau Island, NADI. Implementing regional countries, Fiji, Samoa, Solomons, Vanuatu, Tonga and Tuvalu, attended the meeting. Kiribati representative did not attend without any known reason. The programme is coordinated regionally by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and is funded by New Zealand AID (NZAID).

Mediation Course

As a supplementary ingredient for implementing agencies of the People & Policy (P&P) Programme to keep motivated in their field work, a mediation training was conducted soon after the P&P 4th Meeting. This was carried out from 1 – 3 March 2007. The main aim of the training was to enable participants in how to become effective mediators between two or more different parties who are involved in conflicts. The training was conducted by a consultant with a Mediation and Conflict background, and was attended by the same participants to the P&P 4th Planning Meeting with 3 representatives from the Foundation for the Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND).

“Cultures & Values” Course for Not-For-Profit Organisations

Not-for-Profit Organisations in the region had eagerly attended a course that was conducted by trainers from the Unitec, New Zealand, during mid-March this year. Representatives were from NGOs around the region, including those from the Islands of Wallis and Futuna, Niue and Fiji. The course is entitled “Cultures and Values of the Not-for-Profit Sector”.

Small Grant Programme Pacific Environment Facility

TANGO's Project Development Officer, Taukiei Kitara, was in Nadi early this year to attend the meeting conducted by the Small Grant Programme - Pacific Environment Facility (SGP-PEF). Most of the meeting deliberations were on how the new Pacific countries on the SGP-PEF Programme can run their activities in their respective countries. The new countries include Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu. Fiji was the other country that attended the meeting.

USP Education and Health Consultative meeting

Nominated by the PIANGO, Annie Homasi Coordinator of TANGO, joined other NGOs from Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, and the Australia National University for the education and health consultative and planning meeting. This took place in Suva at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Senate Room from 13 to 14 March 2007. Annie presented a paper on Tuvalu health which summarises current health situations; health key policy objectives as enshrined in the national sustainable development plan, Kakeega 11 2005-10; health priorities and strategies as in health education, equity of access and consumer protection. Her presentation also shared on the strong linkages between the Kakeega 11 and the Millennium Development Goals as well as the leadership roles that NGOs in Tuvalu in implementing health programs such as the Pacific regional HIV/AIDs project; Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs, Healthy Life Skills programs, First Aid and Blood donor recruitment programs.

TANGO & KANGO Exchanges Experiences

The EU/VSO funded NGO Capacity Building, Pacific Skills Link (PSL) project that was implemented for 4 years in the 3 countries of the Pacific namely Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu ended in January 2006. As part of project exit, VSO organised a program called the “Learning through International Networking and Knowledge Sharing (LINKS)” which aims to fund activities that provide an opportunity for partners to gain exposure to a new context in another country by visiting or working with organisations. TANGO Coordinator, Annie Homasi, and its Kiribati's counterpart KANGO Coordinator, Roko Timeon planned and participated on this exchange visit program which was coordinated and fully supported by VSO Regional Office based in Vanuatu. The intention is to gain better understanding of how the respective organisations are managing NSA funds under EDF9; meet with key stakeholders of EDF 9 in each country; and pursue country specific advocacy objectives that each can adapt. The visits took place during the month of March and Annie spent 2 days working with KANGO. Roko from KANGO spent 3 days with TANGO in Tuvalu. Both officers highly valued the benefits of the program and will endeavor to promote such initiatives for future possibilities to extend within the NGO network.

Turtle Conservation Awareness and Planning workshop, 6-9 March

TANGO's Coastal and Marine Officer, Semese Alefaio co-facilitated a Turtle Conservation Awareness and Planning Workshop with facilitators from the Fisheries, the Environment Department and a key facilitator from the Institute of Marine Resources (IMR) at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Alan Resture. The workshop targeted key stakeholders in the capital which include island communities and local fishermen. Basic biology knowledge and monitoring skills on sea turtles were discussed with participants. There were also some interesting deliberations on the sharing of traditional knowledge and skills by several fishermen. This included the sharing of threats and common problems that usually occur around Tuvalu such as over harvesting, using of destructive fishing methods, destructive of nesting beaches, and waste pollution to name a few. The final highlight of the 4 day workshop was the tagging and release of sea turtles on the beach. The minister for Natural resources also took part during this activity by tagging and releasing one of the 4 sea turtles that was set out to the sea. Many of the elderly fishermen now felt that this is an important initiative that the government should focus on before we loose all the sea turtles.

3. GDP Courses & Dates

Governance, PNG 12-16 March

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.

Facilitation, Small Team Leadership, Negotiation. Vanuatu, 26-30 March

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.

