

PIANGO

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

October 2007

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1. Secretariat News

Pacific Regional CSO Outcome Statement - Nuku'alofa communiqué

The much awaited Pacific CSO outcome statement - the Nuku'alofa communiqué - is currently posted on the PIANGO website for your information and downloading.

Capacity Building

Thank you

On behalf of the GDP Graduates for 2007 and the GDP team, we wish to convey a very sincere Malo Au Pito to Drew Havea and Siale Ilolahia and their CSFT team for their hard work and great hospitality which made us feel at home in the kingdom. We extend our thanks to the Tonga National Council of Church's Board members and staff, and to the Diocese of Tonga for their wonderful guest house and their friendly smiles and cooking. We must mention that we all miss the lovely pork and yam after departing the lovely kingdom.

Technical Assistance for PIANGO Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

PIANGO approached Tim O'Shaughnessy to assist in designing an M&E Framework for the PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006-2010. Tim has agreed to work alongside the Programme Manager Capacity Building. A draft M&E Framework, called the PIANGO PIMER Framework, was taken to the NLU Meeting in Tonga for input. The PIANGO PIMER Framework is expected to be completed before the end of November this year.

NLU PIMER Meeting in Tonga

Exactly 20 participants from NLU representatives, PIANGO Board and Secretariat attended the planned meeting for NLUs in Tonga on 11 October. There were 2 main agenda items including the NLUs and PIANGO Board Open Dialogue to discuss ways forward to improve the work of PIANGO in its role to strengthen the NLUs and the NGO sector at large. The second agenda item was the consultation on the M&E Plan as mentioned above.

Graduate Diploma Programme Graduation - Tonga

The GDP graduation ceremony in Tonga celebrated another milestone in PIANGO's partnership with Unitec New Zealand and NZAID which enabled 16 Pacific leaders and workers to graduate with a Graduate Diploma in Non-for-Profit Management. The PIANGO / Unitec partnership in

capacity building began in 1999, and pioneered a Pacific Indigenous Management Initiative (PIMI) to up-skill Pacific civil society leaders and workers. About 200 NGO leaders and workers have continued to be actively involved in this regional study programme and their learning has already contributed to strengthening their organisations and also to civil society at large in their countries.

Graduate Diploma Programme - Pacific Advisory Committee Meeting

The Pacific Advisory Committee held their extra-ordinary meeting on the 14 October in Tonga to discuss further issues regarding the Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP). Three focus discussions included the Pacific Trainers' Strategy, GDP Budget for 2008 onward and the GDP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The outcomes included a plan to effectively support Pacific trainers, clear budget allocation for GDP activities in 2008, the proposed M&E plan and a clear agenda for the February 2008 meeting in Auckland.

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

Information Sharing

Information Sharing team in Tonga

The Information Sharing team of Julie Kerrigan, ICT Officer, and Katabwena Tawaka, PMIS, were in Nuku'alofa, Tonga for a number of events that happened back to back. Julie assisted with the Self-Determination Forum and Pacific Regional CSO Forum, and Katabwena helped out with coverage of the Pacific Regional CSO forum and the Pacific GDP Graduation. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO Issues supplementary newsletter

The month of October was a hectic and busy month for PIANGO. This was due to the many events that occurred in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. For that reason, the Information Sharing team has produced a supplementary newsletter that has the updates of the major events in Tonga. The issue will be distributed to all stakeholders and NLUs with the 3rd quarter newsletter in the next week. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

MNCL Information Officer visits PIANGO

MNCL Information Officer, Priscilla Kare, visited the PIANGO Secretariat from 17th October and spent three days with the Information Sharing staff. Areas that Priscilla focused her training on were the website with Julie and the production of publications with Katabwena. For more information contact katabwena@piango.net

The ICT Hub website review

This UK based website provides a range of free ICT advice and support for charities and community organisations. It contains practical advice such as writing an ICT Plan, how to cost ICT, in-house staff vs consultants, as well as publication and fact sheet resources. Visit their website at www.ictHub.org.uk

2. Pacific NGO Briefs

Solomon Islands – DSE

DSE AGM

DSE would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and stakeholders for attending the

Annual General Meeting of DSE on the 29 October 2007 at the Quality Inn. In the AGM, DSE appointed its new governing body - the board comprised of eight representatives of DSE members. DSE thanks the outgoing board members for their commitment and effort to be part of DSE rebuilding process. At the AGM, DSE produced a six month plan of key priority areas to focus on. They were: to do an organisational review / stock take, review and update of DSE strategic plan and recruitment of staff to fill the vacant positions.

