



# PIANGO LINK

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
ASSOCIATION DES ONGS DES ILES DU PACIFIQUE

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## 1st PIMER agrees Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The inaugural PIANGO consultation for Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PIMER) was held from Monday 24th to Friday 28th April 2006 at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

PIANGO, as the lead umbrella organisation for national umbrella NGOs (or National Liaison Units, NLUs) in the Pacific region, hosted the consultation to discuss the PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006-2010, presented by the PIANGO board.

These strategies, and the implementation planning process, received valuable input from the NLUs on communicating and sharing information, building capacity, strengthening key relationships and ensuring quality performance.

Directors of NLUs and PIANGO board members attended the week long consultation. It was the first opportunity for all the directors to meet and share good ideas on best practice for enhancing the national representative NGOs.

Presentations were heard from guest speakers; Carol Flore-Smrecznik about the MDGs, Nainasa Whippy on the Pacific Plan, and Jese Sikivou on the Commonwealth Values, giving directors a good understanding of how these international and regional strategies and goals interact with the PIANGO and national NGO Strategic Plans.

services for people of the Pacific Island countries.

With a strong Board and skilled secretariat, the renewed evolution of PIANGO will provide regular opportunities for national NGOs to share and discuss common courses of action as well as areas of concern.

## 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.



PIANGO members at the Inaugural PIMER consultation in Suva, Fiji. 24 - 28 April 2006

A round table discussion was held with representatives from the University of the South Pacific (USP), the British High Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), NZAID and Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF), providing directors the opportunity to ask questions directly to the organisations that support them.

It was the individual and collective participation and informed contribution of all involved that made the consultation a participatory activity and also a success." says Cema Bolabola, Executive Director, PIANGO.

PIANGO would like to sincerely acknowledge the partnership and support of NZAID, PIFS and UNDP PSRC for their support and participation throughout the week.

We look forward to the next PIMER being held in Tonga in October 2006 prior to the CSO forum, where NLUs can consolidate their learnings and share recent experiences.



# Bula Vinaka!

PIANGO is pleased to present the return of the PIANGO Link.

In this issue, we give you an update on what is happening at the Secretariat, news of the upcoming Civil Society Forum to be held in Tonga, GDP

news as well as a donor focus on NZAID.

We would also like to note that the PIFS accreditation policy has been agreed in principle and is awaiting endorsement by the Pacific Islands Forum.

And read about PIANGO's invitations to participate in Commonwealth Observer Groups in Uganda and Solomon Islands.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and encourage all NLU's to inform us of news,


updates and articles you would like to be published in the next PIANGO Link.

Till the next issue....Ni sa moce.

For feedback and suggestions on this issue e-mail to [piango@connect.com.fj](mailto:piango@connect.com.fj)

## Secretariat News

### CSO Forum 2006

 PIANGO is meeting with regional NGOs to jointly host this years CSO Forum to be locally hosted by the Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) in October. CSFT has commenced preparatory planning toward the CSO Forum and has held formal and informal discussions with senior officials of the Tonga Government who welcome the hosting of the CSO Forum prior to the Pacific Leaders Forum. This year's CSO Forum will focus on NGOs and civil society interventions and the Pacific Plan. Regional NGO/CSO representatives that wish to participate in the 2006 Pacific Regional CSO Forum need to email [csft@kalianet.to](mailto:csft@kalianet.to) as they are handling bookings for participants.

For more information on the 2006 Pacific Regional CSO Forum, contact [csft@kalianet.to](mailto:csft@kalianet.to) or [piango@connect.com.fj](mailto:piango@connect.com.fj)

### Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006-2010 has been signed off by the Board. The Plan covers the four strategic focus areas of sharing information, building capacity, strengthening key relationships and ensuring quality performance. The Plan will guide PIANGO in its work throughout the next 5 years.

### National CSO Forums

The National CSO forums are an opportunity for NGOs to meet to discuss their national concerns and issues, to be raised with their Pacific Islands Forum member prior to the Pacific Island Leaders Forum in October 2006 in Tonga. For the first time, NZAID are funding PIANGO NLU's to host these forums in their countries. The forums will also provide input into the CSO Forum being held simultaneously in Tonga in October.

### PACE-SD Advisory Committee



PIANGO has been invited by the University of the

South Pacific (USP) to be a member of the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Developments Advisory Committee (PACE-SD). PACE-SD has established itself firmly as a Centre of Excellence within USP for capacity building and education on issues related to environment and sustainable development challenges of the Pacific region. PIANGO's role in this committee is mainly to highlight and bring to USP's attention the needs of the NGO sector and civil society at large.

### Secretariat New Staff

PIANGO welcomes Bakanebo Tamaroa to the role of Programme Officer (Capacity Building). Bakanebo comes with vast NGO and NLU experience, as his last position was as Coordinator of

KANGO (Kiribati Association of NGOs).