Not-for-Profit Accounting and Financial Management. Samoa 16-20 April; Fiji 30 April - 4 May

This course focuses on making accounting and financial systems work for NFP organisations. The course investigates the concepts, purpose and processes of accounting , and key financial management practices, for financially healthy "NFP" organisations. It prepares students to exercise stewardship over an organisation's financial assets, control over the cost of providing services, and make a sound analysis of financial information.

Social Policy, Social Change and NFP Organisations. PNG 14 - 18 May

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

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 Is, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.

Katrina Juliet Esera-Take, Samoan Umbrella 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): <http://www.adb.org>

13 March 2007 - Development Banks urge Partnership with Private Sector on Climate Change and Set up Working Group on Fragile States

Multilateral Development Banks urged public and private institutions to work together more closely to meet future energy needs and combat climate change. "Only in the context of a genuine public-private partnership can we create the conditions for investments that will meet the world's demands for energy in an environmentally sustainable way", the heads of the MDBs and the International Monetary Fund.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11619-developments-banks-partnerships>

27 March 2007 - The Pacific Region to Grow Modestly in 2007, ADB Says

ADB's 14 Pacific developing member countries are forecast to grow by 4.5% in 2007 on the back of an acceleration in growth in Papua New Guinea and recovery in Timor-Leste, according to a major Asian Development Bank report released today.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11667-pacific-developments-outlooks/>

AusAID: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>

6 March 2007 - \$8m Fellowships Program Aims to Strengthen Ties with Rising Asia Pacific Leaders

The Australian Government is working to strengthen ties with its regional neighbours with the announcement today of the inaugural round of fellowship placements for rising leaders.

Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Greg Hunt, said 39 Australian organisations will host 370 fellows from 24 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=1290_4520_6433_4048_76

23 March 2007 - Australia to Assist Pacific in Long-Range Climate Prediction

Australia will provide \$3 million to help 10 Pacific island countries improve long-range climate predictions, the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Greg Hunt, announced today. The *Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project* in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea will be funded by AusAID over three years.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=5602_8060_2712_2241_6215

24 March 2007 - Australia Working to Fight Tuberculosis in the Asia Pacific

On World Tuberculosis Day the Australian Government acknowledges the high burden of disease caused by tuberculosis in the Asia Pacific region, the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Greg Hunt said today. 'Every year approximately 100 million people are infected with TB, eight million develop active or infectious TB, and two million die,' Mr Hunt said.

Further information at:

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9952_109_5744_3231_5928

Delegation for the European Commission for the

Pacific: <http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

1 March 2007 - EC-Pacific EPA Ministerial Meeting Joint Declaration

Pacific ministers met with EC Commissioners in Brussels on 1 March 2007 to take stock of the progress of Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between the Pacific and the EU and to provide political impetus and guidance for the next steps in the negotiation process.

Further information at: http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/press_release/Joint%20EU-Pacific%20Declaration%20on%20EPA%20020307.doc

13 March 2007 - More EU Funds for the Cook Islands

The Cook Islands has received an increase of Euro0.4m in funding from the European Union (EU) to finance outer island development projects in the country. The increase tops up the country's initial €2 million allocation under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF).

Further information at:

http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/press_release/Press%20Communication%20Cook%20Islands%20120307.doc

25 March 2007 - European Union gives \$2 Million to Forum Island Countries

Fiji Daily Post, Mar 25 - Forum Island countries received another Euro \$2 million [US\$2.7 million] funding from the European Union [EU] on Friday. This will go towards the preparation of the island nations' Economic Partnership Agreement [EPA] with international donors and funding organisations. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat secretary general, Greg Urwin said at the signing ceremony that the additional funding would assist island nations in terms of expertise building and training. The EU had given Euro \$9.2 million [US\$12.2] in 2004 and the funding programme will end in December. Urwin said the EPA agreement with the EU was important for the island nations' economic development. "It's an important aspect of the region's integration process. It's an important aspect of our relationship with the EU which is a growing and an intensifying one in a number of aspects," Urwin said. "And the kind of support that has been provided this morning is going to assist us greatly in the kind of capacity fielding that's required in this whole trade relation

area in the Forum island countries. It's an area in which many of our members do not have great strengths in."

Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IFAD): <http://www.ifad.org/>

IFAD Indigenous Grants facility for 2007 - Closing Date 20 April 2007

The Facility invites applications from indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, as well as organizations that work with them, for grants to fund projects, innovative approaches and partnerships that promote the development of indigenous peoples and help them fulfill their aspirations. Grants range from US\$10,000 to US\$30,000. Mail, e-mail or fax applications to IFAD. The closing date for applications is 20 April 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/grants/index.htm>

NZAID: <http://nzaid.govt.nz>

NewZAID No.32

NewZAID updates you in brief on key issues and events on the NZAID agenda, including assistance to Tonga and crime prevention in Solomon Islands.

