

Pacific Leadership Program

Monthly Update



PLP Advisory Panel member, Professor Mick Dodson AM, has just been named Australian of the Year 2009. Mick was recognised by Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd in the recent Australia Day Honours for being "a courageous fighter for reconciliation and for closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians". Congratulations Mick from the PLP Team!

From the PLP Team

Warm greetings and a happy new year to you all. We hope all of our partners and friends had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to a productive year ahead.

2008 was a difficult year for the global economy, with the impact now beginning to be felt in Australia and the region. The direct impact of all this on the countries of the Pacific is likely to be no less dramatic, though we trust that together with our partners we will see the PLP and its work firmly established as part of the leadership development community of the Pacific.

We plan to have numerous partnerships established and functioning across the six focus countries in the region, as well as with our regional partners based in Suva. We also look forward to disseminating the results of our first commissioned research on leadership issues, and having these findings not only help build research capacity within the universities and institutes we work with, but to contribute to improved decision and policy making throughout the region. Our partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat will also be progressed, with the Forum's work on leadership and governance that is being supported under PLP, yielding results.

From the PLP Team, we wish you all the very best for 2009 and look forward working with you all.

Country Program Developments in Samoa

Regional Program Manager Yeshe Smith and Program Officer Georgina Cope completed their second country visit to Samoa from 18-25 November 2008.

Following their successful initial visit in August 2008, Yeshe and Georgina continued discussions with organisations that had been identified as potential partners, including the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development's Division of Youth. They also met with several youth representatives, to discuss the concept of establishing a National Youth Council of Samoa (through the Division of Youth); and initiated talks with a range of prominent individuals who were interested in making use of PLP's country program to generate a local forum on leadership development.

A third visit to Samoa is scheduled for February

2009, with a view to finalising the first two partnerships — with the Chamber of Commerce and the Division of Youth — under the Samoa Country Program. Further details on these partnerships will feature in future Monthly Updates.



An exciting partnership opportunity in Samoa: Samoa Chamber of Commerce Executive Members, Sina Retzlaff-Lima—President (*above left*) and Margaret Malua—Executive Secretary (*above right*).

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GEPG is working to increase the participation and representation of Pacific women in politics at national and local levels.

Archive picture: candidate Sarah Garap campaigning in PNG's national elections.

UNIFEM Gender Equality in Political Governance Program (GPEG) Update

UNIFEM's Gender Equality in Political Governance Program, headed by GEPG Regional Manager Rita Taphorn, is establishing itself across the region. The regional project team in Suva has been finalized, with Jeanette Bolenga appointed as the Deputy Regional Manager, Dr Priya Chatter as Research, Monitoring and Evaluations Coordinator, and Nazia Ali as the Communications Coordinator.

Similar offices are in the process of being set up in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG to manage GEPG's national programs, with PNG sub-national offices being established in Goroka and Bougainville. Dr Orovu Vitaharo Sepoe has been

recruited as the National Coordinator for the PNG program. All the other positions for the national teams are currently being finalized. The national and sub-national teams will be housed at UN offices, following the principle of the "one UN".

Since her appointment in October 2008, Rita has travelled extensively across the region and participated in key meetings with elected officials, electoral officials, UN agencies, parliamentary bodies, machineries of women, and numerous other partners.

PLP Begins Partnership Discussions With Pacific Conference of Churches

A new year, a new partnership. In early January, Program Manager Yeshe Smith and Program Officer Allan Mua held a very successful one-day Partnership Workshop with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC). It has been clear since the design and inception of the PLP that working with the Church is integral to addressing leadership challenges in the Pacific. Based in Suva, the PCC represents 27 member Churches and nine national Councils of Churches, whose congregations encompass approximately two thirds of all the people of the Pacific. The PCC has a strong focus on capacity development in areas such as leadership, governance and management, in particular targeting those who are the current and future leaders of the Church in the region.

The Partnership Workshop built on initial held discussions between PLP and PCC in 2008 and resulted in the drafting of a Partnership Agreement between the two organisations. PLP hopes to finalise the Partnership Agreement early in the new year, and looks forward to a long and productive relationship with the PCC in its efforts to strengthen leadership and governance capacity in the region's Churches.

PIANGO Melanesian Sub-Regional Meeting – Nadi, November 2008

PIANGO is being supported by PLP to design and implement a program which addresses the specific capacity development needs of its members, which are called National Liaison Units (NLUs).

The first step in the development of this program is a range of sub-national meetings which will bring together NLUs to discuss their capacity development needs. The first of these meetings, the Melanesian Sub-Regional Meeting, was held in Nadi from 26th – 29th November, 2008.

The meeting was attended by NLUs from Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Participants identified areas of technical support and assistance, reviewed the existing Monitoring and Evaluation techniques and templates, and endorsed a sub-regional capacity building support program.

Similar sub-regional meetings will be held throughout 2009 for Polynesia, two meetings for Micronesia, and a possible sub-regional meeting for the Francophone NLUs.



