

PIANGO September e-Update

1. Secretariat News

PIANGO focuses on strengthening of NLUs

The new PIANGO Board met in Suva on the 27th - 29th September for their first Board meeting this year. The Board members in their deliberations clearly indicated that PIANGO should continue to focus on the strengthening of NLUs. For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO Board meets at FCOSS

As part of consolidation, the PIANGO Board convened their last day meeting at the FCOSS Board room which was followed by a dinner hosted by FCOSS. It was an opportunity for PIANGO Board members and FCOSS Board and staff to socialize. For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO conducts Information Sharing training with DSE

PIANGO's Information Sharing Programme Manager, Katabwena Tawaka met with DSE networking office, Clavin Sese 22nd - 23rd September, 2008 to discuss information sharing needs of DSE. Areas that were discussed were publications, websites, radio programming and advocacy. For more information please email: katabwena@piango.net.

PACMACS Needs Assessment

In preparation for the PIANGO media training to be held in Fiji in February, 2009, a Needs Assessment for NLUs was circulated with a Needs Assessment Report to be produced by October, 2008. The report would set the process for the formulation of the training module of trainer of trainers and roll out training at national level. For more information please email: katabwena@piango.net

2. Pacific NGO News

Kiribati - KANGO

North Tarawa EDF9 Community Project Begins

Construction work on Group 1 of the EU-EDF9 funded projects have begun in North Tarawa with appointed contractors assigned to their respective project sites this month to oversee and carry out the initial phase of work with local island communities. The move followed the recent signing of contracts between the builders and the EDF9 team at KANGO boardroom, September 11. EDF9 Health Project Support Officer Catherine Crane says the work to be carried out involve the construction of four communities' toilet blocks that will be built at separate village locations in North Tarawa while monitoring of these projects will commence very shortly. [More>](#)

KANGO conducts training on Board Development

Two important training workshops were conducted separately during the month of September to develop the skills and understanding of member NGOs/CBOs in Board Development and Management, and Facilitation Skill at BTC boardroom and KANGO boardroom respectively. The board development workshop (September 9 - 12 2008) on the one hand looked at issues associated with the needs to improve the quality of work output of board members in any organizations, understanding the roles of the board chairs or CEOs, and how to effectively recruit responsible and good board members within an organization. [More>](#)

Fiji - FCOSS

FCOSS waits for grant

THE Fiji Council of Social Services is still waiting for its grant from the Government. And it believes the Prime Minister's Office should handle the grant for non-government organisations instead of the Social Welfare Department. FCOSS executive director Hassan Khan said Social Welfare "lacked the expertise and intelligence to process the grant rapidly and efficiently". He said the grant would be better handled by the PM's Office because it had people who would better analyse in light of the millions already given. [More>](#)

Australia - ACFID

Code of Conduct Review Status Report

The ACFID Code of Conduct Review status report (September 2008) is now available for download from [ACFID Code of Conduct - Code Review](#). [More>](#)

ACFID's submission to the Senate Inquiry into NGO accountability ACFID's recent submission to the Senate Inquiry into the

disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations is now available at [ACFID - Submissions](#). [More>](#)

3. GDP Courses and Dates

To find out more about the GDP, the course timetable for 2008 is available on the [PIANGO website](#).

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.

To apply for a place on these courses, please contact your local country contact:

Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)

Email: fcoss@connect.com.fj

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.

People applying from FSM, Palau, Guam and CNMI send your applications to Bakanebo Tamaroa on bakanebo@piango.net or piango@connect.com.fj

4. Pacific Donor and Funding News

AUSAID

29 September 2008: Australia Leads Support for People With Disabilities in Asia

Pacific

Parliamentary Secretary for International Development

Assistance, Bob McMullan, today committed Australia to a leadership role in supporting people with disability in the Asia Pacific. An estimated 650 million people across the world have a disability and about 80 per cent of the population with a disability live in developing countries. The Asia Pacific region is home to two-thirds of this population. [More>](#)

26 September 2008: Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid: 2008 Annual Report

The 2008 Annual Report for the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid has been launched. The report includes: An explanation of what output-based aid is, how it works, and why it is needed, An overview of GPOBA's support for OBA approaches in fiscal year 2008, A section on lessons and challenges for future and ongoing OBA projects and Data on GPOBA's activities and finances. [More>](#)

