

Pacific Leadership Program

Monthly Update

November in Brief

It has been a busy month for the PLP team.

We have had the first visit from our monitoring and evaluation team, comprised of Kabini Sanga and Linda Kelly. Thank you to all the partner organisations which made time to come and meet the team and provide invaluable feedback and advice on the performance and direction of the PLP. The PLP research steering committee also held their second meeting in Nadi. By all accounts it was a productive meeting with the committee finalising its charter and commissioning the first two pieces of research.

In other news, PLP has begun partnership negotiations with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), in recognition of the pivotal role the Church plays in developing leaders in Pacific society. Discussions have progressed well so far, and we hope the PCC will soon join PLP as a partner. And we are preparing for our next round of visits to Samoa and the Solomons to progress the development of those country programs. So we are anticipating another busy schedule which will mean more news in our next update.

Finally, we have welcomed some new staff members to important positions in our partner organisations, and you will meet them later in this newsletter.

Best Wishes from the PLP Team

Highlighting the Sub-Regional Workshop on Special Measures for Women

The Sub-Regional workshop for Melanesia was hosted by PNG on the 25-26 September 2008 and was aimed at raising awareness on special measures such as reserved seats and quotas with the goal of addressing the issue of increasing women's representation in parliaments in support to Pacific countries' commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and increase women's representation in national parliaments.

This workshop marks a key milestone for the efforts of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Regional Governance Advisor, Dr. Henry Ivarature as well as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), International Law Development Organisation (IDLO) and the United Nations Development Programme - Pacific Centre (UNDP-PC).

The event was opened by PNG Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare who voiced strong support for advancement of women's representation in public life and parliament. Sir Michael has pledged support in raising this issue in the next Forum Leaders Meeting scheduled to be held in Australia. The Forum was also a fitting occasion for the launch of UNIFEMs Gender Equality in Political Governance Programme (GEPG) as it brought together reputable and highly skilled experts in the area of electoral reform and women's participation in political processes who worked on illustrating best practices and models on use of special measures for women to suit the Pacific Islands' various electoral systems.



Photography by: Allan Mua
Pacific Leadership Program



Yeshe Smith addresses Forum Staff at the PLP hosted afternoon tea—Nov 08
Photography by: Lusi Tuivanuavou

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PLP Monitoring Team
L-R: Dr Linda Kelly and
Dr Kabini Sanga

Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) Visit

The first input of the JMG took place in Suva, Fiji 10-14 November 2008. The monitoring team was comprised of Dr Kabini Sanga as the Pacific Leadership Specialist & Dr Linda Kelly as the M&E specialist.

Kabini and Linda had a meeting with all of PLP's regional partners to discuss the achievements of the program to date, the possibilities for measuring the success of

the program, and options for the future development of the program. They also met one on one with all of PLP's regional partners, who generously gave their time for these discussions. The PLP's monitoring and evaluation plan will use existing information generated by partners. PLP is also willing to support partners interested in developing new or strengthening existing monitoring and evaluation systems for their organisations or program.

Research Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting - Nadi, Nov 2008

After their inaugural meeting in Brisbane, Australia, the PLP RSC met again in Nadi, Fiji on 13 November. The committee made good progress on finalising its charter and commissioning the first two pieces of research, namely a desk based review of published and unpublished literature on 'the cost of corruption' ; and desk based and field research on 'what models of youth leadership have been more successful than others & why?'.

Another key meeting agenda item was for the committee to ensure linkages between research and policy. UNIFEM also presented their research framework for the Gender Equality in Political Governance Programme (GEPG) and received valuable feedback on this from committee members.



Meeting between PLP and the Business Council of Solomon Islands

Back Row (L-R): Angus Macdonald, PLP Regional Program Director, ; Mr Trevor Ramoni, AusAID Honiara

Front Row (L,R): Mr Lellani D Firisua, Technical Director, Small and Medium Enterprises Council (SMEC); Mr Peter Tam, Secretary, Association of SI Manufacturers (ASIM); Mr Freeman Podorua, Director, Bokolo Training/Member, Business Council of SI (BCOSI)

Solomon Islands Country Visit

PLP's Regional Program Director, Angus Macdonald and Program Officer, Georgina Cope paid their first visit to Honiara, Solomon Islands in late September/ early October. The purpose of the visit was to: introduce PLP to key Solomon Island stakeholders; determine leadership-related work already being implemented; and identify institutions with whom PLP may partner under PLP's proposed SI Country Program.

The PLP team met with more than 50 stakeholders in Honiara, including representatives from government, the private sector, civil society, churches and the donor community. After that exhausting but satisfying week in Honiara, Angus and Georgina plan to return to Honiara in early December to continue stakeholder consultations and identify potential partners with whom the Program can work to strengthen leadership and governance in the country.

