



# PIANGO LINK

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
ASSOCIATION DES ONGS DES ILES DU PACIFICQUE

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## Who are we?

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGOs.

It has focal points or coordinating bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLUs) in 21 Pacific Island countries and non-self-governing 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.

## INSIDE THIS BULLETIN

Secretariat News	2
NLU Focus	3
Donor Focus	4
ICT Corner	5
PIANGO Contacts	6

## PACIFIC PLAN TOPS 2006 REGIONAL CSO'S AGENDA

64 national and regional civil society organisations from 19 countries participated at the CSO Forum 2006 to respond to the Pacific Plan and contribute to the agenda of the Pacific Leaders Forum that was held in Nadi from 23-26<sup>th</sup> October.

The CSO Forum was opened by H.E. Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, Vice President of Fiji in which His Excellency reminded the Pacific civil society of their role in advocacy for a better and peaceful Pacific and the need to positively engage with their governments.

The forum included seven plenary sessions where the first three sessions focused on the Pacific Plan presented by H.E. Mr. Greg Urwin the Secretary General of PIFS, the Australian Pacific 2020 Vision presented by Dr Stephen Howes of AusAID and the Pacific score on the MDG presented by Dr Carol Flore-Smrecznik of the UNDP Pacific Centre.

The following four sessions were dedicated to addressing each of the four pillars of the Pacific Plan *viz* economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. Lively discussions and debate followed the presentation of papers at all the plenary sessions. Four major workshops were organised with each focusing on one of the four pillars of the Pacific Plan.

Outcome statements from the workshops provided the basis for the Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006 Communiqué which was delivered to the Pacific Leaders Forum through the Secretary General of the PIFS.

The Pacific CSO Forum 2006 also made recommendations to Pacific civil society. The Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006 was made possible through a partnership between NZAID, AusAID, Commonwealth Foundation, CCFD, PIFS, UNDP Pacific Centre, PIANGO and the Pacific civil society sector.



**Former Fiji Vice President  
Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi  
opens CSO Forum**

Participants' evaluation of the CSO Forum revealed that the majority were delighted with both the content and processes used during the forum. However there is a need to involve youth in future forums. Proceedings of the forum will be published in early 2007. For papers presented at the forum, the CSO Forum 2006 Nadi Communiqué and the CSO Forum 2006 Recommendations to Pacific civil society, visit [www.piango.org](http://www.piango.org). A photo gallery from the event is available for downloading from [www.piango.org](http://www.piango.org)

# 1. Secretariat News

## **Fiji Military Coup of 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Despite the 5<sup>th</sup> December coup de tat in Fiji, it was business as usual at the PIANGO secretariat until 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 when the secretariat closed office for the Christmas New Year break.

The security of non-Fiji staff was a priority during the period. However days before the coup, the secretariat had to bid a hasty farewell to Julie Kerrigan the ICT Officer when all AVI and Australia Youth Ambassadors were recalled home for security reasons. We continued to communicate with Julie during her two months home visit.

## **2007 Calendars and Year Planner**

The secretariat produces two posters annually and distributed them in October. The year planner appears more popular than the calendar as more requests for year planners were received.

## **Kara resigns as Programme Officer (Information Sharing)**

Karalaini Waqanidrola worked in the position at the secretariat for three months and tendered her resignation in December. She produced the third newsletter and PIANGO Annual Report 2005. In addition was the design and printing of the 2007 Calendar and Year Planner. We wish Kara well in her future endeavors. The post was advertised in mid December with the appointment expected in March.

## **UNIC pays PIANGO a visit**

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), based in Canberra, is the formal UN presence in Australia and the Pacific region.

Its information-related responsibilities also extend to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu.

UNIC Information Officer Jennie Watson apart from visiting the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) Secretariat in November

also visited some Fiji media newsrooms and Pacnews.

Established in November 1948, UNIC is the principal local source of information about the United States system.