Commonwealth Foundation

19 September 2008: Finance Ministers Meeting

Civil society statement on food and energy crisis for upcoming Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting. Prior to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM) being held in St Lucia, October 2008, the Commonwealth Foundation facilitated a meeting between civil society leaders and representatives. The purpose of this was to increase the level of civil society input into the CFMM, and give Commonwealth citizens a chance to raise issues with their respective Governments revolving around situations that affect their daily lives,

allowing the public to input into the agenda of government meetings, and ensuring that citizen concerns are raised to Commonwealth Ministers. [More>](#)

10 September 2008: Architecture for communities

The Commonwealth architects designed a small sports centre to serve as a focus for a poor communities. "*Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.*" *Nelson Mandela*. Building on this assertion, the Commonwealth Association of Architects' student competition tasked competitors to design a small sports centre to serve as a focus for a poor community and to select their own site and programme. [More>](#)

NZAID

26 September 2008: NZ committed to helping the world's poorest Trade Minister Phil Goff today addressed the United Nations Call to Action meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to the eight internationally agreed targets aimed at reducing and eventually eradicating poverty. "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are at the core of international aid efforts and New Zealand's growing Official Development Assistance Programme. They seek to address the very basic inequalities which are the root of global poverty," Mr Goff said. [More>](#)

11 September 2008: NZ and Tonga new aid strategy launched New Zealand has renewed its commitment to development efforts in the Kingdom of [Tonga](#) with a focus on governance and civil society, broad-based growth and sustainable livelihoods and education, Prime Minister Helen Clark said today. "The NZAID/Tonga country strategy is being launched in Nuku'alofa today. It is a major milestone in our relationship with Tonga and demonstrates New Zealand's commitment to a healthy and prosperous Pacific." Over the ten year period of this strategy, NZAID will deliver resources in excess of \$120 million to support Tonga achieve its development goals. This signals New Zealand's commitment to investing in development in Tonga, a close neighbour. [More>](#)

4 September 2008: Donors and Developing Countries Agree to Reform Aid

Developed and developing countries today agreed to take bold steps to reform the way aid is given and spent. After three days of intense negotiations, they endorsed the Accra Agenda for Action. Developing countries are committing to take control of their own futures, donors to co-ordinating better amongst themselves, and both parties to the Agenda are pledging to account to each other and their citizens. The Accra Agenda for Action is the product of an unprecedented alliance of development partners – developing and donor countries, emerging economies, UN and multilateral institutions, global funds and civil society organisations. They all participated in the discussions leading up to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, hosted by the Government of Ghana and organised by OECD and the World Bank, in Accra. [More>](#)

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

Greenpeace

03 September 2008: Garnaut must call for a 40% cut in emissions

Australia will face a disastrous rise in temperature of between 2°C and 4°C if the Government's climate change advisor, Professor Ross Garnaut, fails to recommend a carbon emissions reduction target of at least 40 per cent by 2020 when he releases his supplementary report on Friday. A temperature rise over 2°C will doom Australia to the loss of the Great Barrier Reef and its tourism industry, a doubling of extreme bushfires and risks triggering irreversible melting of the Greenland ice sheets. [More>](#)

03 September 2008: Greenpeace locks down illegal rainforest log export to protect the climate

Today, at the invitation of local resource owners, activists from the Greenpeace ship, Esperanza, stopped the loading of the Harbour Gemini, a log ship carrying timber to China from the Turama Extension, a logging concession riddled with illegalities. While the ship was loading at Paia Inlet, Gulf Province, four activists climbed up a loading crane and fastened a huge banner reading 'Protect Forests, Save Our Climate'. At the same time the local resource owners and their families conducted peaceful protests in three separate areas around the concession. [More>](#)

WWF

16 September 2008: Fiji Islander leads International Conservation body in the Pacific

One of Fiji's renowned women conservationists Ms. Kesaia Tabunakawai has been confirmed as the head of the South Pacific office of WWF. Ms. Kesaia Tabunakawai is the new Representative of the WWF programme office that supports work in Fiji, Cook Islands and coordinates regional Pacific effort. She joined the organization in 1996 and has served as manager of the Fiji Country Programme as well as the conservation director of the regional WWF programme. She started her career in conservation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry in Fiji. [More >](#)

6. Crop Agency News

PIFS - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

04 September 2008: First EU-Pacific Islands Forum Troika Ministerial Meeting

The first ministerial meeting to enhance the political dialogue between the Pacific Islands Forum and the European Union will be held in Brussels on 16 September. At the special dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) held in Tonga in October last year there was agreement to launch an enhanced EU-PIF Political Dialogue. [More>](#)