Education Watch Report - Solomon Islands

Coalition of Education Solomon Islands (COESI) in collaboration with the Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE) has conducted an Educational Experience Survey in Honiara and Malaita, the key findings of which are: just 17% of respondents are literate, 42.7% of respondents are semi-literate and 40.2 are non-literate. For more information on this report, see the SPC website at http://www.spc.int/prism/mdg/ed_mdg_ranking.html

3. GDP Courses and Dates

To find out more about the GDP, the course timetable for 2008 is available on the PIANGO website www.piango.org

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@fcoss.org

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

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)

18 October 2007: Japan and ADB Help to improve Solomon Islands' Maritime Transport

The Government of Japan and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will assist the Solomon Islands with preparing a project aimed at improving the efficiency, safety and reliability of the island nation's maritime transport.

More information at <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12214-solomon-islands-transport-projects/>

24 October 2007: ADB and Donor Partners Sign Development Cooperation Agreement in Tonga

The Government of Tonga and its development partners have signed an agreement that applies the five principles of the Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness and outlines opportunities for fostering more effective development coordination in country both in the immediate future and in the long term.

More information at <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12221-tongan-developments-agreements/>

AusAID

8 October 2007: Australia Challenges Business to help Reduce Poverty in Asia-Pacific

Australia is challenging businesses around Australia and the Asia Pacific region to apply for funding for projects that lift people out of poverty. The Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia will provide grants of up to \$1.5 million for developing successful business ideas which improve livelihoods, incomes, and access to vital goods and services.

More information at

http://www.usaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=1462_8608_6169_999_3194

17 October 2007: Australia to Help Protect Fish Stocks in the Pacific

Australia will provide incentive funding to recognise effective action by Pacific island countries to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Australia has also offered immediate support to avoid the potential collapse of key fish stocks in the Pacific.

More information at

http://www.usaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=5607_3138_2036_2655_5933

Commonwealth Foundation

12 October 2007: Civil Society Influences CHOGM Agenda

Six weeks in advance of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Uganda, the Commonwealth gathers to set the agenda for the CHOGM at the Committee of the Whole Meeting in Marlborough House. This year civil society worked hard to influence the process by bringing their issues and concerns to the table.

More information at <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=345>

17 October 2007: Civil Society call on Commonwealth Finance Ministers for Urgent Action to be taken on Climate Change

In a statement presented to Finance Ministers on 16 October in Georgetown Guyana, civil society called upon the Commonwealth to take urgent action on climate change to positively affect future outcomes to reduce the serious impacts of climate change.

More information at <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=346>

25 October 2007: Commonwealth's People Forum to be accessible to entire Commonwealth

For the first time, the Commonwealth People's Forum will be open online to the entire Commonwealth. The British Council is supporting a new online initiative aimed at creating a global discussion on the issues that affect us all through an interactive blogging site.

More information at <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=348>

European Commission

19 October 2007: European Commission launches new wave of development strategies with 13 Pacific Islands states

The Commission signed Country Strategic Papers with 13 Pacific States in the margins of the 38th Pacific Island Forum in Tonga. These Pacific states are the first to sign the country strategy papers in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund.

More information at <http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

NZAID

1 October 2007: NZ contributes to Tuvalu trust fund

New Zealand is making a \$1 million contribution to the Tuvalu Trust Fund to mark its 20th anniversary, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced.

More information at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=30829>

18 October 2007: Funding support for Tonga recovery

New Zealand will contribute \$5 million to further help Tonga's economic recovery following the civil unrest which saw many businesses destroyed last year, Prime Minister Helen Clark announced.

More information at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=31039>

Oxfam Australia

17 October 2007: Australia failing its own poverty pledges

Australia lags behind most developed countries in the amount of overseas aid it gives and has failed to fully implement more than half of its commitments to the global blueprint to combat poverty, a report by anti-poverty coalition Make Poverty History has found.