We welcome Julie Kerrigan to the role of Information, Communication and Technology Officer. Julie is an Australian Volunteer and comes from an online communications background in Australia.

Litiana Domokamica has come to us from the Great Council of Chiefs of Fiji as the bilingual receptionist/typist. Litiana, who was brought up in Vanuatu, carries out French translation.

### PIANGO joins Commonwealth Observer Groups for national elections



The Governments of Uganda and the Solomon Islands invited the Commonwealth Secretariat to send election observer teams to their respective national elections.

The Commonwealth Secretariat invited PIANGO, representing Pacific civil society, to be part of the

Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) to the presidential and national parliamentary elections in Uganda in March and later to the national parliamentary election in the Solomon Islands in April. The main purpose of COG was to monitor that national election processes were followed and that elections were fair and free.

The PIANGO Chairperson, Adimaimalaga (Adi) Tafunai was COG member for the Ugandan elections. Adi found the elections in a large country like Uganda, in terms of geographical size and population, to be quite an exercise and could have been a logistical nightmare, but it was all well organised by the experienced Commonwealth team. Adi returned home to Samoa which was preparing for national elections a week after she arrived, and said that she is seeing the conduct of elections and campaigns quite differently after being a member of COG in Uganda. It was a whole new learning experience for her.

The Executive Director, Cema Bolabola, joined COG for the Solomon Islands elections and was assigned to Malaita. The UN coordinated the logistics for the Solomon Islands elections and the other election observer teams were from the government of Australia, New Zealand with two NGO members, Japan and USA. Of interest was the Domestic Observer Team made up of mainly young students studying at a distance at the University Centre of the University of the South Pacific. The domestic election observer programme in the Solomon Islands was funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat and NZAID. Also of interest was the work of a newly formed civil society network called Winds of Change, which is a collective of local NGOs that campaigned to the voters through the media (radio, newspaper) for a fair and free election, and after the elections ran another media campaign targeted at elected MPs on their conduct for voting in the election of the Prime Minister. On Cema's return to Fiji in mid- April, Fiji was preparing for the national election that commenced in the first week of May.

## MOU - Pacific Regional NGO Members

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among Pacific Regional NGO (PRNGO) members is proposed to ensure there is a coordinated approach amongst Pacific regional NGOs in articulating concerns at the national, regional and international fora. It also provides ways of working together as a team keen to look at issues and concerns of the NGO sector at all levels. The MOU is due to be finalized soon.

## PIANGO NLU PIMER Circle 2

The next Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PIMER) circle will be held in October 2006 in Tonga, prior to the CSO Forum. This will provide PIANGO members the opportunity to consolidate their learnings from the first PIMER in April 2006 as well as to share their recent experiences.

## NSA Participation in European Development Fund (EDF): Sharing Best Practice in the Pacific



Representatives of non-state actors, government officials and the European Commission met from Thursday 30 March to Saturday 1 April 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Suva, Fiji, to share best practice on participation under EDF9. A primary objective of this meeting was to gain a better understanding of the planning processes under way for EDF10, to ensure that learning from EDF9 can be fed in and that there are opportunities for effective involvement by NSAs in these processes. The corresponding output for the meeting was the development of recommendations and national and regional action plans to facilitate involvement in consultation processes and participation in strategic dialogue on development priorities and cooperation.



## Consultative Status & Accreditation Policy for Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific NSAs/NGOs/CSOs

The long awaited accreditation policy spells out the relationship for engagement between PIFS and Pacific NSAs/NGOs/CSOs, and will be adopted soon as the two parties have agreed in principle and the policy is now awaiting endorsement by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

PIFS produced a framework for engagement with NSAs/NGOs/CSOs in late 2001 and work on the policy started in early 2002. Both parties have negotiated in numerous meetings over the text of the policy. In May 2006, both parties agreed to the final draft of the text to be submitted to the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) and Consultative Status Committee of PIF meeting in early October this year.

Under this policy, Pacific NSAs/NGOs/CSOs will apply individually to PIFS for accreditation to the PIF processes and meetings and applicants have to meet specified criterion which includes registration in a PIF country, work in a specified number of Pacific member countries and transparent and accountable governance mechanisms. However NGOs with accreditation can also voluntarily withdraw from the relationship and PIF can also withdraw such status. The policy also allows regional NGOs to designate an authorised Pacific NSA/NGO/CSO to sit on their behalf in PIF processes and meetings.

For more information on the policy, email [tvere@pcrc.org.fj](mailto:tvere@pcrc.org.fj) or visit the PIFS website <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/>

## FCOSS: National Conference on Social Development 2006

The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) exists to provide a focal point for Fiji Civil Society Organisations and supports people centered development initiatives of the community, fostering strength and self sufficiency of local organisations.