04 September 2008: Regional Meeting to discuss 2nd phase of Business Diagnostic Toolkits Project

The 2nd phase of the Business Diagnostic Toolkits Project is to start with a Regional Business Diagnostic Toolkits Meeting, to be held in Nadi, Fiji, 8-12 September 2008. "The growth of the small to medium enterprises (SME's) is seen as a fundamental component of economic development. However the failure rate of SME's in the Pacific remains unacceptably high and most SME's fail to grow beyond a subsistence level. Governments in the Pacific have recognized this and are putting in place organizations to help these businesses and to stimulate the growth of the SME sector itself," says Feleti Teo, Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. [More>](#)

25 September 2008: Pacific Plan marks three-year milestone: Key regional achievements and challenges identified Three years on, Pacific Island Countries continue to report progress on strengthened regional cooperation and integration as guided by the Pacific Plan. This was highlighted in the [2008 Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report](#), released this week by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Pacific Plan was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their annual meeting in October 2005 as the blueprint for regional development to enhance and stimulate economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. [More>](#)

26 September 2008: Nations of Pacific need to have both genders in parliament

The nations of the Pacific need to have both genders represented in parliament if they are to realise their full potential in the global environment. Opening the two-day sub-regional workshop on special measures for advancing women's representation in legislatures in Port Moresby today, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare said: "We can no longer argue that custom stops us from recognising women as equal partners in our development when our aspirations are to embrace many western ideals and concepts." [More>](#)

29 September 2008: Outcomes of sub-regional workshop on special measures for women

In 2004 the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum called for action to address the low levels of women in decision-making, within the framework of the Forum's Pacific Plan and consistent with the Pacific Platform for Action on gender equality. In April 2006 a "Pacific Regional Workshop on Advancing Women's Representation in Parliament" was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. One outcome of that workshop was agreement that the Forum Secretariat, with international and regional partners, would initiate and coordinate sub-regional workshops on special measures and electoral reforms to promote the political representation of women. [More>](#)

SOPAC

15 September 2008: Strengthening the ICT Capacity of Government Leaders in the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand (UN/ESCAP Information Services). Knowledge and familiarity with information and communication technology (ICT) in the Pacific received a boost with the holding of a key United Nations training programme for some of the region's policy-makers and government officials. The **United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology (UN-APCICT)**, in collaboration with **Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)**, held a four-day workshop on ICT on the Cook Islands from 2 to 5 September, 2008. [More >](#)

18 September 2008: Launch of new toolset to revolutionise disaster risk management in the Pacific

This evening disaster management specialists from the region met at the Suva Holiday Inn for the official launch of a new tool that could revolutionise disaster management throughout the Pacific. The Pacific Disaster Net (www.pacificdisaster.net) is a web-based portal that will help to link disaster management specialists and resources throughout the Pacific region. It will directly help National Disaster Management Offices and all disaster risk management stakeholders to improve knowledge management, planning and decision-making. [More >](#)

SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community

11 September 2008: Individual Human Rights Award a Pacific First

Thursday 11 September 2008, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji – Nominations are being sought for the 2008 RRRT/SPC Pacific Human Rights Award, which for the first time in a decade honours individual accomplishment. Launched today by the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (RRRT/SPC), the Pacific Human Rights Award has been presented to Pacific Island organisations that have shown extraordinary dedication to protecting the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the region since 1999. [More>](#)

18 September 2008: EU funds project to boost Pacific trade

A new project to promote Pacific Island exports of agricultural and forestry products are being funded by the European Union under its 9th Development Fund. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will receive EUR 4.0 million over five years to implement the project. During the 2006 Pacific Islands Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services meeting, SPC's Land Resource Division was asked to submit a proposal to the EU to fund a pilot project on Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade (FACT). FACT team leader, Dr Lex Thomson, said the proposal, which was approved last year, was born out of the desire of Pacific Island nations to increase their trade in agriculture and forestry products as a way of reducing trade deficits, alleviating rural poverty and stemming urban drift. [More >](#)

28 September 2008: Equality Not an Impossible Dream: New SPC Gender Adviser

A world where women and men enjoy equality of rights and opportunities is not only possible – it's achievable, says the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) new adviser for gender equality, Treva (Téa) Braun. 'I believe passionately in the unconditional equality of women and men,' Ms Braun says. 'I believe that we can achieve a world where the full talents, capacities and contributions of men and women alike can be realised.' 'We have already reduced or eliminated vast amounts of injustice in the world, thanks to progressive thinking, opening up of societies and information, and collective advocacy,' she adds. [More>](#)