More information at <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/article.php?id=405>

Oxfam New Zealand

16 October 2007: Pacific Civil Society Organisations issue statement to Pacific Leaders on trade deals

Workshop on Trade Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2007 - Statement to Pacific Leaders.

More information at <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1599>

18 October 2007: Oxfam calls on World Bank President to make health and education a priority

As the new World Bank President is set to open the International Financial Institutions' (IFIs) Annual Meetings, international aid agency Oxfam called on him to put health and education for the poorest countries on top of his agenda.

More information at <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1600>

26 October 2007: New Zealanders take on the fight against climate change

A major new campaign being launched tomorrow aims to get tens of thousands of New Zealanders active in tackling climate change.

More information at <http://www.oxfam.org.nz/news.asp?aid=1609>

World Bank

11 October 2007: Two new World Bank Carbon Facilities will help fight Climate Change and Deforestation

The World Bank is working to increase significantly the world's ability to tackle global climate change and deforestation with two new carbon finance facilities to benefit developing countries.

More information at

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0..contentMDK:21506175~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

PANG

15 October 2007: 'The EPA is about Free Trade, not Development'

PANG Coordinator Roshni Sami delivered a rousing speech to the Pacific NGOs annual forum. Her presentation to the 2007 Pacific Regional CSO Forum in Tonga, focused on the implications of free trade for the Pacific.

More information at <http://www.pang.org.fj/22.html>

Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)

Call for applications and nominations for RRRT Pacific Human Rights Awards

RRRT is seeking nominations and applications for the 7th RRRT Pacific Rights Awards in recognition of Pacific organisations that over the year 2006/7 have helped make our region a better place to live through promoting social and economic justice, defending human rights, promoting respect and understanding, or enhancing the dignity of the poor and disadvantaged. Closing date for application is 9th November 2007.

More information at http://www.rrrt.org/page.asp?active_page_id=183

WWF Pacific

18 October 2007: Diamond urges Business Fraternity to Lead Conservation Efforts

WORLD renowned American scientist Jared Diamond will call on the business fraternity to play a greater role in the protection and conservation of the environment with the rising global concerns on climate change.

More information at http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj/current/news/press_releases/png/07-10_Diamond_talk.cfm

24 October 2007: Kabara Villagers Foster Reforestation

Recently, the Kabara community in Lau planted 2,600 Vesi trees as part of their reforestation effort to save local Vesi tree stocks from depletion.

More information at http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj/current/news/press_releases/fiji/07-10_village_reforestation.cfm

6. CROP Agency News

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

12 October 2007: SIS Leaders Make Decisions on Issues Affecting their Membership

The 16th Summit of the Smaller Island States (SIS) within the Pacific Islands Forum held in

Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga has made decisions on a wide range of issues affecting the livelihood of their people.

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/sis-leaders-summit-make-decisions-on-priority-issues.html>

15 October 2007: Pacific ACP Leaders Express Need to Intensify Negotiations of EPA with EU

Pacific ACP Leaders have expressed the need to intensify the region's exchanges with the European Union to sort out outstanding issues in the negotiation of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/pacific-acp-leaders-on-epa-negotiations.html>

17 October 2007: Final 2007 Forum Communiqué

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/final-2007-communicue-1.html>

18 October 2007: Pacific Island Forum Members Hold Plenary Session with Post Forum Partners

Members of the Pacific Islands Forum today concluded the first ever plenary session with their 14 Post Forum Dialogue (PFD) Partners in Nuku'alofa, the Kingdom of Tonga following the conclusion of the 38th Leaders Summit.

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/pif-plenary-with-post-forum-dialogue-partners.html>

19 October 2007: Joint EU-PIF Declaration

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/eupif-joint-declaration.html>

19 October 2007: Fifteenth Taiwan/ROC-Forum Countries Dialogue Joint Statement

More information at <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2007/joint-taiwanforum-dialogue-statement.html>

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

15 October 2007: Love Patrol - The Pacific's own HIV prevention TV series

A new and innovative approach to HIV prevention has arrived on our shores. 'Love Patrol' - the Pacific's own 10-part TV series - premiered in Vanuatu and Fiji in April and is already proving immensely popular with TV viewers in both countries.

