

PIANGO

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

May 2007

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1. Secretariat Briefs

PIANGO Board

Policies & Procedures Review Committee

The three member committee met in Nadi from 29th April-1st May to carry out the review of the current policies and procedures of PIANGO and look into compliance in practice by the secretariat. The revised policies and procedures manual will be submitted to the Board meeting in July for their approval.

Constitution Review Committee

The three member Committee invites submissions from PIANGO members. The committee briefly met in Samoa during the last Board meeting in March and will again meet prior to the Board meeting. Members who wish to make submissions for the review of the PIANGO constitution, to send items to cema@piango.net

Next Board Meeting dates

Constitution Review Committee meeting 20-22 July, Nadi
Policies and Procedures Review Committee meeting 22 July, Nadi
Board Meeting 2/07 23-24 July, Nadi

PIANGO staff visit FCOSS

Staff of the Secretariat took a few hours out of the office on the 24th May to visit the Fiji NLU, Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS). The tour was inspiring and educational for the staff as they had the chance to see and understand how NLUs work. FCOSS Executive Director Hassan Khan provided a thorough enlightenment of FCOSS through a well prepared presentation.

PIMER 3 draft programme

The PIMER 3 draft programme schedule for the 27th June – 2nd July 2007 has been sent out to all NLUs for feedback and suggestions. The venue for the PIMER has been changed from Samoa to Suva due to budgetary constraints. The meeting is the Planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting meeting for NLU heads. For more information on the PIMER 3 please contact cema@piango.net

Regional RBM workshop

A Regional Result Based management workshop is currently being held at the PIANGO Board room with the intension of producing a customized, user friendly training manual for NGOs in the Pacific. The workshop is a follow up from the Darwin International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) held in 2006. For more information on the RBM workshop please contact bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO/ICSW publication on *Civil society Guide to the Pacific Islands Forum*

Based on the outcomes of the Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006, the need for Pacific CSOs to improve their engagement with PIF was raised. The proposed joint project has been discussed with PIFS and Pacific civil society. Though PIF member states have approved an accreditation policy for CSOs, there is a need for CSOs to be fully informed of the PIF processes and decision making mechanisms. The outcome publication aims to demystify PIFS, identify entry points for Pacific CSOs and support CSO engagement at both national and regional levels. The publication is expected to be out by early 2008. For more information on the proposed joint project contact cema@piango.net or gfox@jaag.com.au

PIANGO Link

The second PIANGO newsletter for 2007 is scheduled to be published in mid June, 2007. If you have articles that you would like the Secretariat to publish in our quarterly newsletter please contact katabwena@piango.net before the 8th of June.

Stress Management workshop

Litiana Domokamica, PIANGO's bilingual translator, attended the Stress Management workshop held on the 15th May 2007 and organised by Melanie Freeman of the Australia/Fiji Community Justice Program. At this workshop we gained a clear understanding of what is stress, the sources of stress and how to recognise stress, as well as how to establish strategies for managing stress at a personal level and to be able to plan time and work to minimise stress.

Training of Trainers workshop

The Training of Trainers workshop was held on the 22nd to 24th May 2007 organised by Melanie Freeman of the Australia/Fiji Community Justice Program. Training is the process of teaching employees the knowledge and skills they need to better perform their current or future job. The trainer delivers this information and provides opportunities for skill development. They need to manage the group of participants and often deal with behaviour and individuals. They often assess learning during the session and on the job to ensure there has been clear skill and knowledge acquisition.

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

CIANGO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday 13th May to organise another fundraiser for the CIANGO Centre. The meeting decided to call on all member groups (now 48) to raise \$5,000 each. This is to encourage all member groups to participate and contribute to the fundraising, instead of relying on the few active groups. So far, 3 groups have started, and one has raised \$3,000, while two others have raised \$1,000 each. This is a good start and we are hoping that the rest of the groups will follow suit. Estimated cost for the 2 story building is NZD\$550,000 - 600,000.

