

5 October 2008

PIANGO January e-Update

1. Secretariat News

PIANGO 2009 Activity Planner

For the first time a yearly planner that indicates the Secretariat's proposed activities dates is presented to all PIANGO NLUs and partners. This was the output of the 2008 Staff Retreat which has been circulated to all NLUs and stakeholders. The planner will assist NLUs and other PIANGO partners in scheduling their activities against planned Regional Activities by the Secretariat. For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PIANGO monthly reports

To ensure that all priorities are accomplished by respective programmes within the Secretariat, all Programme Manager have been tasked to produce monthly reports to the Executive Director on progress on all monthly activities. This is a internal monitoring and mechanism progress that is targeted in ensuring that the Secretariat accomplishes its scheduled activities for each month. For more information email litiana@piango.net

PACMAS update

AUSAID PACMAS Program Manager, Louisa Cass met with PIANGO's Executive Director, Bakanebo Tamaroa and Information Sharing Programme Manager, Katabwena Tawaka to discuss the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme project. The proposed media advocacy Trainer of Trainers workshop is proposed to be held from the 23rd – 27th February, 2008. The Secretariat will invite NLUs who participated in the Needs Assessment research. For more information email katabwena@piango.net

Mapping Project update

The Secretariat is presenting a concept paper on the Regional Mapping Project to UNDP Pacific centre to access funding to begin the collation of baseline information on NGOs in the Pacific. The plan will include training of NLUs on the methodology of the project and familiarization of the questionnaires. For more information email katabwena@piango.net

History of PIANGO update

Research on the History of PIANGO has begun with the Programme Manager Information Sharing and Research and Policy Officer, Itintaake Etuati taking lead roles in the project. The Information Sharing programme is currently working on a presentation to the PIANGO Board on the methodology of the research and structure of the report. For more information email katabwena@piango.net

PIANGO New Staff

The PIANGO Secretariat is fortunate to have the services of Mr. Drew McDonald, a volunteer from the Australian Volunteer International (AVI). Mr. McDonald joins the PIANGO team with vast experience in IT and hope to assist in the IT problems of the Secretariat and NLUs. He will be with PIANGO for two years. Mr. McDonald will be working closely with his counterpart Ms Roiti Moutu who has recently joined PIANGO in December as the IT Assistant. For more information email katabwena@piango.net

The PIANGO family would like to welcome the new Capacity Building Programme Officer, Mrs. Eleni Tevi who joined the Capacity Building Programme in December. Mrs. Tevi is a graduate MBA student from the University of the South Pacific and will be working closely with the Graduate Diploma Programme. For more information email arieta@piango.net

In this Issue:

1. Secretariat News
2. Pacific NGO News
3. GDP Courses and Dates
4. Pacific Donor and Funding News
5. Pacific Regional NGO News
6. CROP Agency News
7. Other News
8. Calendar of Meetings and Activities

9. About PIANGO

Contact PIANGO

Phone: (+679) 330 2963

Fax: (+679) 331 7046

Email: piango@connect.com.fj

Web: www.piango.org

Capacity Building programme update

The GDP Programme has now established a thorough database as a more efficient recording and better-informed device. All information regarding GDP students (graduate/continue) and trainers (UNITEC/Pacific) are constantly fed into the system as soon as we receive them from UNITEC and respective NLUs who act as host countries to the on-going GDP courses. The information in the database is treated with high confidentiality. PIANGO wishes to thank UNITEC and NLUs for their cooperation in providing data and information for our database.

The annual GDP-PAC meeting for 2009 is scheduled for 2-3rd February in Suva. Various issues will be discussed by PIANGO, UNITEC and NLU members of this Pacific Advisory Committee. The main focus of the discussion will be on the 2008 Council resolution on the GDP programme's future direction. Enrolments into GDP courses at various stations are underway and PIANGO wishes the hosts NLUs the very best in administering/facilitating the realisation of these courses. For more information email arieta@piango.net

PIANGO Policies and Procedures manual

The Staff Policies and Procedures Manual is being updated after discussions at the secretariat staff retreat in December. The revised version will be presented to the Board at its first meeting for 2009 in March. For more information email bakanebo@piango.net

PRNGO meeting

The PRNGOs Alliance set in motion/began their 2009 working agenda, at their meeting on 23rd January, with discussions of the imminent issues and tasks ahead of them. These included the EDF 10 Non-Focal Envelope valued at \$10 million, the Regional CSO Forum 2009/CSO Forum Outcomes 2008 which have a direct bearing on how PRNGOs have streamlined their operational priorities & initiative, how the Alliance could best collaborate within the spirit of their existing MOU, and how CSOs could be best equipped towards achieving the MDGs in the Pacific. Additionally, the Alliance welcomed its newest member – the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) who was unanimously embraced as the twelfth full member of the PRNGOs' family.

