

Pacific Leadership Program

Monthly Update

From the PLP Team

Welcome to another edition of the PLP Monthly Update.

March has been a time for the PLP team to take a break from its busy travel schedule and to take stock of its progress so far. We welcomed our Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) team, Linda Kelly and Kabini Sanga, for another visit to Suva. Linda guided us through our first round of quarterly partnership reviews with our regional partners—a process we hope to replicate with our national partners over the coming months. These reviews will form the basis of our ongoing Program monitoring and evaluation. We also hope this process will be useful for our partners, allowing them to monitor their partnership with PLP, and to track progress and change in their own organisations over time.

This month we also welcome our first two Solomon Islands partners—the Solomon Islands Development Trust and the Anglican Church of Melanesia’s Inclusive Communities Program—as well as a new regional partner, the Pacific Conference of Churches, to the PLP family. In addition to the brief profiles provided in this edition, we look forward to bringing you many more updates on these organisations’ activities in the future.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Monthly Update. Until next time, best wishes from us all.

PLP Supports Partnership Development with AusAID - PNG

PLP was invited in late February to hold a ‘Partnership’ workshop with AusAID – PNG’s Democratic Governance section. Yeshe Smith and Allan Mua facilitated a three- day training focused on PLP’s model of partnership development. The PLP team has learnt a lot over the last year on developing and establishing meaningful partnerships, and were very happy to share this learning with their colleagues in PNG.

Following the training, PLP facilitated a dialogue between the AusAID Democratic Governance team and its PNG partners. During this process, participants were required to think about what their relationships currently look like, how they might move those relationships towards more genuine partnerships, and what business processes might support such a move.

This culminated in the PLP team facilitating the development of a partnership agreement

between the PNG Media Council and the DG Team.

In thanking the PLP team, Kath Taplin, AusAID’s First Secretary for Democratic Governance, remarked that “PLP shared new processes of doing business with the Democratic Governance Team who are at a point where they are committed and open. They have showed real passion for interaction over this new model and are willing to commit to some innovation over partnership”.



AusAID-PNG staff participate in Partnership Training



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“PCC's member Churches have all recognised that Church leaders need support to develop the necessary skills to guide communities through times of challenging social change”.

PLP Enters into Partnership with Pacific Conference of Churches

PLP has signed a new Partnership Agreement with the Pacific Conference of Churches. After holding discussions and partnering sessions since November 2008, PCC Secretary General Fe'ilioakitau Tevi and PLP Program Director Angus Macdonald have now put pen to paper and formalised the agreement. The Agreement expresses the nature of the relationship between the two organisations, and the benefits and risks to both in entering in to the partnership.



PCC signs Partnership Agreement with PLP. Seated L-R: Allan Mua (PLP), Fe'ilioakitau Tevi (PCC)

The first work that PLP will be supporting the PCC on is the development and delivery of a leadership and management training course for Church leaders. The PCC's member Churches have all recognised that Church leaders need support to develop the necessary skills to guide communities through times of challenging social change. The PCC is an ecumenical body comprised of main-line Protestant Churches, Evangelical Churches and the Conference of Bishops of the Pacific whose congregations encompass approximately two thirds of all the people of the Pacific.

Representatives from potential Solomon Islands partner organisations participate in PLP's half day Partnership Exploration Workshop, Honiara, 23 February 2009. From left: Michelle Taylor and Jennifer Wate (SIDT); Jenta Tau and Angela Lomasia (SI YWCA); and Ollie Pokana and Charles Pai (ACoM ICP)

Solomon Islands Country Program Update

PLP's Angus Macdonald and Georgina Cope returned to the Solomon Islands (SI) in late February, to facilitate a series of partnership exploration and development workshops with potential partner organisations. A half day 'combined' workshop was held on 24 February and attended by representatives of SI Development Trust (SIDT), Anglican Church of Melanesia's Inclusive Communities Program (ACoM ICP) and the SI YWCA.

The workshop enabled potential partners to learn more about PLP's partnership approach, how it differs from other donor programs, and what engagement in a partnership means in practical terms for both PLP and its partners. The workshop also allowed participants to reflect on their organisations' values and priorities; the potential benefits (and risks) to engaging in a partnership; and to share with the

group their past experiences of working with donor-funded programs.

PLP spent dedicated time with each organisation in the days following the exploration workshop, for more focused discussions on mutual work plans and priorities, and whether a partnership with PLP was appropriate at this time. Full-day partnership development workshops were then held with ACoM ICP and SIDT respectively.

While PLP's partnership approach represented a very new way of working for all participants, they commented on how much they enjoyed the collaborative and transparent process used to explore and develop partnerships.

Our sincere thanks go to SI Advisory Panel member, Mrs Joy Kere, and Mr David Green, from the AusAID bilateral program in Honiara for their invaluable advice and support on developing the SI Country Program.