Further information at: <http://enews.nzaid.govt.nz/index.php?id=174F>

Oxfam New Zealand: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz>

1 March 2007 - Pacific trade negotiations urged to show strength and unity as talks with Europe heat up

As trade talks with the European Union enter a crucial phase, a broad group of non-state representatives from across the Pacific has demanded that trade negotiators achieve a fair agreement that benefits all Pacific people.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1387>

9 March 2007 - Trade trouble in the Pacific: Oxfam takes concerns to Pasifika

The European Commission is pushing the world's poorest countries, including those in the Pacific, to sign Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU by the end of the year. As currently proposed, these trade agreements will make the lives of 750 million people in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific worse, not better.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1394>

13 March 2007 - EU Development Ministers must act to stop unfair trade deals

European Development Ministers meeting in Bonn this week (March 12-13) must act to stop the unfair free trade deals between the EU and countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), otherwise millions of people will be locked into poverty, said an informal coalition of European Non-Governmental Organisations, including Oxfam, Traidcraft and WEED. The European Commission (EC) is negotiating so-called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with former colonies to replace a trade preference scheme that expires at the end of 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?s1=news&aid=1395>

The University of Manchester: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>

Scholarships for ICT4D Masters Study in Manchester

The new one-year MSc ICTs for Development degree aims to create "ICT4D champions" who combine technical competencies in information systems and project management with an understanding of development context and practice:

<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/postgraduate/masters/mscict.htm> Applicants who have applied, received and accepted a formal offer by June 2007 will be considered for a range of scholarship opportunities. Two of these are full scholarships available on a competitive basis for applicants from developing countries to any of IDPM's Masters degrees. One is a partial fee-waiver scholarship, available exclusively for developing country applicants to the MSc ICT4D programme. Details on other funding sources and on part-time employment opportunities while studying in Manchester can be found at:

<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/postgraduate/about/funding.htm>

United Nations Development Programme Fiji Multi-Country Office (UNDP):

<http://www.undp.org.fj>

7 March 2007 - Translating CEDAW into Law

Opening Remarks by Richard Dictus, UNDP Resident Representative at the launch of "Translating CEDAW into Law: CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Nine Pacific Islands Countries" *Further information at:*

<http://www.undp.org.fj/index.cfm?si=main.resources&cmd=forumview&cbegin=0&uid=pressreleases&cid=120>

UNDP - Pacific Centre: <http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj>

7 March 2007 - Regional CEDAW Compliance Report Launched

A publication detailing nine Pacific Island countries legislative compliance with CEDAW was launched in Suva on March 7 by the Kiribati High Commissioner, Ms Retata Rimon. The joint UNDP Pacific Centre and UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office publication "Translating CEDAW into Law: CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Nine Pacific Island Countries" contains 113 legislative compliance indicators that were developed to assess how national laws can be measured against the commitments that Governments make as States Parties to CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Further information at: <http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/>

World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Small Grants Program

Created in 1983, the Small Grants Program is one of the few global programs of the World Bank that directly funds civil society organizations. With funds from the Development Grants Facility, the program is administered through the Country Offices. NGOs and other civil society organizations who are interested in participating in the Program should contact the local World Bank Country Office.

Further information at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTSMALLGRANTS/0,,menuPK:952550~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:952535,00.html>

Free World Bank Institute online Poverty Analysis Course applications close 13 April

The Poverty and Growth Program (PGP) of the World Bank Institute is pleased to announce its new offering--the Advanced Poverty Analysis: Poverty Dynamics eLearning Course to be delivered from April 30, 2007 to May 21, 2007. This ten-session on-line course on poverty analysis, spread over three weeks, will emphasize the measurement and interpretation of how poverty changes over time ("poverty dynamics"). The course is designed to bring participants to the point where they can Measure and interpret poverty, using household survey data; Merge panel datasets and compute measures of poverty dynamics such as the extent of persistent poverty or the movement of households across quintiles; Critically assess the value of panel data; Distinguish poverty from vulnerability, and be able to measure and interpret the latter; Write up or present research findings on poverty dynamics in a clear and coherent way.