More information at http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-October/000075.html

18 October 2007: Internet access possible for people in remote Pacific areas

People living in remote islands and rural areas of the Pacific will soon be able to connect to the internet via a new, low-cost, satellite-based system called Pacific RICS (rural interconnectivity system).

More information at http://lists.spc.int/pipermail/press-releases_lists.spc.int/2007-October/000076.html

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

1 October 2007: SPREP helps countries meet environmental funding deadlines in the Pacific

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been helping member countries meet an October 15 deadline. It's part of the process for accessing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding under the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability programme (PAS).

More information at http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=379

11 October 2007: 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef

'Strong reefs, strong islands', is the slogan for the 2008 Pacific year of the Reef. It was endorsed at the eighteenth SPREP Meeting of officials in Apia this year. The Pacific has embraced the 2008 International Year of the Reef, an International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

More information at http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=380

27 October 2007: Pacific's Biggest Conservation Conference

The Republic of Marshall Islands will be hosting the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. This was confirmed during the closing ceremony of the 8th Conference which ended in Alotau, Milne Bay, PNG. The theme of which was 'conservation serving communities in a rapidly changing world'. Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare officially closed the meeting with words of encouragement and a challenge to appreciate the real value of oceans.

More information at http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=389

7. Other News

Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)

10 October 2007: Mental Wellbeing in a Changing World

To mark World Mental Health Day, FSPI and its local network partner, Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) along with six other Pacific Island country partners and the Ministry of Health will be marking the day with the launch of PCDF's mental health pamphlet.

More information at <http://www.fspi.org.fj/Press%20Release/YMH%20Press%20Rel.pdf>

IPS Publications

Purchase online with IPS's new website

IPS Publications at the University of the South Pacific is delighted to launch its overhauled, updated and user-friendly website. The site gives details of the 350+ titles published over the last three decades - all relating to aspects of the Pacific region and most written by Pacific Islanders. Access the treasure trove that is IPS at www.ipsbooks.usp.ac.fj, find details of all titles and buy online.

Islands Business

October 2007

The Pacific islands region's leading current affairs and business magazine published monthly. Distributed throughout 22 island countries. October edition includes The Net and Children, Tonga Forum, and Islands to Target Wealthy Chinese.

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

UNESCAP

14 September 2007: Asia-Pacific Assesses Progress Towards a Barrier-free Society for the Disabled

The Asian and Pacific region has made great progress over the past few years in creating an inclusive and barrier-free society for millions of disabled people; but many challenges remain, according to reports to be presented to a high level regional meeting in Bangkok.

More information at <http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/2007/sep/n43.asp>

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

10 October 2007: What can WTO members do to make trade work for development?

The speakers Carolyn Deere, Director of the Global Trade Governance Project, Oxford University, and Rosalea Hamilton, founder of the Jamaica's Institute of Law & Economics at the University of Technology, Jamaica, discuss the theme "Making Trade Work for Development: what can WTO members do to ensure the global trading system delivers more for developing countries?". The moderator is WTO spokesperson Keith Rockwell. You can also make your views known in the online forum.

More information at http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/debates_e/debate4_e.htm

8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

5 - 10 November SPC / PIANGO Workshop for Francophone Farmer's Association, Noumea

18 - 22 November Commonwealth People's Forum, Kampala, Uganda

18 - 23 November CHOGM, Kampala, Uganda

22 - 29 November SOPAC Governing Council Meeting, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

26-29 November PIFS Forum Educational Ministers Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand

3-14 December UN Climate Change Conference, Bali, Indonesia

3 - 4 December ADB Asia-Pacific Water Summit, Beppu City, Japan

4 - 20 December WTO Conference of International NGOs, UNESCO, Paris, France

19-20 December WTO General Council

Note: Further information is available at the following websites:

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

Commonwealth Foundation - <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/diary/>

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

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

Forum Secretariat - <http://www.forumsec.org/event.cfm?cmd=list&sd=200710>

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

WTO - http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/events_e/events_e.htm

9. About PIANGO, Suggestions, Feedback

Your suggestions for future articles are welcome, as well as any feedback on recent articles.

The closing date for article submissions for the November e-Update is Monday

26 November 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

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

Palau - PCAA

Wallis and Futuna - ASCV

West Papua

Observers

American Samoa

Hawaii

Marshall Islands

e-Update in French language

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

Privacy Policy

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

Archive

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