Its responsibilities include the facilitation and dissemination of UN information to the wider community, such as government agencies, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions and the general public.

## **Promotion and Publicity Information**

Information is power. The original meaning of the word "information" derives from the Latin, *informare*, which means "to put into form." "Informing" therefore carries the sense of "imparting learning or instruction" or more generally conveys the sense "to tell (one) of something." *Machlup (1983, 642)*.

In order to market our organisation, vision, mission statement, core values and beliefs we need to have adequate information on hand. It is through information that organisations are able to let others know its goals and objectives.

## **Determining tools to disseminate information**

Utilising the media is commonly used as a means of disseminating vital information. This is due to its accessibility and swift public outreach. The types of media available are

- **Newspapers**  
these can range from national newspapers to the regional editions.
- **Television**  
News and current affairs programmes on television can attract audiences. Even local news programmes have a lot of viewers. They are particularly good for visual stories.
- **Radio**  
There is a huge range of news coverage on local and national radio, and audiences can be as high as for television.

- **Magazines**  
Some specialist and trade magazines have small circulations. But the readership will be more focussed on specific issues.
- **Online**  
Many news organisations have their own websites.

Areas that you would need to understand when utilising the media are

- You must know the strengths and popularity of media organisations in your country.
- You must be able to know your target audience – the people that should know your functions and their preference for channel of information. Those in the remote parts of the island might just have access to broadcast media.
- You must have some knowledge of their preferred time slot

## **Identifying what is news**

News stirs emotions. Media outlets target powerful and interesting, issues based stories when deciding what qualifies for their news basket.

- In every media article released from your organisation, ensure you have the 5W's (what, where, when, who, why) and H (how).
- Always have a human interest angle – support this with statistics and or figures. It is handy to have a picture to enhance the story. (a good picture is worth more than a thousand words).
- Be analytic that is connecting your articles to the present situation or agenda of the day. Always arrange your points according to their prominence. In summing up evaluate your content.

## **Your marketing strength**

It is crucial to understand the functions and objectives of the

organisation you work for. The knowledge will be your marketing strength. When dealing with the media, there are always two sides to a story. Always be positive. (Source: BBC)

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## 2. NLU Focus

### Voter Education takes off in PNG

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has a commitment to enhance the quality of governance in Papua New Guinea in order to improve human security as the country gears up to its national elections next year (07).

Implemented by Transparency International PNG (IT PNG) and funded by UNDP the Voter Education and Democratic Governance Awareness Project (VEDGAP), uses live drama to provide education and awareness about electoral governance, particularly in remote areas.

PNG has adopted the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system for the coming elections in an effort to reduce electoral malpractices.

PNG leading drama troupes including RaunRaun Theatre, Goroka, Siokiei and Oliguti Youth groups are involved in the project putting up mock elections using LPV.

A pilot project in the highland provinces of Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, Eastern Highlands, Enga and Simbu seeks to enhance the participation of women in elections.

"UNDP is supporting VEDGAP because it is committed to enhance the quality of governance in PNG in order to improve human security," UNDP Resident Representative in PNG Ms Jacqueline Badcock said.

"VEDGAP would lead to improved participation in the electoral process and, hence, to better representation for the people," she said.

Under LPV voters indicate their three preferred candidates in a ranking order with the most preferred candidate assigned the number 1, the second most preferred 2 and the third 3.

In counting the ballots, the candidate with the least

number of first preferences (1) is automatically eliminated and his or her votes distributed to other candidates indicated as the second preference on those ballots. (Source: UNDP News)

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### Solomon Islands set for PINA

The Solomon Islands is hosting the region's biggest media event, the 2007 Pacific Islands News Association Biennial Convention from May 24-26 in Honiara.

Host Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) and the PINA executive Board in confirming the date said the pre-convention media training workshop starts May 21, 2007.

The theme is: 'The Role of Media in economic Growth'. The convention will be held in conjunction with the 25th anniversary celebrations of the *Solomon Star*, the country's award-winning daily newspaper.