Active efforts at relief works for the Fiji Flood victims by all members in their own unique ways and through their own independent affiliations and networks was warmly acknowledged and encouraged as a meaningful intervention through which PRNGOs' very own purpose befittingly became re-invigorated again. For more information email ltintaake@piango.net

Micronesian Sub Regional Meeting

The Micronesian sub-regional meeting took place in Palau from 16th – 19th January, 2009. The inauguration of the President of the Republic of Palau took place on Thursday 15th January, 2009. The recently appointed Programme Manager Capacity Building, Mrs Arieta Moceica and Executive Assistant, Mrs Litiana Domokamica travelled to Palau for the meeting. They had the honor to meet and talk with the newly elected president, Mr Johnson Toribiong; the Vice-President, Mr Kerai Mariur and the speaker of the legislature of Guam, Ms Judith "Judi" T. Won Pat; senators and senior government officials from the other Northern Pacific island countries who were in Palau for the presidential inauguration. The Micronesian sub-regional was another successful meeting for the secretariat with the 5 countries represented – CNMI, FSM, Guam, Palau and RMI. For more information, please contact arieta@piango.net

2. Pacific NGO News

Kiribati - KANGO

06 January 2009: Three I-Kiribati men arrive safely in Solomon Islands after drifting at sea for 24 days

Three I-Kiribati men who drifted without food and water for 24 days at sea arrived safely in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara yesterday after a fishing vessel rescued them. The Solomon Star says the three men were returning from a funeral on Nonousi Island and heading towards Tapiteuea Island when they were caught in rough seas. The three had food and water for five days after which they survived on drinking their urine and salt-water. With little fuel left, they managed to reach a fishing boat that took

them to Honiara. The trio is expected to return to Kiribati next week. [More>](#)

Fiji - FCOSS

31 January 2009: Social Force Analysis [SFA] Workshop

The SFA is part of the second phase of Civil Society Index [CSI] which FCOSS, with the support from CIVICUS, has been tasked to implement after careful review process in the successful completion of the first phase. CSI toolkit is a diagnostic and participatory tool designed to strengthen civil society on a nation-by-nation basis. Thus FCOSS invites its network members, partners, civil society organizations and other interested to the SFA workshop. [FCOSS Update>](#)

Australia - ACFID

22 January 2009: The Financial Crisis and Global Health: report of high-level consultation, Geneva 19 January 2009

Health ministers from around the world have urged donor countries and financial institutions to continue supporting the health needs of poor countries, especially during the current world financial crisis. The plea was made at the conclusion of a high-level consultation to discuss how the financial crisis is affecting global health. Participants in the consultation, held in Geneva on 19 January, said that countries also need to take a longer term perspective so their health systems are more resilient in the future, and 'suggested five areas of action for WHO and policy-makers: leadership, monitoring and analysis, pro-poor and pro-health public spending, policies for the health sector based on primary health care, and new ways of doing business in international health' ([WHO](#)). [More>](#)

20 January 2009: A stronger Australian voice needed on Gaza

Following the fragile ceasefire in Gaza, ACFID today distributed a media release suggesting there will only be a durable ceasefire if UN Security Council Resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 is fully implemented. The media release said Australia's aid and development sector expects the Australian Government to speak up strongly to the government of Israel about providing unrestricted access by international humanitarian aid agencies to assist the people of Gaza. [More>](#)