FCOSS's June National Conference on Social Development was opened by the Honourable Pio Tabaiwalu, Minister of State:Small Medium Enterprises and Information Technology, who acknowledged that social development incorporates team work, partnership and cooperation.

The keynote speaker, Mr Michael Raper, Regional President ICSE; ED—Welfare Rights Centre, also spoke on the conference them of Promoting Social Responsibility, and that NGOs are at their best when they work in partnership, to create one voice, to learn from each other and to solve problems together.

The conference participants attended workshops on small facilitation, learning about success factors, leadership styles and motivation. Other capacity building workshops included financial independence, community funding and social entrepreneurship, rural woman social leadership, youth and creative enterprise, culture and values, volunteerism and management.

Participants learnt how to improve their proposal writing and how good governance includes accountability, efficiency, improved transparency and equity.

The last day contained a session on strategic planning where members reviewed their vision, missions and strategies.

The AGM and presentation of the 2005 Annual Report were the last agenda items for the successful conference.

Further information is available from FCOSS at [fcoss@connect.com.fj](mailto:fcoss@connect.com.fj)

## Meanwhile, in Vanuatu...

### DEVELOPMENT FAILS TO SILENCE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

*Zofeen T. Ebrahim*

Some call it restorative justice, others participatory. But custom law helps sort matters quickly. Will it survive the rigours of time?

Vanuatu? Does the name sound familiar? What is it? Where is it? You'd get blank looks from many. But then, where else but in a global assembly such as this one on civil society organisations would you find representation from this small island group, known as New Hebrides till 1980.

Made up of 80 breathtakingly beautiful, yet volcanic (some of them active) islands with a population of 216,000 of whom 90 percent are indigenous, there are 100 distinct indigenous languages and the economy is sustained by tourism and agriculture.

But promoting tourism, touting the beautiful beaches and the flora and fauna was really not the reason why Douglas Ngwele – representing Malvatumauri (Vanuatu National Council of Chiefs), Kathy Solomon – Director, Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Association (VRDTCA), Gregoire Nimbtkik were here from the South Western Pacific Ocean.

Nor were they here to talk of past injustices meted out to them with the aim of wiping out the Melanesian tradition and customs. They did not want to talk about depopulation and the psychology of dependence from mid 1800s to 1900s or how 80% of their population perished mainly as a result of introduced western diseases to which they had developed no immunity back then, or the introduction of guns and deliberate policies of extermination of populations to possess their land.

## KANGO signed EDF9 MOU with Government

The Kiribati Association of NGOs (KANGO) has signed an MOU with their Government on the 9th June 2006. The EDF9 is a project funded by the EU, where part of this project is directed to NSAs. It is this component part of the project that KANGO will be administrating and coordinating. The amount of money involved is \$A1.5million and it is for 4 years. This is the first time that a large sum of money is being given to NGOs in Kiribati to carry out their activities. The project is based on health and KANGO is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

## KANGO joins IOPCC

KANGO continues to establish good working relationship and partnership with the Government of Kiribati. Recently, KANGO has been made a member of the Outer Island Project Coordinating Committee (OIPCC). This is a Government committee consisting of all Permanent Secretaries of each of the Government Ministries in Kiribati. The committee deals with all projects related to the outer islands. Under the current Government project funded by UNDP on "Strengthening Decentralized Governance in Kiribati", KANGO joins the Government team on a survey finding exercise on one of the outer islands scheduled for July 2006.

## Meanwhile, in Vanuatu...

### Chief's Sagacity

They were here to talk about their successes, about two systems of governances one formal, enacted under a National Constitution when they got independence in 1980 with three separate bodies – the parliament, the legislature and the courts; and the other, called the custom law, which has been existence since time immemorial, governed by traditional leaders known as chiefs and which needs to be protected and promoted.

Since independence when the state came about, there was recognition of the traditional law with the Chiefly Act enacted in the Vanuatu constitution through the establishment of Malvatumauri in 1980. But last week called for a particular round of celebration.

It was the passage of the chiefly bill by the parliament which gives more functioning roles to chiefly councils' to be recognized formally. Another act recognizes the establishment of village or island courts with jurisdiction over customary and other matters with more powers for the chiefs' councils.

While the formal system leans on a set of neatly written laws, protecting power, property and position of nobility, reprisals included punishments meted out by courts. At another level it also signifies a threat and undermining of their economic and cultural development.



### Vital Role

The custom law, on the other hand, is oral and dictated by respect, the chief's sagacity, common understanding and past experiences and still finds a much larger acceptance.