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### Niue Trust Fund

A Trust Fund is being established through consultations between Niue, Australia and New Zealand to provide a revenue stream to the Government of Niue to fund recurrent budgetary costs.

Australia contributed \$4 million in 2004 towards the establishment of the Trust Fund, and intends to gradually transfer its bilateral aid allocation to Trust Fund contributions in the future.

Australia participates in the Trust Fund on an ongoing basis through its annual contributions and membership on the Trust Fund Board of Directors.

Until the Trust Fund is fully operational Australia will continue to support some bilateral aid activities in education, human resource development and cyclone rehabilitation.

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### PIANGO commends New Zealand on Pacific work scheme

The Pacific Island Association of Non-Governmental

Organisations (PIANGO) commends the New Zealand government for its decision to start a seasonal work scheme allowing six Pacific countries to pilot the scheme starting April next year.

PIANGO hopes that the number of Pacific workers will be higher than the maximum number announced by the New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon Winston Peters at the end 37<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Forum that was held in Nadi, Fiji at the end of October.

The scheme will allow a maximum of 5000 workers from Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa and Tonga to work on New Zealand's horticulture sector.

"We commend the Government of New Zealand for the decision to open up its labor market as it would be beneficial for both the host and sending Pacific countries," PIANGO Executive Director Cema Bolabola said.

"Similar schemes have existed around the 1970's and earnings from this scheme have been used for upgrading rural housing, community water systems and community schools. The new labor scheme will enable workers to invest in better education for their children, the setting up of micro-enterprises and improved propensity to save," she said.

"We in the Pacific know that there is a direct correlation between receiving remittances and the standard of living in rural and even urban households."

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### Oxfam welcomes NZ's offer on Pacific labor mobility

Oxfam New Zealand welcomes the New Zealand government's announcement to open up more opportunities for Pacific workers seeking seasonal work in New Zealand.

The seasonal labor scheme will not only contribute to the New Zealand economy, especially in important sectors such as horticulture, but also create real benefits for the workers, their families and the economies of our Pacific neighbors.

Barry Coates, Executive Director of Oxfam New Zealand said: "It's particularly welcome that the scheme will address some of

the potential problems with temporary work programmes that have been identified from New Zealand's past experience and other seasonal worker schemes."

Under the scheme, New Zealand employers will be able to recruit up to 5,000 workers from Pacific Islands Forum nations. Successful applicants can stay in New Zealand for a period of up to seven months. The scheme obliges employers to pay half of each worker's airfare to New Zealand, provide suitable accommodation and translation, and pay market rates.

In 2005, the World Bank reported that remittances sent home by overseas workers to developing countries around the world amounted to US\$167 billion [253 billion NZD] - twice the level of all overseas development aid. In the Pacific, nearly a third of Tonga and Samoa's national income comes from remittances. Creating opportunities for more Pacific workers to work in New Zealand can contribute to economic and social development in Pacific countries. Recent studies have confirmed that people use remittances to fund improved housing, school fees for their children, and investment in small business enterprises.

Oxfam welcomes that this initiative is a partnership agreement between New Zealand and its Pacific neighbors, rather than created within the restrictive framework of regional trade negotiations. It is vitally important that the future development of this scheme should not be used as a bargaining chip to gain more trade concessions from the Pacific.

Coates says: "It is welcome that New Zealand has taken this initiative at a time that Australia has rejected Pacific calls for greater access for seasonal workers. Pacific governments, particularly in Melanesia, are struggling to create enough jobs for the growing numbers of school leavers. Making seasonal work more accessible for Pacific Islanders has the potential to add opportunities for several thousand seasonal workers annually when it is introduced in April 2007, and there is the potential to expand the scheme in future."