New Solomons Partnerships Formalised

PLP signed its first two Solomon Islands (SI) Partnership Agreements in late February, with the Anglican Church of Melanesia's Inclusive Communities Program (ACoM ICP) and the SI Development Trust (SIDT).

The Agreements were developed after extensive exploration, development and work planning activities between PLP and each organisation, and mark the beginning of new working relationships which PLP and its partners hope to share and develop over a long period of time.

ACoM ICP was originally established in 2004 by the Anglican Church of Melanesia and two Australian partners, AnglicORD and the Anglican Board of Mission. Its objective is to strengthen good governance by including women and young people in participatory decision making and community conflict resolution. ACoM ICP has also built a strong reputation for its successful governance and leadership training activities involving traditional Chiefs, and with PLP support will continue to expand this work across several dioceses in SI. ACoM ICP Manager, Ms Ollie Pokana, said "the partnership with PLP will help contribute to improved leadership and governance in SI, with an emphasis on increasing leadership opportunities for youth and women, and closing the gap between traditional and modern leadership practices". Ms Pokana continued that the partnership was "an important step forward to strengthening the work of ACoM ICP in terms of finance, up skilling and increased networking to support effective delivery of the program".

SIDT is the SI's longest running indigenous NGO. Since 1982, it has been one of the primary proponents of community-level development in SI; and works with villages in several provinces to promote community empowerment in the areas of governance, health, education, disaster risk management and national resource management. Through the new partnership, PLP hopes to support SIDT on a range of core funding and 'growth' initiatives, ranging from staff and organisational development and basic infrastructure upgrades, through to the establishment of an FM community radio station, and the creation of a Development Information Resource Centre for use by community members, NGOs and development practitioners in SI.

For PLP, the new partnership with SIDT brings opportunities to support the organisation's core work in promoting active citizenship and self reliance in communities. In addition to this, Regional Program Director Angus Macdonald explains, PLP also recognises SIDT "as a strong, credible organisation which plays an important leadership, advocacy and referral role for community members and other civil society organisations in SI".

PLP plans to return to SI every two months, to 'check in' with partners, offer additional support where this is needed, and identify new areas for possible cooperation. Partners will also be encouraged to participate in the monitoring not only of their own activities, but of the PLP partnership itself. Further information on specific activities of PLP's SI partners will be featured in future Monthly Updates.



PLP Regional Program Director, Angus Macdonald signs the PLP-ACoM ICP Partnership Agreement as ICP staff, including ICP Manager Ollie Pokana (second from right) look on

"The partnership with PLP will help contribute to improved leadership and governance in Solomon Islands, with an emphasis on increasing leadership opportunities for youth and women, and closing the gap between traditional and modern leadership practices".



Jennifer Wate (SIDT), Angus Macdonald (PLP), Michelle Taylor (SIDT) and Georgina Cope (PLP – seated) after developing the PLP-SIDT Partnership Agreement.

Solomon Islands Discuss Freedom of Information

A three-day workshop on Freedom of Information was held in Honiara in February 2009.

This event was hosted by the SI Ombudsman's Office and co-facilitated by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Regional Governance Advisor, Dr Henry Ivarature. This workshop was a follow up to the regional workshop on Freedom of Information for Pacific policy-makers which hosted by the PIFS and UNDP in Honiara last year.

Deputy resident representative of UNDP in Honiara, Christina Carlson said "the workshop seeks to bring together national stakeholders, from across government and the civil society, to discuss the value of the right to

information for Solomon Islands. We were very pleased to facilitate policy-makers from nine other Pacific Island countries to visit Solomon Islands and to hear more about the range of activities being implemented here to improve good governance and national development".

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Regional Governance Adviser, Dr Henry Ivarature said "we hope that this workshop will examine the necessary steps that are essential in developing a practical guideline and appropriate legal frame work that will lay the platform to implement FOI, if the Government considers it favourably."

Source: ASSUMPTA PIVA, "Seminar on Freedom of Information opens here", *Solomon Star*, Tuesday, 24 February, 2009

Pacific Photography Corner



Monthly Calendar

| DATE | ORGANISATION | UPCOMING EVENT |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 17th - 20th March | PLP/ regional partners | PLP M&E team visits Suva for partnership reviews |
| 19th - 20th March | PIPSO | PIPSO Board Meeting, Nadi |
| 23rd - 25th March | CLGF | CLGF Technical Advisory Panel Meeting, Nadi |
| 6th - 10th April | PLP | 2nd Country Visit to Port Vila to continue development of PLP's Vanuatu Country Program |
| 20th - 24th April | PLP/ SI country partners | First bi-monthly visit with Solomon Islands Country Program partners |

Contact Us

If you have any feedback on the Monthly Update, suggestions on how it could be improved, or would like to contribute stories, pictures or information on your own PLP-related work, we would love to hear from you. If you are in Suva, feel free to drop into the office, or contact Allan

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