According to Ngwele, the traditional custom system forbids killing, stealing, adultery, lying etc. "It aims at protecting human rights, strengthening relationships or helping resolve conflicts in communities. The offender is also accepted in the community."

While the chief plays a vital role, Solomon feels there is an urgent need to empower the chiefs on issues of human rights and make the processes more democratic.

Despite a slow but growing women's representation where there were women chiefs, Solomon underpinned the need to further bridge the gender gap, reduce inequalities and provide better opportunities for women in the fields of education, employment etc.

*Reproduced from CIVICUS World Assembly newspaper "Terraviva" .*

## ICT Corner

### What is ICT?

ICT is short for Information, Communication Technology. ICT is about tools to help you seek information and communicate to others. ICT includes old and new technologies, such as drama, story telling, radio, television, printed media, and the internet. The success of your message will be dependant upon the ICT tool you choose to use, which will be decided by your audience's capabilities.

### Keyboard shortcuts

If you would prefer to use the keyboard rather than a mouse, try these Windows program keyboard shortcuts:

Ctrl + C - **Copy**

Ctrl + X - **Cut**

Ctrl + V - **Paste**

Ctrl + Z - **Undo**

Ctrl + B - **Bold**

Ctrl + U - **Underline**

Ctrl + I - **Italic**

### Update your Microsoft Office skills free!

If you have internet access, Microsoft provides online courses to show you how to use MSWord, Excel and Powerpoint, as well as other Microsoft products. These can be found on the web at:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx>

Browse the courses to find the one most suitable to your level and enhance your skills.

Send your requests for ICT Corner tips and information to [julie@piango.net](mailto:julie@piango.net)

**Editor:** Who is NZAID?

**NZAID:** NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency. The agency is responsible for delivering New Zealand's Official Development Assistance (ODA) and for advising Ministers on development assistance policy and operations. NZAID is a semi-autonomous body within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

**Editor:** What is your mission?

**NZAID:** The Government created NZAID in July 2002 to give a distinctive profile and new focus to New Zealand's ODA programme. Since the agency's formation, eliminating poverty has been central to NZAID's mission, with a regional focus on the Pacific, reflecting the Government's commitment to be a good international citizen and neighbour.

**Editor:** How are you going to achieve this?

**NZAID:** NZAID places a high priority on building strong partnerships and concentrates its development assistance on activities that contribute to poverty elimination by creating safe, just and inclusive societies, fulfilling basic needs, and achieving environmental sustainability and sustainable livelihoods.

NZAID's strategies and policies reflect the agency's long-term commitment to working with partners and the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international development targets. The MDGs, established in 2000, are a globally agreed set of development goals and timelines which aim to lift millions of people out of poverty by 2015. Our programmes focus on ten strategic areas, which contribute towards poverty elimination and achievement of the MDGs. These strategies cover empowering those in poverty to improve their lives, strengthening governance and reducing vulnerability to poverty.

NZAID operates nineteen core bilateral programmes, of which eight have been

targeted for the majority of growth in future on the basis of factors such as relative need, poverty indicators and capacity for New Zealand to make a difference on the ground. These eight countries are: Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tokelau and Niue.

In addition, NZAID's Pacific regional programme focuses on five thematic regional programmes, which includes education, health, governance, economic growth and livelihoods and support for fisheries. NZAID also funds a number of regional agencies and organisations.

Through an assessment process conducted over the last two years, NZAID has also reviewed its support for international agencies (such as the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund and the UN Fund for Population Activities), with the result that ten have been designated as priorities for increased engagement, including annual core funding.

NZAID's support also covers immediate emergency assistance, reconstruction activities and preventative programmes through international agencies, New Zealand NGOs and their overseas partners, international NGOs, and partner governments.

## The region is one of the furthest away from achieving the MDGs

**Editor:** How do you fund these programmes?

**NZAID:** The developed countries of the international community are moving towards committing 0.7 percent of their gross national income to development assistance. New Zealand too is committed to that goal. In 2005/06

NZAID's budget expanded by 23 percent, the largest increase in recent decades.

The \$59.4 million increase took New Zealand ODA expenditure to \$383 million. NZAID's budget for the 2005/06 financial year included an increase of \$37.1 million for aid to the Pacific to significantly expand programmes with Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Fiji. A total of \$173 million was spent in 2005/06 on aid programmes in the Pacific.

**Editor:** Why does NZAID focus on the Pacific?

**NZAID:** As a small donor, New Zealand seeks to be a strategic niche player, adding value to local development processes in areas where New Zealand support can make the maximum difference. NZAID's core focus on the Pacific is important, not only given our close cultural ties and geographic proximity, but also given that the region is currently one of the furthest away from achieving the MDGs, second only to sub-Saharan Africa.