CIANGO will be conducting 2 workshops in June and July for two outer islands groups. 1. Capacity Building for Women and Youths, Manihiki Island NGOs; 2. Income Generation for Youth Development, island of Mauke. Both workshops are sponsored by CIANGO.

A working bee is organised for 31 May to clear the land site for the Centre, while the women are organising flower planting around the site.

As host of the Global Volunteers to the Cook Islands, CIANGO was privileged to have one volunteer working in the information centre for 7 days. He was a great help and did a much appreciate, good job.

FSM - FANGO

2nd FSM NGO Executive Heads Forum (NEHF) 6-17 April 2007

This meeting was held in Pohnpei and attended by at least 30 FSM NGO leaders and officers, key government officials, private sector representatives, FSM based diplomatic missions, national and regional development partners and community observers. The NEHF them "Harmonising Efforts to Maximise Impacts" underscores the critical need for effective civic, public and private sector cooperation and partnership on participatory development and responsive governance in FSM. Agenda sub-themes included interagency collaboration and cooperation, organisational sustainability, development assistance harmonisation and sustainable development.

FSM National Forum on the Pacific Plan - 18 April 2007

This meeting was held in Pohnpei and attended by at least 30 FSM NGO leaders and officers, key government officials, private sector representatives, FSM based diplomatic missions, national and regional development partners and community observers. Mrs Nainasa Whippy, PIFS Non-State-Actor Liaison officer and the FSM PPAC representative, Mr Ricky Cantero conducted the Pacific Plan Forum. Mrs Whippy presented key elements of the Pacific Plan, including recent changes to the Pacific Plan while Mr Cantero gave an update on FSM implementation of the Pacific Plan. This was followed by four issue based (gender, environment, good governance and sustainable development) working groups and working group presentations.

2007 FANGO Board Annual General Meeting was held on 18th April 2007

New Board members for the 2007 Calendar Year are: Mr. Herman P. Semes, Board President Transparency Micronesia Inc., Pohnpei Representative; Mrs. Christina (Kiki) Stinnett, Board Vice President, Chuuk Women's Council/Chuuk Chamber of Commerce, Chuuk Representative; Mr. William (Bill) Raynor, Board Treasurer, The Nature Conservancy Micronesia, Pohnpei Based international NGOs; Ms. Augustina (Tina) Takashy, Board Secretary, FSM Women Action Network; Mr. Bell Tosie, member, Kosrae Representative; Mr. Charles Falmeyog, Member, Yap Representative; Mrs. Lynn Narrhun, Member, Pohnpei Ladies Club/Lihelele; Mrs. Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Proxy for Mr. Raynor, The Nature Conservancy Micronesia.

New FANGO Members

Kosrae Chamber of Commerce, Yap Community and Cultural Development Organization, Elin Community Development Council, Community Empowerment Foundation, Takashy Foundation, Kolonia Town Women Association.

FANGO activities for the month of May include report writings, financial acquittals, finalizing production of 2007 FANGO Membership Directory, updating FANGO website and database, writing project proposals, reviewing grants and project proposals and organizing for the June Media Training and Issue Based Dialogue (mostly operation and administration).

Solomon Islands - DSE

National CSO Pacific Plan Forum - 20 June 2007

The Solomon Islands National CSO Pacific Plan Forum will be held at the CYP Meeting Room, with the proposed thematic areas as follows: 1. Pacific Trade partnership for sustainable economic development; 2. Energy needs, issues and challenges in the Pacific; 3. Ensuring Food Security in our Islands and Oceans; 4. Climate change and future of our sea of Islands; 5.