15 January 2009: UNICEF 'State of the World's Children' report focusses on maternal and newborn health

High rates of maternal and child deaths in the Asia and Pacific regions are one of a number of findings in a recently released UNICEF report that shows a stark gap between poor and rich nations. *The State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health* report 'examines the current state of maternal and neonatal health, explores the fundamentals of a supportive environment for mothers and newborns, and outlines ways to strengthen efforts in support of primary health carer'. Africa and Asia are another key focus of this report, which complements the previous year's issue on child survival. [More>](#)

14 January 2009: The Fred Hollows Foundation receives rare medal of honor from the Cambodian Government

The Fred Hollows Foundation, a member of ACFID, has received a rare medal of honor from the Cambodian Government acknowledging its work in preventing unnecessary blindness. The National Development Medal was presented to The Foundation's CEO, Brian Doolan, at the official opening of a new eye clinic in Prey Veng Province in south western Cambodia. [More>](#)

3. GDP Courses and Dates

To find out more about the GDP, the course timetable for 2009 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.

Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL)

Email: mnci@online.net.pg

People applying from PNG

People applying from FSM, Palau, Guam and CNMI send your applications to respective 'host' NLU's where you wish to take up courses with. For any further queries contact: Eleni Levin-Tevi on eleni@piango.net or piango@connect.com.fj

4. Pacific Donor and Funding News

AUSAID

27 January 2009: Australia to Provide \$5million Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Gaza Australia will provide a further \$5 million for urgently needed humanitarian assistance in Gaza. The additional assistance I am announcing today demonstrates Australia's on going support for the considerable efforts being made by Australian and international organisations to provide critical humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. The additional \$5 million includes up to \$2 million for Australian NGOs to deliver immediate emergency assistance in Gaza [More>](#)

16 January 2009: Further Australian Assistance for Fiji Floods Today I announce Australian Government assistance of \$3 million to respond to the floods in Fiji. This includes \$1 million for emergency flood assistance and \$2 million for longer term recovery and reconstruction. The Fiji Interim Government made a request for international assistance on 15 January. Given the scale of the crisis it is appropriate that Australia offers what assistance we can to help the people of Fiji. [More>](#)

12 January 2009: Australia provides emergency assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands Australia will provide US\$50,000 in immediate emergency assistance to each of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in response to tidal surges and storms that have inundated the low-lying Pacific Islands since early December. "This US\$100,000 assistance package will help alleviate the impact of recent severe flooding on inhabitants of these vulnerable islands", said Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Duncan Kerr SC today. The flooding in the Marshall Islands occurred from December 9 to December 15, and a state of emergency was declared on 23 December 2008. The neighbouring Federated States of Micronesia declared a state of emergency on 24 December 2008. [More>](#)

01 January 2009: Australia's Response to the Violence in Gaza and Southern Israel - \$5 Million in Humanitarian Assistance The Australian Government is gravely concerned by the escalating violence which has followed the breakdown of the cease-fire arrangement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Australia is deeply saddened by the resultant, tragic loss of life in recent days, and strongly

condemns the firing of rockets and mortars into southern Israel by Hamas and other militant groups. While recognising Israel's right to defend itself from such indiscriminate attacks, the Australian Government supports the United Nations Security Council's call for an immediate halt to all violence. [More>](#)

Commonwealth Foundation

23 January 2009: The awards give governments, civil society and non-governmental organisations the opportunity to showcase and share their innovative work Nine finalists have been shortlisted from a total of 49 submissions for the Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards 2009. These entries – from Botswana, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Uganda and the United Kingdom – were selected from a pan-Commonwealth panel of adjudicators made up of leading academics and educators. The finalists' entries range from a programme which looks at health education for adolescent girls to a school that is aiming to achieve quality education by involving the local community. [More>](#)

22 January 2009: Multilateral institutions are needed to promote more effective co-operation and global action to ensure inclusive globalisation, says Dr Ngaire Woods Commonwealth countries as well as the wider global community need multilateral institutions that are effective in promoting co-operation and global action to ensure a more inclusive globalisation, according to Dr Ngaire Woods, Director of the Global Economic Governance Programme. Dr Woods, who is also Professor of International Political Economy at University College, Oxford, has written that there is a need to reform the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. She is one of the contributors to a new Commonwealth book – 'Reform of International Institutions' - which will be officially launched on 21 January 2009. [More>](#)