In the Pacific, overall progress towards the MDGs has been slow largely because of the situation in PNG, which accounts for two thirds of the region's population, as well as in other Melanesian countries that, along with PNG, account for 86 percent of the region's population.

Recognising this, NZAID is significantly expanding aid programmes in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu where poverty is deeper and more pervasive. In Fiji, increased funding will help reduce the hardship faced by those living in squatter settlements, and help strengthen governance. Regional programmes targeting governance and leadership, economic growth and livelihoods, and education and health will also get more support.

As a donor agency that lives in the region in which it works, we are also often able to respond more quickly and effectively to needs in the Pacific region than other international agencies.

**Editor:** Can you tell us about any Pacific programmes?

**NZAID:** A good example is NZAID's work in the Solomon Islands where the agency's support is having a big impact on the education system. We have committed to provide \$30 million over three years, alongside a minimum of 22 percent of the Solomon Islands Government's budget, to rebuild the basic education system: through provisions of texts and classroom materials, improving the infrastructure and assisting with upskilling teachers. The Solomon Islands Government has since waived school fees and there has been a reported 30 percent increase in access. That's a huge leap forward in making children count in the Solomon Islands.

Another example is support to the health sector in PNG. According to the 2004 Human Development Report, a mother is over forty times more likely to die in childbirth in PNG than in New Zealand. In the remote East Sepik province in PNG, NZAID is investing \$10.2 million dollars to 2011 in a Save the Children NZ project which trains village health workers to deliver primary health care to their communities. Services include malaria prevention, the treatment of common illnesses and improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for women, including assistance during pregnancy, birth and the post-natal period.

NZAID's support to the Save the Children project compliments the agency's work with PNG's National Department of Health. NZAID provides \$2 million dollars annually to a donor trust fund, which, in partnership with the National Department of Health, is used to support the country's own health priorities. This approach, known as the Health Sector Improvement programme, has been developed by the National Department of Health to ensure that health sector resources are more efficiently used, coordinated and managed. The work of the department is designed to improve the health of people

## NZAid places a high priority on building strong partnerships and concentrates its development assistance on activities that contribute to poverty elimination

living in the provinces. Spending is targeted at the public health priorities of HIV/AIDS, immunisation, malaria prevention and safe motherhood/family planning.

**Editor:** How can an NGO/CSO request funding from NZAID?

**NZAID:** NZAID engages actively with New Zealand's NGO development community and provides funding to support a wide range of NGO programmes with partners on the ground overseas. NZAID staff are based at the New Zealand High Commission, and can be contacted for more information about NGO funding opportunities within NZAID's country programmes. Alternatively, NZAID's website contains full details of NZAID's activities in the Pacific: [nzaid.govt.nz](http://nzaid.govt.nz)

In addition, NZAID has a number of regional funding windows that are open to Pacific NGOs. Further details about these schemes are also available on the website.

The Pacific Island Countries Participation Fund (PIC Fund) aims to fund attendance by Pacific Islanders at regional and international conferences, where their attendance will strengthen ownership of regional and international development processes. Eligible activities, selection criteria and application forms are available from the NZAID website.

The countries falling within the scope of the programme are: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM),

French Polynesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, PNG, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Tokelau.

The Governance and Conflict Prevention Fund allocates funding based on specific criteria and is open to applications from organisations working in the Pacific who are seeking support for their work in conflict prevention, human rights, gender equity, and civil society participation in governance. Information on this fund is available on the NZAID website.

The Global Environment Facility Pacific Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) replaces the Pacific Initiatives for the Environment (PIE) contestable fund. The aim of the Small Grants Programme is to help secure global environmental benefits through environmental protection, poverty reduction, and community empowerment. Specifically, the SGP supports the activities of NGO and community based organisations in developing countries. The SGP operates in PNG, Samoa, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Cook Islands. Programmes are expected to be established in Niue, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, and Solomon Islands over the coming year.

**Editor:** Thank you for your time today and your ongoing support to the Pacific community.

## New Zealand Commission for UNESCO hosts Conference on Ethics of Knowledge Production

In February, the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO hosted a three day conference at Salmond Hall, Otago University in Dunedin to address the ethics of knowledge production and brought together academics and researchers in the Pacific. PIANGO Executive Director, Cema Bolabola, was invited by the host through the UNESCO Pacific Office. Other conference participants were academics and researchers from the University of the South Pacific, universities in New Zealand and Australia and UNESCO officials from their Paris headquarters and from the regional office in Bangkok. The keynote speaker was international human rights advocate, Judge Michael Kirby of Australia, who chaired the UNESCO expert group that drafted the Universal Declaration on Bio-ethics and Human Rights that was adopted by UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.