Weaving a culture of accountable communities; 6. Supporting a Pacific Human Security framework in the Pacific

Churches and NGO Program Design Mission

AusAID will undertake a Solomon Islands Churches and NGO Program Design Mission from the 20 May -19 June 2007. Consultations in Australia will begin from the 23-25 May 2007 and in Solomon Islands from 27 May- 11 June 2007. The design for a program of assistance to Churches and NGO Program will be based on the recent Churches Sector Stocktake Study that has just been completed by AusAID/SICA, and the recent updated Community Sector Strategy that would be soon finalised and known as 'Solomon Islands Community Sector and Civil Society Engagement Strategy (CSCSES) 2007-2011'.

Members Information Meeting

DSE had a Members Information Meeting on 10 May where the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs Fred Fakarii attended. The purpose of the meeting was to update DSE members of events that DSE are proposing to implement and other office activities. The main theme discussed during the meeting was the MOU with the Government. The meeting also discussed effective networking links with development partner organisations - there is high recognition in the area of networking and information sharing as the essential factor contributing to effective coordination, though there is a lack of commitment.

NGO Management Training

The NGO Management Training had a successful first week. 14 participants are completing the two week training, due to finish on 25 May 2007. The training was a participatory one, with participants having assignments to complete on certain topics.

DSE Staffing

DSE Organisational Management advisor Kelly Grigbsy will be leaving DSE at the end of May and returning home to Australia. Kelly was placed in DSE for 6 months through Australian Volunteer International (AVI) as the organisational advisor and has supported staff in many ways. DSE wishes Kelly a safe trip home and all the best in her future endeavours.

SAMOA - SUNGO

Budgeting and Financial Reporting Training

The In-Country training Program, is continuing with its training courses for the year. Budgeting and Financial Reporting training, that took place in the second week of May, aimed to assist the organizations to prepare a budget, be able to write Financial Reports against that budget and understand Annual Accounts. It was conducted by Mary Cretney with assistance from some of the staff of SUNGO, for 10 organisations, including SUNGO. The two-weeks long training, is "on the job" training, in which trainers spent 2 half days with each of the participating organizations in their offices, including one CBO, in the rural community.

SUNGO advised Government on Land Titles Registration Bill 2007

A 15 member delegation from SUNGO, met with the Bills Committee in early May, to present its petition against the Bill on Registration of Proprietorship of Land 2007. The Bill is in its second reading, in which the opportunity is given to members of the public, for their feedback, before proceeding on to the third reading in Parliament, to determine whether it should be passed or not. SUNGO's main concern focuses on the implications of this Bill on customary lands, if passed, even though they are not clearly stated in the Bill. SUNGO strongly believed that if customary lands are affected, Samoa will lose its culture and identity. With all the processes indicated in the Bill, SUNGO felt that the wider community, should be consulted, so to fully understand the advantages and disadvantages of the Bill. Thus SUNGO had recommended to delay the Bill from its third reading, so that more consultations with the public are conducted, to avoid future bloodshed. According to Chairman of the Committee, Member of Parliament, Muagututagata Peter Ah Him, SUNGO is not the first organization, they had met with, but there have been other organizations, that raised the same concern. He said that these recommendations will be collated and presented to Parliament in its next Parliamentary session.

SUNGO farewelled its first National President

It is with deepest sadness that one of the great women, who initiated the establishment of SUNGO 10 years ago, had passed away in early May. Tapusalaia is the founding President of SUNGO and it is because of her that Samoa has a vibrant, diverse and dynamic umbrella body for its NGO community today. Tapusalaia laid the groundwork for NGOs to come together and be recognised as a body for the first time in Samoa. This was a formidable task as NGOs are very diverse with interest and aspirations. She laboured on however and due to her ability to lead and to inspire she was able to gain support for the development of SUNGO, often under heavy criticism. This ultimately led to the establishment of SUNGO. She served 2 consecutive terms, allowed under the constitution as National President from early 1998 to early 2003. When she retired from the presidency Tapusalaia Fa'atonu Faletoese remained a staunch supporter of SUNGO, its aims and objectives, and was often called upon for her wisdom and guidance right up until she passed away. She will be sorely missed by SUNGO and the many others who had the honour of working with her during SUNGO's formative years and in her many other capacities. Rest in Peace.