Further information at: http://info.worldbank.org/etools/wbi_learning/activity.cfm?sch_id=POV07-01-076

World Challenge

Shell World Challenge 2007 - applications close 6 May 2007

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

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

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre: <http://www.pcrc.org.fj>

1st March 2007 - Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day

Fifty three years since the world's most powerful hydrogen bomb was detonated by the United States on Bikini atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1st 1954, indigenous peoples continue with their struggle to fully realize a peaceful and secure Pacific for the current and future generations. The "Bravo" blast on Bikini atoll was a thousand times more powerful than the bomb that flattened Hiroshima in 1945 and was one of 67 nuclear tests that the US military conducted in the Marshall Islands in the period following WW2.

Further information at:

<http://www.pcrc.org.fj/index.cfm?go=main.resources&cmd=forumview&uid=press2006&cid=171>

Pacific Women's Bureau: <http://www.spc.int/women/>

Be more visible in international women's rights meetings, Pacific governments urged

The head of the United Nations body charged with guiding global women's rights policy is urging the Pacific to become more visible on the women's rights world stage. There appears to be "an under-representation" from the Pacific in international arenas which discuss issues and set agendas to improve the equality between women and men, says Carolyn Hannan, the Australian-born director of the UN's Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW).

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/women/women_CS51_info2.html#Title

New World Bank project offers cash for Pacific women's business projects

Pacific governments can lobby for new World Bank funding for projects that expand opportunities for women in the world of paid work. The initiative, Gender Equality as Smart Economics: A World Bank Group Gender Action Plan, was presented at the 51st Commission on the Status of Women in the United Nations in New York.

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/women/women_CSW51_info2.html#Title

WWF: <http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj>

5 March 2007 - Celebrating Crocodiles in Papua New Guinea

Ambunti, Papua New Guinea – A two-day festival in eastern Papua New Guinea celebrated the region's pristine environment and wildlife. The WWF-supported crocodile festival in East Sepik highlighted the importance of crocodile conservation and the species' habitat along the Sepik River, one of the largest unpolluted rivers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further information at: http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=95400

6. CROP Agencies News

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

28 March 2007 - FFC 64, Wellington 2007

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) will be hosted by New Zealand and held in Wellington. These meetings will bring together FFA member country representatives and advisers from supporting governments, organisations and institutions working in the Western Pacific region.

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

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS): <http://www.forumsec.org>

9 March 2007 - Forum encouraged by outcome of PACP meet with EC

The Pacific Islands Forum has welcomed the outcome of the meeting between Ministers from the Pacific ACP (PACP) countries with the European Commission (EC) in Brussels last week. The PACP Ministerial delegation is currently on a tour of several European countries to gather support for the Pacific's positions in the various areas within the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU).

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/forum-encouraged-by-pacpec-meet-outcome.html>

23 March 2007 - Region gets Financial Boost for EPA Negotiations

Pacific Regional Economic Integration Programme (PACREIP) received a boost of over F\$4m (€2 million) from the European Union (EU) today. A signing ceremony, committing the €2m in additional funding to assist Pacific ACP States with their preparations for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the EU, took place between the EU Head of Delegation, Dr Roberto Ridolfi and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr Greg Urwin, at the Forum Secretariat in Suva. The Forum Secretariat acts as Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) for disbursement of a portion of the EU's regional funds.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/region-gets-financial-boost-epa-negotiations.html>

27 March 2007 - Regional workshop powers up sustainable development issues

Delegates from around the Pacific convened this week to discuss and deliberate on issues relating to renewable energy, rainwater harvesting and waste management in the region. The Sustainable Development Workshop, facilitated by Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), kicked off on Monday at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/regional-workshop-powers-up-sustainable-development-issues-.html>

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC): <http://www.spc.int>

CETC Opens 44th Training Programme for Pacific Women

The SPC's Community Education Training Center opened its doors last week to allow women from the region to participate in its 44th Training programme. H.E. Mr. Sherman Shih-Nan Kuo the representative from the Trade Mission of Taiwan (ROC) officially opened the programme. 32 women from the Pacific member countries have been selected for the 7 month Community Development Course. A key process in this course is the Community Outreach Programme (COP) component that enables all trainees to experience two villages' attachments. This is where trainees will apply some of their ideas learned through the Core and Support Courses.

15 March 2007 - Call for scaling-up of services for prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs in the region

'The Pacific has made valuable progress in the last few years in addressing HIV and AIDS, but more action-orientated initiatives are needed,' said Dr Dennie Iniakwala, Section Head of the HIV & STI Section at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), speaking on the last day of the biennial Pacific Ministers of Health Meeting.