The conference discussed the application of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, research ethics as applied in the Pacific, more so knowledge production in the social and natural sciences especially on public engagement for knowledge production and the use of new knowledge.

Papers produced at the conference indicated that research institutions protected their researchers through University Research Ethics that are used to guide researchers in how they collect and use knowledge, but the community that owns the knowledge is left exposed with little or no protection at all from unethical research practices and practitioners. Some Pacific

academics pointed out the need to acknowledge traditional ethical practices when researching with Pacific communities but there seems to be an absence of a body of knowledge about traditional ethical practices and traditional knowledge as few are researching in this area.

Pacific civil society has a role to ensure that Pacific communities protect themselves and their knowledge and ensure that external researchers respect traditional ethical practices. In addition civil society has a role to create greater community awareness on the content and principles of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights.

Pacific academics and PIANGO have called for a series of Pacific follow-up workshops jointly supported by the NZ Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Pacific Office in Samoa, to identify and address traditional Pacific ethical practices of knowledge production and ensuring that researchers in the Pacific observe traditional ethical research practices.

PIANGO will follow up with the NZ Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Pacific Office in Samoa, for their respective plans towards the series of follow on related activities in the Pacific region. For further information on the conference visit [www.unesco.org.nz](http://www.unesco.org.nz) For more information on planned follow up activities for a series of Pacific workshops on ethics of knowledge production, enquire with Professor Konai Thaman of the University of the South Pacific, email [thaman.usp.ac.fj](mailto:thaman.usp.ac.fj).

## PIANGO attended the 6th CIVICUS World Assembly, 21-25 June, Glasgow

Congratulations to CIVICUS and the Scotland Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) for the successful 7th World Assembly. Two representatives from PIANGO, Cema Bolabola from the Secretariat and Henry Vira from Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO), joined the World Assembly, organized by CIVICUS and hosted by SCVO and the historical city of Glasgow. Close to 1000 representatives of civil society from all over the world addressing the theme of the Acting Together for a Just World, participated at this annual global civil society event. Four thematic areas,

economic, social, political and civic justice, were the focus of the plenaries, related mini-plenaries and simultaneous workshops.

Each day opened with a plenary session where speakers came from civil society, the United Nations and government. Plenary speakers on day 1 addressed the multitude of issues in the world and the challenges and threats faced by civil society in addressing these issues. Mary Robinson, the former UN Commissioner on Human Rights, stated that one such



challenge faced by CSOs, is the abuse of power by those who have it. Kumi Naidoo, the Executive Director of CIVICUS, stated that the world is

consumed by terror resulting in fueling terrorism and the undermining of the basic tenants of democracy and justification for abuse of human rights.

On political justice, the question of how to democratize democracy was raised by the speakers as one said that the win at the ballot

box is no guarantee for the rule of law in the next five years. Some of the major problems of democracy identified by the speakers were limited access to public office, unsupportive media and undemocratic political parties. All called that CSOs have a role in reclaiming and rebuilding democracy: build a passion for it, enabling laws to be created by government for NGO engagement, discussion between NGOs at all levels and connect related activism at all levels.

On economic justice, speakers raised the increasing gap between the rich and poor and the situation is

## PIANGO attended the 6th CIVICUS World Assembly, 21-25 June, Glasgow (cont'd)

unsustainable calling that needs rather than greed be addressed. Other related concerns include the dumping of inferior good to poorer countries, debt cancellation and the need for improved quality and quality of aid to developing and poor countries. On civic justice, speakers called for the need to create enabling environment for civil society and more so the freedoms of assembly, association and expression. Speakers on social justice, poverty and the global action to eliminate poverty and address its causes dominated the discussions. Speakers all challenged CSOs to put their energy into service delivery, promote best practice policy and willingness to invest time and energy to reform institutions that contribute to injustices in the world.

Pre- World Assembly meetings included the Board of the World Youth Council, the Civil Society Index project group of CIVICUS and Affinity Group for National Associations (AGNA) another project of CIVICUS, where. Cema Bolabola represents PIANGO on the AGNA Steering Committee

Attending the 7th CIVICUS World Assembly was an educational experience both in the content and the processes used and attending should be a must -attend - event for civil society. Glasgow is the site for the same event in 2007 and 2008.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) invited PIANGO to carry out a survey to monitor and report on NGO/CSO work relating to the initiatives of the Pacific Plan. The survey was also an attempt to identify development partners in the implementation of the Plan. Though less than 50% of the 20 national PIANGO members (NLUs) and 19 regional NGOs (PRNGOs) contacted participated in the survey, the findings provided PIANGO and PIFS with an overall picture of the level of knowledge, understanding and familiarity with the Pacific Plan by NGO leaders and workers alike.