SUNGO paid respect to Samoa's Head of State, Malietoa Tanumafili II – 17 May 2007

SUNGO was amongst the many organisations and individuals, who presented wreaths and flowers, in honour of the father of our nation, His Highness, the late Malietoa Tanumafili II. National President, Raymond Voigt, led SUNGO's delegation to pay their last respects to His Highness, while he lay in state for 24 hours. Malietoa was a very great leader who was in the forefront of leading Samoa to Independence in 1962. He will be truly missed by all, and always be remembered for his humble and loving ways. It was indeed a great loss for the whole nation. May he rest in Peace.

5. Proposal Writing Training 28 – 31 May

More than 15 participants (SUNGO members) are participating in the ICTP Proposal Writing training, currently held this week at SUNGO. The week long training course aims to train participants in the principles and practice of project design, planning and writing for simple development projects that their organisations may wish to undertake.

3. GDP Courses & Dates

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

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

Community Funding and Entrepreneurism: Tonga 25 - 29 June

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

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

This course explores what is different about managing a NFP organisation than a business or government department. Students examine the distinct values, culture and characteristics of NFP organisation in Aotearoa, overseas and of your organisation in particular. Students analyse what this means for their approach to management, leadership and their learning on this programme.

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

Amnesty International New Zealand & Council for International Development New Zealand

17th Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training - Applications closing date 3 August 2007

The Diplomacy Training Program is now calling for applications for its 17th Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia-Pacific Region to be held 29 October - 16 November 2007 in Wellington New Zealand. The training is organised by the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) in partnership with Amnesty International New Zealand and the Council for International Development (CID), New Zealand.

Further information at: www.dtp.unsw.edu.au or email request to dtp@unsw.edu.au

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

16 May 2007 - ADB and Solomon Islands Government Working together on Tsunami Recovery

In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, the Solomon Islands Government and ADB have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support rehabilitation and recovery of the affected areas in the western Solomon Islands.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11861-tsunami-aftermath/>

25 May 2007 - ADB and Solomon Islands Government Partner on a Plan to Restore Social and Economic Services to Tsunami Affected Areas

The Solomon Islands Government and ADB have agreed on an Emergency Assistance Project for the earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of Western and Choiseul Provinces in the western Solomon Islands. ADB has committed to assisting the Government by providing technical support in overall coordination, and drafting the Recovery Action Plan, in cooperation with other development partners.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/11889-solomon-islands-tsunamis/>

AusAID: www.aisaid.gov.au

8 May 2007 - 2007-08 Australia's Overseas Aid Program

The 2007-08 Budget is a watershed for the Government's aid programme and our largest ever investment in reducing poverty in our region. Australia will provide an estimated \$3.2 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2007-08, an increase over the 2006-07 budget (\$3.0 billion).

Further information at:
http://www.aisaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=985_523_8626_8718_1193

14 May 2007 - Australia commits \$25 Million to tackle Malaria in the Pacific

Through Australia's international aid agency, AusAID will fund a Pacific Malaria Initiative to provide further support for health systems in countries most affected by malaria. The four year project included in the 2007-08 Budget will also fund research into malaria prevention and control.

Further information at:
http://www.aisaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9575_7334_2174_3905_9498

Commonwealth Foundation (CF): www.commonwealthfoundation.com

21 May 2007 - CF supports Civil Society with more Online Resources

On the occasion of a major Commonwealth civil society consultation the Commonwealth Foundation has launched a new area on its website to better present the 80 Commonwealth Associations, the civil society organisations to whom the Foundation gives a voice.

Further information at:
http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=320&cat_id=45

22 May 2007 - Civil Society meet in London to debate CHOGM and CPF

Commonwealth civil society groups have met in London to discuss their participation at the Commonwealth People's Forum and their input into the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Uganda later in November this year.