21 January 2009: Seminar takes forward mandate given by Heads of Government to promote tolerance, respect, enlightened moderation and friendship among people of different races, faiths and cultures Civil society will start exploring the interaction between faith and education beginning with Islam as a case study at a seminar at the Commonwealth's headquarters in Marlborough House, London on 21 January. The seminar organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and the Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC) will speak to the themes of faith, culture and education in the Commonwealth. The seminar will also draw on Christian experience presented by the Church of England. This seminar takes forward the mandate given by Heads of Government to promote tolerance, respect, enlightened moderation and friendship among people of different races, faiths and cultures as well as explore initiatives to promote mutual understanding and respect in the Commonwealth. [More>](#)

14 January 2009: 2009 will mark 50 years of Commonwealth Education Ministers Meetings Preparations for the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (17CCEM) in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur in June 2009 are under way for what is likely to be the biggest ever meeting of its kind since the first CCEM was held in Oxford, UK, in 1959. This year's anniversary conference is being organised by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Other planning partners include the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth of Learning, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Commonwealth Teachers Group, and Nexus Strategic Partnerships Ltd. CCEM takes place every three years. The 16CCEM was attended by 1,200 stakeholders and it is anticipated that this year, with the inclusion of a Vice-Chancellors' Forum, participation will reach 1,500. [More>](#)

Officials from Asia and the Pacific learn how to cope with policy and resource constraints at the local level Chief finance officers from eight Commonwealth countries were exposed to new trends and practices of managing finance for their local governments at a workshop held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5 to 9 January 2009. It builds on the flagship programme on local government finance held annually in Birmingham, UK, and is part of the larger aim of holding programmes in regions of the Commonwealth. Topics, such as inter-governmental transfers and alternative forms of mobilising resources through the private sector, were explained to the 25 participants from Asia and the Pacific. Participants from India, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Cook Islands attended the programme. [More>](#)

NZAID

19 January 2009: NZ gives \$1 million to Red Cross for Gaza New Zealand will give the International Committee of the Red Cross \$1 million to support its humanitarian work in Gaza, Foreign Minister Murray McCully announced today. "This money will help the Red Cross provide urgently needed medical supplies and safe drinking water to the civilian population of Gaza, and to care for those affected by the conflict," Mr McCully said. "There is a pressing need for humanitarian assistance in Gaza, and the ceasefire provides a window for aid agencies to provide that help. "The situation on the ground remains fragile, but the current lull in fighting is a positive

development, which we hope will lead to a lasting ceasefire agreement," Mr McCully said. New Zealand's contribution to the Red Cross will be made through the government's international aid agency, NZAID. [More>](#)

12 January 2009: NZ gives \$100,000 for Fiji flood relief New Zealand is making up to \$100,000 available to assist relief efforts following major flooding in western parts of Fiji, Foreign Minister Murray McCully announced today. "Heavy rain and strong winds have caused extensive flooding in recent days. A state of emergency has been declared in western Fiji, with the worst affected areas being Nadi, Sigatoka, and Ba," Mr McCully said. "Four deaths have been confirmed and two Fijian teenagers are missing. To date floods have forced over 2,300 people to move to evacuation centres, and more bad weather is predicted when a second tropical depression reaches Fiji later this week. [More>](#)

09 January 2009: Phytosanitary Capacity-Building in the Mekong Region Many countries impose strict phytosanitary standards on agricultural imports, and World Trade Organisation rules often require exporters to meet phytosanitary standards. Inadequate phytosanitary systems can therefore impede countries' access to international markets, and prevent producers from realising the opportunities presented by increased international trade. NZAID is supporting agricultural production and poverty reduction in the Mekong region through an ambitious programme for development and implementation of improved phytosanitary systems. The project focuses on building the capabilities of the National Plant Protection Offices (NPPOs) in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar & Vietnam. Technical assistance and capacity building is provided in areas such as pest diagnosis, pest surveillance, pest risk analysis and border inspection. Capacity to address strategic issues (including legislative change) is also being strengthened, and technical equipment is being provided. [More>](#)