### Findings

The Pacific Plan Reporting is structured under the four strategic pillars of the Pacific Plan viz. Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, Good Governance and Security. Outlined below are the responses received from the cursory survey of NLUs and PRNGOs.

### Economic Growth

This strategic pillar posted ten initiatives. All of the 17 respondent NLUs reported that they delivered some form of intervention programme in this area at national and regional levels focusing mostly on policy dialogue and analysis, advocacy, research and publication and information for public awareness through community education. Most of these national partners also engage with respective governments in decision making mechanisms relating to economic growth. PRNGOs tend to focus on research, publication and advocacy relating to globalisation and the impacts of (PICTA) and (PACER). One of the PRNGOs indicated their reservation on Initiative 1.6 of the plan to bulk buy petroleum products which the group felt was at the expense of the Pacific to invest in renewable sources of energy.

### Sustainable Development

This pillar listed seventeen initiatives. Not all NLUs worked with the 17 listed initiatives. NLUs tend to focus on advocacy, stakeholder relations and information and community education. PRNGOs tend to work in the area of advocacy and policy analysis and they

engage with their respective governments through committees relating to sustainable development programmes. NLUs returned a 43% response rate and 16% response by PRNGOs.

### Good Governance

This pillar listed eight initiatives. Very few NLUs and PRNGOs were working in this area returning a 36% response rate by NLUs and 15% response rate by PRNGOs. NLU work tends to concentrate on capacity building and policy dialogue. A new PRNGO has been set up to focus on institutional strengthening as an attempt to further good governance in a forum country.

### Security

Much fewer NLUs were delivering interventions under this pillar. Of the 11 initiatives listed, NLUs returned a 24% response rate and 12% by PRNGOs. The interventions tend to concentrate on stakeholder relations and policy dialogue. Of interest is the response from one of the PRNGOs that the limited definition of security (policing, military, counter terrorism, border controls, etc) under the Pacific Plan excludes 'true security' of security of food, resource and employment. Another NLU informed the researcher that they could not identify an initiative that related to their work on peace building and man made disasters.

### Conclusion

NGOs tend to work on interventions in areas that relate to Sustainable Development, rather than in programmes on Good Governance, Economic Growth and fewer NGOs work in the area of Security. This survey has also identified gaps in NGO work where there is a concentration in addressing some issues and others left unaddressed by civil society and NGOs.

Some NGOs found it difficult to identify an initiative that related to their intervention activities— there is a need to support NGOs to familiarize themselves with the Pacific Plan and its faceted initiatives. A series of NGO/ PIFS forums need to be organized to improve NGO familiarization with the Pacific Plan, improve future monitoring and reporting on

The Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management programme (GDP) is managed by PIANGO in conjunction with UNITEC of New Zealand. The programme encourages students to draw on indigenous knowledge, management theory, their own and others' experience to develop effective, values-based approaches to managing a community organisation.

## PAC Meeting

The 2nd Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held at the Unitec campus in Hamilton, Auckland, NZ on the 11th February this year. It was an opportunity for the PAC members to further monitor, evaluate and action the 1st PAC meeting decisions. Key significant issues that came out from this meeting were:

The role of PIANGO, via the Programme Officer—Capacity Building, to ensure the smooth implementation of the GDP courses with the host NLU countries.

To confirm the expansion of the GDP courses in Tonga and the Solomon Islands later this year.

To enhance the students' support programme, including the Pacific Trainers who will be GDP Local Co-Trainers in their respective countries.

## Pacific Pool of Trainers

For the first time the Pacific Pool of Trainers identified at the 5th PIANGO Council in Papua New Guinea (PNG) came together and met with the Programme Officer—Capacity Building. The main purpose of the meeting was to get to know each other from the various countries, and secondly to come to agreement on which two courses each trainer would like to identify as their choice based on their competency and interest. A total number of 11 trainers came to this meeting including 3 from PNG, 2 from Vanuatu, 3 from Fiji, 1 from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), 1 from Samoa and 1 from Tonga.

For further GDP information contact your local NLU or the Programme Officer—Capacity Building Bakanebo Tamaroa on [bakanebo@piango.net](mailto:bakanebo@piango.net) or (679) 330 2963

## 2006 Course Dates

Course	Dates	Location
Cultures & Values	19-23 June	Papua New Guinea
Financial Management	31 Jul-4 Aug	Papua New Guinea
From Charity to Social Policy	7-11 Aug	Fiji
Governance	14-18 Aug	Samoa
Ethical Mgmt of Change	4-8 Sept	Papua New Guinea
Social Audit	18-22 Sept	Vanuatu
Culture & Values	25–29 Sept	Tonga
Social Audit	16-20 Oct	Samoa
Ethical Mgmt of Change	30 Oct-3 Nov	Fiji
Culture & Values	to be confirmed	Solomon Islands



## The Pacific Plan & NGOs

continued

the Plan. The alternative views of some NGO on the limitations of the Pacific Plan need to be discussed further.