Further information at:
http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=322&cat_id=45

Global Development Network: www.gdnet.org

2007 Global Development Award and Medals Competition - deadline 17 September 2007

Submissions are being accepted for the 2007 round of the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US\$180,000. Submissions can be for a new research proposal or for a completed research paper on any of the following five themes: 1. Fragile States - Addressing Vulnerability; 2. Household Exposure to Risk - Effects on Poverty; 3. The Rule of Law - Providing Security for Development; 4. Women's Rights, Security and Development - Challenges and Opportunities; 5. Natural Resources - Risks and Implications for Sustaining Development. The finalists will present their papers and proposals at GDN's Annual Global Development Conference in Brisbane, Australia in January 2008.

Further information at <http://www.gdnet.org/2007awards>

ODN Regional Research Competition - deadline 2 July 2007

Submissions are being accepted for the 2007 ODN Regional Research Competition, which has up to US\$10,000 per research proposal. The programme brings leading researchers, executives and students to Australia to undertake short or long term study, research and professional development in a broad range of disciplines and enables Australians to do the same abroad. The theme is "Security, Development and Growth".

Further information at: <http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=1199>

Goi Peace Foundation and UNESCO

2007 International Essay Contest for Young People - Deadline 30 June 2007

The Goi Peace Foundation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) invite young people up to 25 years of age to submit essays for the 2007 International Essay Contest, with entries divided into two categories for prizes - up to 14 years and 15 - 25 years. The competition's theme is "The Role of Media and Information and Communication Technologies in Building a Peaceful World".

Further information at: <http://www.comminit.com/awards2007/awards2007/awards-1637.html>

NZAID: www.nzaid.govt.nz

1 May 2007 - NZAID welcomes development potential of the RSE Scheme

The movement of labour, including low-skilled labour, can make an important contribution to development in developing countries. It provides opportunities for individuals to earn an income, acquire skills, and be exposed to new ideas. NZAID is pleased to be involved in New Zealand's response to the Pacific's requests for greater access to the seasonal labour market in New Zealand in the form of the Recognised Seasonal Employer RSE scheme.

Further information at: <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/press-releases/070501-rse.html>

14 May 2007 - Peters announces major increase in aid

Significant aid increases in Budget 2007 will allow New Zealand to rapidly redress its low level of overseas aid relative to other OECD donors, Foreign Minister Winston Peters said. "These funding increases will allow us to address urgent needs in the Pacific and Asia. Over half of the new funding will be spent in the Pacific, particularly in Melanesia where the need is greatest."

Further information at: <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/press-releases/070514-budget.html>

28 May 2007 - Currents, issue three

The magazine of the New Zealand Government's international aid and development agency, NZAID. Published four times a year, it considers development issues and profiles New Zealand's international aid programme.

Further information at: <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/whats-new/>

OXFAM Australia: www.oxfam.org.au

29 May 2007 - Australia should boost funding to help developing countries adapt to climate change

Rich countries such as Australia must dramatically increase funds spent on assisting poor countries to cope with the worst effects of climate change such as environmental and human disasters, warns a new report published today by Oxfam.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=351>

OXFAM New Zealand: www.oxfam.org.nz

25 May 2007 - Ministers are running out of opportunities to stop unfair trade deals between the EU and ACP

As Ministers from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) meet their European counterparts in Brussels today to review ongoing trade negotiations civil society organisations from around the world are calling for the EU's partnership with the ACP to become exactly that: a partnership for development, not a free trade time bomb.