Further information at: http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-March/000051.html

SOPAC - South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission: <http://www.sopac.org/>

9 March 2007 - Technical teamwork to tackle disasters

Pacific regional efforts to tackle natural disasters are to be strengthened after the establishment of a new regional partnership between two key Pacific technical organisations. The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Pacific Islands Telecommunication Association (PITA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Suva today for regional cooperation and promotion in disaster mitigation and information and communication technology (ICT).

Further information at: http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=55

University of the South Pacific (USP): <http://www.sup.ac.fj>

22 March 2007 - Institute of Applied Science wins three major research awards

Marine Conservation in the Asia-Pacific region will be strengthened by three grants recently awarded to the Institute of Applied Science (IAS) at the University of the South Pacific. The grants will total US\$1.5 million over the next four years.

Further information at: <http://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=173>

7. Other News

Australian Council for International Development (ACFID):

<http://www.adfid.asn.au>

15 March 2007 - Pacific Disability Forum - representing Pacific Islanders with disabilities

"There are an estimated 358,300 Pacific Islanders under 24 years of age living with disabilities. They rarely enjoy human rights comparable to their peers.

Further information at: <http://www.adfid.asn.au/pacific-disability-forum-representing-pacific-islanders-with-disabilities/>

15 March 2007 - Child Sexual Abuse: a Pacific regional report

The report "Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific: a Regional Report" was prepared by the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Pacific, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International) and drew on information from a range of Pacific groups and individuals.

Further information at: <http://www.adfid.asn.au/child-sexual-abuse-a-regional-report/>

21 March 2007 - Solomon Islands "People's Survey"

Solomon Islanders have been surveyed in selected areas of Guadalcanal, Honiara, Malaita, Western and Choiseul to gauge community perceptions of the situation in Solomon Islands and RAMSI. The survey's ten performance indicators ask for the communities' views.

Further information at: <http://www.adfid.asn.au/solomon-islands-people-s-survey/>

Council for International Development: <http://www.cid.org.nz>

22 March 2007 - NZ Government needs to do much more to alleviate world water crisis

On World Water Day (March 22nd) an estimated 1.1 billion people will be unable to find safe water to drink. "For many people in the world getting water for the most basic of needs is a daily struggle," says Council for International Development Executive Director, Rae Julian.

Further information at: <http://www.cid.org.nz/news/nr1174537268.html>

Islands Business: <http://www.islandsbusiness.com>

March 2007

Includes "What's killing our islanders?", Security a challenge as PNG heads to the polls, and multi-million gas pipeline project abandoned.

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

6. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

April

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
1-2 April	PIANGO	Board Meeting, Apia, Samoa
2-4 April	SPREP	CBD Capacity Building Workshop for the Pacific LDCs.

		Apia, Samoa
2 – 5 April	SPREP	Youth Environmental Leaders Forum, Apia, Samoa
14 – 15 April	WTO	2007 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C.
16 – 18 April	SPC	AGM for regional maritime associations, PacMA, PIMLA & APP, Apia, Samoa
16-20 April	PIANGO / UNITEC	GDP - Not-for-Profit Accounting and Financial Management. Samoa
16 – 27 April	UN	United Nations Forum on Forests, New York
19 – 20 April	SPC	Maritime Affairs Ministerial Meeting, Apia, Samoa
20 April	PRNGO	MOU Between Pacific Regional NGOs on a clearing House Framework for Capacity-Building, Suva, Fiji
23 - 27 April	Forum Secretariat	ADB Consultations on the Regional Audit Initiative, Suva, Fiji
24 – 25 April		Regional Conference on Women. Peace and Security in Nadi
24-25 April	SPREP	PILN invasive species strategic action planning workshop in Kosrae State, FSM
26 – 27 April	PRNGO	Preparatory meeting for the SPC Triennial Women's conference in Suva, Fiji
29 April	Forum Secretariat	Gender Focal Points Meeting, Suva, Fiji
30 April – 1 May		Regional Human Security Meeting

May

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

		Caledonia
28 May – 1 June	FFA	FFA Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting, Wellington, NZ

June

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
18 – 29 June	WTO	Human Rights Council, fifth session, Geneva

Other

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
10 - 12 Jul	Forum Secretariat	Forum Economic Ministerial Meeting, Koror, Palau
15 – 19 October	SPREP	8 th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Alotau, PNG
August	PRNGO	4 th Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
4 - 20 Dec	WTO	Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France

Note: Further information is available at the following websites:

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

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

Pacific Plan - <http://pacificplan.org/> -> Calendar of Events

SOPAC - <http://www.sopac.org/> -> Calendar

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

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

7. 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 April e-Update is Wednesday 25 April 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.

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National Members

Member contact details can be found on the PIANGO website at 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

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Wallis and Futuna - ASCV

West Papua

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