"Increased labor mobility can contribute to addressing the many challenges faced by Pacific Island states. However, this

seasonal work scheme is not a replacement for New Zealand living up to its international commitments to increase its development aid spending. More aid is essential as an investment in the Pacific, to promote improved rural livelihoods, income generation and provision of essential services like health, education and water." -source: Oxfam NZ)

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### **Government backs churches, NGOs**

The Solomon Islands government in a new move is setting aside 10 percent of funds it collects to assist churches and non-Government organisations reach villages in the programmes they undertake.

Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Dr John Roughan confirmed this following a series of meetings with officials and members of the Regional Assistance Mission (RAMSI).

"In its effort to prioritize efforts to extend government services to villages across the country, government will set aside 10 percent of funds it collects to enable churches and NGOs undertake their programmes in villages," Dr Roughan said.

"Government monies will be generated through royalties, taxes and duties. The idea is to use already functioning structures to help out with government programmes," he said.

Other issues discussed were basic food security and restorative justice programmes (Source: *Solomon Islands Government Communication Unit*)

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## **3. Donor Focus**

### **Working together to make a difference**

Over 25 million Commonwealth people are living with HIV and AIDS and 72 per cent of all women living with the disease are Commonwealth citizens.

Those are staggering statistics and because the numbers are so high it is clear that to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, governments, civil society, and the private sector must work together

to inform and educate Commonwealth people about how to meet the many challenges posed by the disease.

Regina Namata Kamoga, Country Manager of CHAIN in Uganda spoke out during World Aids Day about the situation currently affecting the whole Commonwealth: "It is high time we translate theory into action and keep the promises that have been made at all levels; individual, community, organisational and governmental.

"HIV infections are on the increase, hence the need for focused, targeted and multifaceted, interventions."

In treatment and care, drugs alone are not enough. A comprehensive care package that looks at the bigger picture would do more for those who live with the disease and their friends and family.

"We must work towards preventing new infections and go further in providing adequate up-to-date information especially in developing countries. It is imperative that civil society with other stakeholders make a constructive and meaningful contribution towards this.

Dr Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation added: "The Foundation is uniquely placed to act as an essential interface between governments and civil society organisations such as CHAIN to facilitate a much needed multi-sectoral and multifaceted response to ending HIV and AIDS."

Working in this way is essential if we are to halt the spread of the pandemic by 2015. In order to beat it, we have to fight it before it destroys the lives of more Commonwealth people." - (Source: *Commonwealth Foundation*)

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### **ADB expands rural microfinance opportunity**

National Bank of Vanuatu has successfully pioneered a project to create sustainable profitable rural micro lending in Vanuatu to be expanded in 2007.

Two technical assistance grants amounting \$US500, 000.00 which was provided by ADB in 2002-2006 supported the expansion and scaling up of rural microfinance services. The project

shows that microfinance can be commercially viable using an approach that builds on local systems.

"This approach is an innovative one, and the results reflect that the demand for this product is real and growing," said Naomi Chakwin, Regional Director of ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination office.

Meanwhile Microfinance Pasifika will be working in partnership with UNDP to launch the Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance (PRCM) next year (2007).

This will be the virtual hub designed to provide the dissemination of appropriate practices and training support staff through PRCM.

The courses include: financial transparency, poverty outreach, enabling policy framework, institutional building, product development and servicing diversification and microfinance and technology. –

(Source: *Microfinance Pasifika*)

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### **Australia to fund regional technical college**

Australian Prime Minister Honorable John Howard had made an announcement that his government will provide \$149.5 million for the establishment and operation of a new Australia-Pacific Technical College in Fiji.

The college will provide Australian-standard training to Pacific islands students from throughout the region and will be a significant resource for island countries.

Its headquarters will be in Suva and will include training centres and country offices in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

An important element will be ensuring access by students from all island countries, including the smaller island states. This will be assisted by a generous scholarship scheme, worth \$10 million in the first four years.

The college will offer courses in hospitality and tourism, health and community services, automotive trades, manufacturing and construction and electrical trades. The first intake of students

is scheduled for July 2007 and it is hoped that in the first four years, 3000 students will graduate.