5. Pacific Regional NGO News

Greenpeace

28 January 2009: Call for Obama to replace US whaling official. Bush appointee undermines Obama whaling policy

Washington, United States — Just days after the inauguration of President Obama, appointees from the Bush administration who are still in place are already attempting to undermine his foreign policy on whaling. According to news reports [1] out of Hawaii, US Commissioner of the International Whaling Commission, Dr. Doug DeMaster, and the US Chair of the IWC, Dr William Hogarth, took part in closed-door negotiations with Japan over the weekend that could allow increased whaling off the coast of Japan in return for a marginal drop in the so-called "scientific" quota [2] of whales hunted in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. This trade-off will not benefit whale conservation – and could actually put additional endangered populations at risk. [3]. Ironically, a search for "whaling" on the new Administration's White House website brings no results and suggests searching for "dealing" instead [4]. Greenpeace understands that President Obama did not anticipate whaling to be a priority at this early stage of his term, but his position on the campaign trail was unequivocal. [More>](#)

27 January 2009: Aomori, Japan — Greenpeace opened a new communications centre in Aomori, Japan's northern fishing district. The centre will be a hub of information and discussion on the country's whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. A [recent opinion poll](#) found that 71% of Japanese people supported an end to whaling in the Southern Ocean, while 87% were unaware that the whaling program was subsidised with 500 million yen (AU\$8.59 million) of taxpayer's money each year. Many Japanese imagine modern whaling that involves small boats hunting individual whales along Japan's coastline. It often comes as a shock when they see images of the massive factory vessel, the Nisshin Maru, which leads a highly industrialised fleet of whaling ships to the Antarctic annually. Clearly, there is great need for Japanese people to be fully informed about their government's whaling program, which is one of our key intentions in setting up the Centre. [More>](#)

6. Crop Agency News

PIFS - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

21 January 2009: Pacific ACP countries and Timor Leste agreed on priority areas for 10th EDF Regional Indicative Programme
Representatives of the Pacific ACP countries together with Timor Leste have agreed on a number of high priority areas to be developed into project proposals to be

considered for funding under the 10th EDF Regional Indicative Programme of the European Commission.

This was agreed on during a meeting in Suva, Fiji on 19 January 2009.

In his opening remarks, the Regional Authorising Officer and Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Tuiloma Neroni Slade told the participants that under 10th EDF the European Union has allocated the Pacific region 95 million Euros for the period 2008 to 2013. [More>](#)

19 January 2009: Pacific Islands Forum-Fiji Joint Working Group on the Situation in Fiji

The Working Group held its thirty-fifth meeting at the Forum Secretariat Headquarters in Suva on 19 January 2009, attended by senior officials from Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu.

The Working Group reached agreement on revisions to its Terms of Reference, which take into account developments in Fiji since the original Terms of Reference were formulated.

The Working Group noted its discussions to date on the legal issues surrounding implementation of the electoral and Constitutional changes proposed by the Interim Government, and agreed that it would be most appropriate for these issues to be further discussed by Forum Leaders at their upcoming meeting in Port Moresby. [More>](#)

SOPAC

04 October 2008: Training Boosts Understanding of Marine Data and Observations

Over the last decade the number of coastal and open ocean programmes collecting marine environmental data in the Pacific has grown substantially. Uptake and use of the data being generated by these programmes is relatively low amongst Pacific Island countries. A training workshop was therefore held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22-25 Sept 2008 with the aim of improving understanding and awareness of the data and data products that are currently available, and provide hands-on training in their use. [More >](#)

SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community

20 January 2009: New awareness-raising materials on marine debris Marine debris is an environmental issue. It also often constrains tourism development and therefore has a negative impact on the economy of many coastal countries. All this is true in the Pacific region where the amounts of marine debris in our lagoons and shores has not been decreasing in recent years. The impact of all this rubbish on marine life, especially turtles and seabirds, is significant so action is needed. While the issue of marine debris is addressed by SPC's sister organization, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Marine Resources Division of SPC is also tackling this problem by trying to raise public awareness in the region. The attached document originates from Spain. The Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section purchased the copyright and has adjusted the content to suit the Pacific context. The material has now been printed in poster (A2 size) and folded leaflet (A6) forms and their distribution is being undertaken from New Zealand where they were printed last December. In order to get the widest possible dispatch, we have been mailing a substantial amount of copies to the Environment, Fisheries and Education offices in each of our member countries and territories. This is about all SPC can do and we now fully rely on each of the recipients to ensure the comprehensive dispatch of the materials through local networks – the Ministry of Education to schools and teachers, the Fisheries Department to fishing cooperatives, associations and companies, the Ministry of Environment to NGOs, community leaders and other stakeholders. The contribution of all is essential! [More >](#)

SPREP - South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

21 January 2009: Connectivity theme of Pacific wetlands celebrations The impacts human activities have on watersheds, rivers, mangroves, coral reefs, and other types of wetlands, is the message behind planned celebrations of global wetland conservation in the coming weeks.