Further information at: <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1440>

5. CROP Agencies News

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

3 May 2007 - Feleti Te'o New Deputy Secretary General

Mr Feleti Te'o of Tuvalu has been appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Greg Urwin, made this announcement today, welcoming Mr Te'o to his new position.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/feleti-teo-new-deputy-secretary-general.html>

3 May 2007 - Taiwan/ROC injects over US\$1m into Regional Development

Eight Pacific regional organisations have received US\$1,023,291 from Taiwan/ROC as part of an aid package covering 29 projects.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/taiwanroc-injects-over-us-1m-into-regional-development.html>

15 May 2007 - More Regional Cooperation - ADB told by its Pacific Members

The Pacific Developing Member Countries (PDMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) want the financial institution to explore means of enhancing its regional cooperation efforts with the hope of offering more help to its smallest members.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/more-regional-cooperation-adb-told-by-its-pacific-members.html>

18 May 2007 - Joint PACP Trade Ministers, NAOs and RAO set out Minimum Requirements for an EPA with EU

The Joint Meeting of Pacific ACP Trade Ministers National Authorising Officers (NAOs) and the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) in Nadi, Fiji, on 17-18 May has set out the minimum requirements for any Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU).

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/minumum-requirements-epa-with-eu-set-out.html>

23 May 2007 - 38th Pacific Islands Forum Dates

Forum Secretary General, Greg Urwin, has announced that the 38th Pacific Islands Forum will meet in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on 16 and 17 October 2007.

Further information at: <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/38th-pacific-islands-forum-dates.html>

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

11 May 2007 - Pacific aquaculture experts team up with Asian counterparts

Aquaculture is a young and promising industry in the Pacific region. To advance its progress, SPC

and Pacific aquaculture experts decided to team up with their Asian counterparts, NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific) for new training and research opportunities.

Further information at: http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-May/000061.html

14 May 2007 - Doctors and journalists to forge new Pacific health partnership

A regional workshop bringing journalists from ten Pacific Island nations to the Solomon Islands this month will focus on building a new Pacific media and health partnership. The initiative is aimed at setting up short and long-term support for better communication of health issues in the region.

Further information at: http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-May/000062.html

29 May 2007 - Alarming increase in illegal fishing in Central Pacific

A dramatic increase in the number of sightings of unauthorized fishing vessels in the western and central Pacific Ocean in the last three months is alarming fisheries officials in the Pacific Islands region.

Further information at: http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-May/000063.html

6. Other News

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

23 May 2007 - Growing Disability Movement in the Pacific

Pacific Island countries are increasingly recognising the importance of disability issues. An NZAID commissioned review "Free and Equal: A Review of NZAID Pacific Regional Disability Programme", documents the context for disability issues in the Pacific Islands region. This report, produced in October 2005, provides background to NZAID's strategic direction for assistance in the area of disabilities for the next five years.

Further information at: <http://www.acfid.asn.au/growing-disability-movement-in-the-pacific/>

Australian Development Gateway: www.developmentgateway.com.au

Online Discussion forum - Ask the HIV specialist - June 18 - July 1

Between June 18th and July 1st we will be hosting an online discussion session with a recognised HIV specialist. Visit the ADG forums to view previous discussions. Note: The ADG advisors are professionals in their field and contribute this free service on a pro bono basis.

Further information at: <http://www.developmentgateway.com.au/jahia/Jahia/pid/4282>

Islands Business: www.islandsbusiness.com

May 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. May edition includes Disasters - are we prepared?; Experts differ over Tsunami threat; New constitutions and election security worries in PNG

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

7. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

June

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

Future

Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
8 – 19 July	East-West Center	Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program, Honolulu, Hawaii
10 - 12 Jul	Forum Secretariat	Forum Economic Ministerial Meeting, Koror, Palau

August	PRNGO	4 th Multi-Stakeholder Workshop
11-12 October	CID	CID AGM
12 – 15 October	PIANGO	CSO Forum
15 – 19 October	SPREP	8 th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Alotau, PNG
19 – 21 October	WTO	2007 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund
24 October	SPTO	UNESCAP Tourism and Poverty Alleviation Workshop
4 - 20 Dec	WTO	Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France

Note: Further information is available at the following websites:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 June e-Update is Monday 25 June 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

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