Courses will be delivered by Australian registered training organisations, contracted to the Australian Government's overseas aid agency, AusAID. The college will have close links to industry to ensure the relevance of training to employment.

The college will assist economic growth in Pacific island countries by addressing skills shortages and increasing workforce competitiveness, and will also assist mobility of skilled workers between the Pacific and developed countries. – (Source: *AusAID*)

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### **New bridge makes a difference**

New Zealand High Commissioner in the Solomon Islands Ms Deborah Panckhurst stressed that there is a need for continued peace and security as the foundation for development.

Ms Panckhurst made the comment during the opening of the reconstructed Tanavasa Bridge on the outskirts of Honiara early this month (Dec 5, 06).

Tavanasa Bridge which was damaged at the height of the tension now reconnects east and west Guadalcanal.

The reconstruction of the bridge is a part of the Post Conflict Emergency Rehabilitation Project. The project was co-funded by the Asian Development Bank, New Zealand's Agency for International Development (NZAID) and RAMSI.

"The reconstructed bridge provides a lifeline for those in villages such as Visale, Tambea and Lambi as it improves their access to Honiara, its markets, schools and clinics," Ms Panckhurst said.

"Combined with improvements to the western Guadalcanal road, it will make a real difference to the quality of life for hundred and even thousands of people," she said.

Following the success of the project, ADB, NZAID and RAMSI will again support the government on a new Solomon Islands Road Improvement Project next year (2007). (Source: *NZAID*)

## **ICT Corner**

### **Computer Viruses and Antivirus software**

#### **What is a virus?**

A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself without permission or knowledge of the user. A virus is spread from one computer to another when its host (i.e. a file) is transferred to the uninfected computer, for instance by a user sending it via e-mail, carrying it on a removable medium (e.g. flash drive, disk), via a network file system or via the Internet.

#### **What does it do?**

Some viruses are programmed to damage the computer by damaging programs, deleting files, or reformatting the hard disk. Others are not designed to do any damage, but simply make their presence known by presenting text, video, or audio messages, and taking up computer memory.

#### **Antivirus software**

#### **What is antivirus software?**

Most popular antivirus software packages consist of computer programs that attempt to identify, thwart and eliminate computer viruses and other malicious software (e.g. computer worms and Trojan horses). E.g. Norton Antivirus, McAfee.

#### **What does it do?**

Most antivirus software typically examines files when the computer's system creates, opens, closes or e-mails them, then refers to a dictionary of identified known viruses. If the file matches any virus identified in the dictionary, then the antivirus software either attempts to repair the file, quarantines the file or deletes the infected file.

#### **What can you do to protect your computer?**

- Ensure you have antivirus software on your computer that receives regular updates
- Regularly perform a full system scan
- Do not open files that have been received from an unknown source

## *PIANGO Board & Members*

### **Board Chair**

Adimaimalaga Tafuna'i      SUNGO

### **Board Members**

Madeleine Ayawa	UTLN Kanaky
Ahohiva Levi	NIANGO
Drew Havea	VANGO
Douglas Ngwele	VANGO
Sitiveni Turaganibure	FCOSS
Claire Baiteke	KANGO

### **Full Members**

Aotearoa/New Zealand	ANGOA
Australia	ACFID
Cook Islands	CIANGO
Fiji	FCOSS
Kiribati	KANGO
Micronesia (FSM)	FANGO
Nauru	NIANGO
New Caledonia	UTLN/Kanaky
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 & Futuna	ASCV
West Papua	West Papua

### **Observers**

American Samoa  
Hawaii  
Marshall Islands

## VINAKA!

PIANGO sincerely acknowledges the support of the following organisations and thank them for their continued commitment to capacity building in the Pacific.



## Feedback & Suggestions

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

The closing date for article submission for the next Quarterly PIANGO Link is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Photographs and images are welcomed.

Please email to [piango@connect.com.fj](mailto:piango@connect.com.fj)

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