Participants at the PIANGO Melanesian Sub-Regional Meeting, Nadi, November 2008

Supporting Pacific Youth: Taking Partnership to the Next Level

PLP commenced an exciting new chapter in its support for the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) this month, by hosting a three-way partnership workshop at the PLP offices in Suva.

Established in 1996, PYC is a regional voluntary, non-government organisation established for and of National Youth Councils (NYCs) in the Pacific region.

In June 2008, PLP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the PYC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)'s Human Development Programme, to pool resources to support the establishment of the PYC Secretariat. The Secretariat is now based at SPC's Community Education and Training Centre (CETC), Suva and a full-time Secretariat Coordinator (funded by PLP), Tarusila Bradburgh, commenced work in October 2008.

PYC is now enjoying a period of stability and growth. With a strong, functioning Secretariat in place, it is providing valuable coordination, advocacy, information sharing and networking support to the eight existing NYCs in the region; and offering practical advice and assistance to several other countries, such as Samoa, who are seeking to establish NYCs in the near future.

Both SPC and PLP recognise PYC as the only peak body with the potential to represent young people from all 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

While other youth peak bodies exist, their members are appointed by governments or other bodies, not by young people themselves. PYC aspires to represent independent, autonomous youth organisations in the region; and focuses on youth as active citizens and budding leaders in all facets of society.

In recognition of the achievements of PYC and the strong working relationship built between PYC, SPC and PLP over the past six months, it was agreed that a more formal Partnership Agreement be developed between the three organisations. Representatives from PYC, SPC and PLP met on 21 and 22 January for the Partnership Workshop. They explored the concept of partnership and what this meant for each organisation, then over several hours developed a three-way Partnership Agreement—the first of its kind for PLP—which articulated the working relationship between each of the partners, as well as their individual and shared responsibilities and risks.

This innovative new partnership will form the basis for ongoing cooperation and support to PYC well into the future; helping not only to strengthen the work of the PYC Secretariat, but to realise PYC's vision of a strong and respected youth voice in the Pacific.

"PYC is recognised by its partners as the only peak body with the potential to represent young people from all 22 Pacific Island countries and territories . . . (It) focuses on youth as active citizens and budding leaders in all facets of society."



Participants of the PYC-SPC-PLP joint Partnership Workshop, Suva, 21-22 January 2009. *Clockwise from above:* Georgina Cope (PLP), Yeshe Smith (PLP) and Tarusila Bradburgh (PYC); Jacque Koroi (PYC); Rose Maebiru (SPC) and Georgina Cope (PLP); Tarusila Bradburgh (PYC), Rose Maebiru (SPC) and Jacque Koroi (PYC).



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Solomon Islands Country Program Moves Ahead

Regional Program Director Angus Macdonald and Program Officer Georgina Cope undertook their second country visit to Solomon Islands from 2-5 December 2008. Here they continued their close engagement with PLP Advisory Panel Member, Mrs Joy Kere, the AusAID Post and other key stakeholders on the development of PLP's Solomon Islands Country Program.

A series of in-depth discussions with potential partner organisations, including the Solomon Islands Development Trust, YWCA and Church of Melanesia 'Inclusive Communities' Program, allowed the PLP team to clarify these organisations' objectives and priorities (to determine 'fit' with PLP), as well as their capacity—and willingness—to engage in a partnership with PLP.

All meetings went very smoothly, and a commitment was made to return to Solomon Islands in February 2009, to develop partnership agreements with the three identified organisations, and assist them in defining an appropriate work plan and budget for PLP-supported activities.

The PLP Team also took the opportunity to meet with Leadership Solomon Islands when in-country, to discuss possible opportunities for networking and information sharing (with PLP support, if necessary) with other national and regional leadership organisations in the Pacific.

Further updates on these activities will be provided in future Monthly Updates.

Monthly Calendar:

DATE	ORGANISATION	UPCOMING EVENT
26 th —30 th January	PLP	1 st visit to Port Vila to commence development of PLP's Vanuatu country program.
30 th January	PYC & PLP	2009 Work Planning Day.
2 nd —3 rd February	PIANGO	Project Advisory Committee Meeting, Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP) for not-for-profit management, Suva.
5 th February	PIPSO & PLP	2009 Work Planning Day.
9 th – 13 th February	PIANGO	GDP course: Culture & Values of the Not-for-Profit Sector, PNG.
9 th – 13 th February	PIANGO	Special GDP topic: Pacific Leadership, Fiji.
9 th – 13 th February	PLP & PYC	3 rd Country Visit to Apia to continue development of PLP's country Program for Samoa.
16 th —20 th February	PIANGO	GDP course: Social Audit, Samoa.
20 th February	PLP	Internal Phase II planning day (post June 09).
23 rd – 27 th February	PLP	3 rd Country Visit to Honiara to continue development of PLP's Solomon Islands country program.
23 rd – 27 th February	PLP	Regional Program Manager to conduct AusAID Pacific staff training in partnership brokering process, PNG.



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 Mua on +679 322 0273 or email: info@plp.org.fj.