### Recommendations

In an effort to positively facilitate the Pacific Plan's monitoring and reporting process by Pacific NGO, we recommend the following actions:

That PIFS organize a series of national and regional forums to address NGOs partnership through better information and familiarization with the content of the Pacific Plan and its initiatives, even those that fall in the ambit of government e.g.



SPARTECA, PICTA, PACER.

PIFS organize a series of national and regional consultations to enable government, NGOs and stakeholders to identify and inform partners of their roles and responsibilities towards the implementation of the Pacific Plan as well as agree on a reporting framework as suggested in 5.3.

That PIFS and NGOs agree on a monitoring framework to be used in future NGO monitoring and reporting of the Pacific Plan

That PIFS and NGOs agree to categorize their intervention and consider the suggested headings outlined in 2.0

To improve NGO participation and response in a monitoring exercise, PIFS and NGOs agree to a reporting schedule to be agreed under a monitoring and reporting framework.

That the regional NGO/CSO mapping project be reconsidered urgently as it will not only provide information on NGO intervention that relate to the initiatives of the Pacific Plan but will also identify gaps in intervention at both national and regional levels.

### PaCSI Project

Towards the end of 2005, the Pacific Skills Link (PSL) Project Management Committee asked PIANGO to develop a proposal for a post-PSL project. The name given to this project is the Pacific Civil Society Initiative Project (PaCSI), whose major goal is “strengthening NGO effectiveness through good governance and partnership”.

The draft proposal has been distributed to project partners for further comments., and will be in its final form before the end of July this year. The next step is to distributed the proposal again to partners and identified donors for further comments before discussions with potential donors.



### Capacity Building workshop: CSOs Advancing the Realisation of the MDGs in the Pacific

This two day workshop was conducted by UNDP and was held at JJ’s Park (YWCA Building) from 11th – 12th April 2006. 18 Pacific Regional NGOs were invited but only 10 turned up. The objective of the workshop was to foster ownership among CSOs for this project proposal and expected to lead to the refinement of the proposal to ensure that the initiative is CSO driven rather than led by the agenda of the donor community.

PIANGO has liaised with the UNDP’s Pacific Sub-Regional Centre (UNDP – PSRC) to inform them of PIANGO’s core activities as outlined in PIANGO Strategic Planning. A number of these core activities are identified in the UNDP Project Proposal and PSRC has agreed to work with PIANGO.

### Capacity Building NIANGO

The Pacific Centre for Public Integrity (PCPI) is currently providing services to NIANGO, with the assistance of NZAID funding, to recruit a NIANGO Coordinator and help them through institutional strengthening of NIANGO. PCPI have approached the PIANGO secretariat to work as partners in assisting NIANGO. The Programme Officer – Capacity Building has been part of the PCPI/NIANGO/PIANGO team. A planned visit to Nauru in July has been postponed until September. Currently, the team in Fiji, including PCPI, PIANGO and the Pacific Institute of Advance Studies and Sustainable Development, has conducted training through tele-conference facilities at the USP Media Centre.

### ADB Project Proposal on Pilot Strengthening of Civil Society Participation in Development in the Pacific



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has developed a project proposal identifying the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) and PIANGO as Implementing Partners. There are two major components of the project;

1. A focus on enhancing the competence of Pacific CSO staff to better understand and comment on the region’s broad development policy agendas
2. Formal training for CSO and government staff in the planning of participatory processes, together with practical engagement with ADB, other external funding agencies, and other members of civil society and government in the participatory formulation of the next two ADB country strategies and programs (CSPs) in 2007 for Fiji and Samoa, and two loan designs in PNG health sector support and FSM Waste management. PIANGO has approached ADB to include neighbouring countries in the training and they have agreed to the PIANGO proposal.



### Did you know?

*The Conch Shell is widely used within the islands of the Pacific. It symbolises “Communication”. The sound of the conch shell is a summons for people to gather in a particular place. The circular sand drawing reflects “Spiritual Unity” or “Oneness” and originates from the South Pacific Island of Bali Hai or Ambae (as commonly known). Legend has it that Tagaro (the God of Creation) requires that everyone who shares in his “Spiritual” kingdom must be familiar with this symbol and its significance.*

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# Vinaka!

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



MNCL - New email address for Papua New Guinea interim NLU  
MNCL in Papua New Guinea's new email address is [mnci@online.net.pg](mailto:mnci@online.net.pg)  
Please update your records.

## Your Feedback & Suggestions

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

The closing date for article submissions for the next quarterly PIANGO Link is 15 September 2006. Photographs and images are welcome.

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

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