SPREP - South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

01 September 2008: Capacity building for the Pacific media on climate change: call for expressions of interest

In line with SPREP's Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, UNESCO's Strategy for Action on Global Climate Change and PINA's commitment to training for journalists in the region, the organisations are working together to help build capacity for the Pacific Media on climate change. This is a call for Expressions of Interest for regional journalists to attend the Media workshop in Apia, Samoa from 13 – 17, October 2008. A separate invitation will be issued to the Media in Samoa. The workshop is a joint collaboration between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Government of Canada, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Pacific Islands News Association. [More>](#)

03 September 2008: The Nineteenth SPREP Meeting

Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia is the host of the nineteenth SPREP meeting coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The meeting is held from September 4 – 12, with the Meeting of officials held 6 – 11 September, followed by the Ministerial level meeting on September [More>](#)

04 September 2008: The Cook Islands now a member of the IMO

After a nine-year process, the Cook Islands are now officially a member of the International Maritime Organization. As the Cook Islands are not a member state of the United Nations their application to join the IMO needed the approval of two-thirds of the current IMO members, which totalled 112 acceptances in all. The Cook Islands applied to join the IMO in 1999 and the 112th letter of acceptance from an IMO member was received by the Secretariat on the July 15, this. [More>](#)

7. Other News

CIVICUS

12 September 2008: International Aid: Charity or Justice? Reflections on the Accra Aid Effectiveness Conference

The recently concluded High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness drew a significant amount of energy from civil society around the world. In addition to holding a parallel forum which tried to influence the outcomes of the intergovernmental meeting, several CSOs have been involved in various consultations and meetings for more than a year in preparation for this much talked about event. CSOs arrived in Accra deeply concerned that the pre-conference draft of the Accra Action Agenda, known as the AAA for short, was looking more like the Accra Inaction Agenda, since there were very few firm targets around key areas of concern: the conditionalities aid-giving countries place on aid-receiving countries, the demand for the use of country systems, developing the aid flows such that there would be greater predictability for developing countries as to what they can expect and when from developed countries, preferably five years in advance so that they can plan well and execute such development programmes efficiently. [More>](#)

Islands Business

29 September 2008: Pacific may be able to ride out financial storm in short- term --ADB

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) says while Pacific Island economies are largely isolated from the short-term impact of instability in global financial markets, there will be negative impacts over time. Former U.S. Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan is calling it a "once-in-a-century" financial crisis. However, the Regional Director of ADB's Sydney office, Eugene Zhukov, says credit exposures to US-based financial institutions under scrutiny or threat, are generally low across the Pacific. "However, there are likely to be adverse economic effects over time. These effects are likely to be highest in countries where governments rely on income from international equity or property markets—for example Tuvalu and Kiribati. Remittances and tourism, key sources of economic activity in many of the countries in the region, may also be adversely affected by any downturn in the Pacific's larger neighbours," Mr Zhukov says. He says the appropriate response now, is for Pacific Island governments to tighten their belts, and improve revenue collection. Mr Zhukov's comments come as the U.S. President George Bush and congressional leaders appear to have reached agreement to spend up to US\$700 billion to bail out troubled Wall Street financial institutions, primarily by purchasing mortgage-backed assets. [More >](#)

World Bank

24 September 2008: Mixed Results Towards Gender Equality, Say World Bank and OECD

Women's health and education have improved substantially in most countries, but progress is lagging on improving their economic opportunities and investments of some US\$13 billion a year are needed to achieve the overall goal of gender equality and women's empowerment, says a new report by the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and development (OECD). [More >](#)

8. Calendar of Meetings & Activities

Calendars of Meetings and Activities are available at the following websites:

[ADB](#)

[Commonwealth Foundation](#)

[East-West Center](#)

[Forum Fisheries Agency](#)

[Forum Secretariat](#)

[SPREP](#)

[WTO](#)

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 September e-Update is Friday 17 October 2008. 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](#)

Aotearoa / NZ - ANGOA

American Samoa

Australia - [ACFID](#)

Cook Islands - CIANGO

Fiji - [FCOSS](#)

Kiribati - KANGO

Marshall Islands

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

Hawaii

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

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Archive

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