Annual celebrations of World Wetlands Day on the second day of February mark the day the Convention on Wetlands was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971. The event was first celebrated in 1997 and provides an opportunity to raise and strengthen awareness of the importance of wetlands throughout the world and in the Pacific islands region.

According to SPREP's Associate Ramsar Officer, Vainuupo Jungblut, the theme for global celebrations in 2009 of "Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all" is particularly relevant to the Pacific islands. [More>](#)

7. Other News

CIVICUS

14 January 2009: Amnesty International says failure of African leadership is prolonging the Zimbabwe human rights crisis Amnesty International harshly criticized the African Union's (AU) lack of action on Zimbabwe, as detained Zimbabwean human rights activist Jestina Mukoko appeared in a court in Harare today after having been tortured. "Ongoing arrests of human rights and political activists appear to be part of a wider strategy to silence critics of the government, and the AU needs to make a strong statement that this is unacceptable to African leadership," said Veronique Aubert, Deputy Programme Director for Amnesty International's Africa Programme. Amnesty International called on the Zimbabwean authorities to immediately and unconditionally release prisoners of conscience Jestina Mukoko, Broderick Takawira and Pascal Gonzo, and to initiate a prompt, independent and effective investigation into their arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention and claims that Broderick Takawira and Pascal Gonzo were also tortured by members of the security forces. [More>](#)

Islands Business

28 January 2009: Small Forum members Kiribati and Tuvalu especially were disturbed about the likely impact of Fiji's suspension on their economies, given their heavy reliance on the bigger neighbour to the south.

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea----- Small members of the Pacific Islands Forum has been assured of the help of their bigger neighbours in the event Fiji is suspended from the regional bloc.

The assurances were given at Tuesday's special Forum meeting here in the PNG capital to discuss a position on renegade member, Fiji.

Small Forum members Kiribati and Tuvalu especially were disturbed about the likely impact of Fiji's suspension on their economies, given their heavy reliance on the bigger neighbour to the south.

[More >](#)

27 January 2009: New Zealand's move to support the preservation of whales was unveiled by Foreign Minister Murray McCully. WELLINGTON, New Zealand---

- New Zealand supports the debate at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) exploring ways of reducing the number of whales being killed, without endorsing any of the specific proposals being advanced, Foreign Minister Murray McCully said today. "The IWC discussion is only one of several formal and informal processes currently taking place, and we are supportive of all efforts to reduce whaling," Mr McCully said. "Since the moratorium on commercial whaling was introduced in 1986, the numbers being killed through 'scientific whaling' has gradually increased, and four years ago Japan unilaterally doubled its 'scientific quota' in the Southern Ocean. [More >](#)

World Bank

15 January 2009: World Bank Approves US\$100 Million for Fiscal and Debt Sustainability The World Bank Board of Directors today approved a US\$100 million loan for Jamaica to assist the government in improving fiscal and debt sustainability. The Fiscal and Debt Sustainability Development Policy Loan will support a broad program of measures to control overall public sector balances and debt, increase the efficiency of financial management and budget processes, reduce distortions, and enhance the efficiency and fairness of the tax system. "This loan supports Jamaica's efforts to reduce the country's high level of debt and improve fiscal sustainability, which have constrained the country's growth potential. These priorities have become even more relevant in the context of the current global financial market crisis and economic slowdown," said Jamaican Finance Minister Audley Shaw. "We recognize that without reducing debt and controlling debt creation, public investment and social needs, such as improving health, education and addressing crime and violence, will not be met," he added. [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 February-Update is Friday 19 February 2009. 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

Guam - PA'YUTA

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

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](#).