CLGF 10th Technical Advisory Panel Meeting

On 26 October, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) convened their Technical Advisory Panel Meeting in Samoa to which the PLP was invited to attend. The meeting looked at reviewing the recommendations from the CLGF Mid-Term Review.

Participants included key local government representatives from CLGFs nine focus Pacific Island countries, donor representatives and partners.

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The meeting was opened by the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and also coincidentally, PLPs Advisory Panel member for Samoa.

The meeting was hailed as a success as it set out a clear roadmap for the CLGF in 2009 and beyond. Participants also had a treat when CLGF organized an afternoon field trip to interact with the local community at Saleapaga, Upolu and also to experience the traditional *ava* ceremony. CLGF and the PLP are both supportive of the efforts being undertaken at the local government level and will look forward to deepening their engagement in the upcoming months.

UNIFEM's Gender Equality in Political Governance Programme in the Pacific – moving forward

Within two months of setting up office, the United Nations Development Fund for Women's (UNIFEM) Gender Equality in Political Governance Programme (GEPG) in the Pacific has already started making waves.

UNIFEM's GEPG Programme is a 5 year initiative co-funded by AusAID under PLP. The programme will contribute to advancing gender equality in political governance in the Pacific at both national and local levels with the main purpose of increasing the participation of women as active citizens and leaders.

Housed at UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji, the GEPG team has since September, 2008 been able to win the support of key stakeholders from around the region including parliamentary bodies, NGO representatives, electoral bodies and women's departments of Pacific island countries that UNIFEM supports.

While the whole GEPG team has yet to come on board, Regional Programme Manager Rita Taphorn and Research, Monitoring & Evaluations Officer, Dr Priya Chattier have already made progress, working with respective stakeholders and raising the profile of GEPG. GEPG was launched at the "Sub-Regional workshop on Special Measures for Women" held in Port Moresby, PNG in September 2008 (See article on Page 1 of this update). As a follow up to the Port Moresby workshop, a second workshop was held in Solomon Islands to support developing a national agenda to achieve increased women's political participation. The workshop discussed technical aspects of temporary special measures in the context of the Solomon Islands political framework. A national task force was formed, a time-line for action agreed, and it was agreed to work on a strategy to present to parliament for discussion in the future.

In late November, GEPG will deliver a two week "Train the Trainers" BRIDGE workshop in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific. The 20 participants will represent various sectors such as women's groups, NGOs and various government ministries. BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) is the most comprehensive professional development course available in election administration. It improves the skills, knowledge and confidence of election professionals and of others in the electoral process, such as members of the media, political parties and parliamentarians, and electoral observers and civil society organizations.

The workshop will help stakeholders from participating countries engage in training relevant national audiences including women's groups, government and electoral officials to increase national capacity of key players supporting women's political participation.



CLGF Technical Advisory Panel Meeting in Samoa

L-R: Henry Ivarature, PIFS Regional Governance Advisor; Mosese Kama, Director Fiji Local Government; Allan Mua, PLP Program Officer



PLP with partners during M&E Meeting

L-R: Arieta Moceica, PIANGO; Yeshe Smith, PLP; Rita Taphorn, UNIFEM; Henry Sanday, PIPSO

Welcome to New Partner Colleagues

The PLP team extends a warm welcome to Rita Taphorn, Arieta Moceica and Tarusila Bradburgh, who recently commenced work with our regional partners: UNIFEM, PIANGO and the Pacific Youth Council.

We look forward to working with both Rita, Arieta and Tarusila in the coming months and wish them all the best in their new roles.

Rita Taphorn is Regional Programme Manager of UNIFEM's 'Gender Equality in Political Governance Program' (GEPG).

Tarusila Bradburgh is the newly appointed Secretariat Coordinator of the Pacific Youth Council.

Arieta Moceica joins PIANGO as their new Program Manager - Capacity Building.

Finance Assistance to Partners

PLP's Finance Officer, Shradha Sharma, has proved to be a very valuable (and popular!) resource for our partners. Over recent weeks, Shradha has worked closely with staff from PIFS, PIPSO and PYC to help develop practical, user friendly financial management and reporting systems. Each system is tailored to meet the specific needs of the partner organization, ranging from simple, day-to-day financial record keeping, through to more sophisticated systems that allow partners to service the diverse reporting and accountability requirements of multiple donor organisations. Shradha's work with our partners is a great example of PLP's commitment to support its partners to undertake their core business, and to grow stronger as organisations.

Monthly Calendar

DATE		UPCOMING EVENT
27th - 29th November	PIANGO	Melanesian sub-regional meeting to assess and identify specific capacity building needs of NLUs.
18th - 24th November	PLP	2nd Country Visit to continue development of PLP's country program for Samoa
27th November - 4th December	PIPSO	National Private Sector Organisations (NPSO) Survey for Tuvalu
2nd - 5th December	PLP	2nd Country Visit to continue development of PLP's country program for Solomon Islands



PLP Financial Assistance with Partners

L-R: Shradha Sharma, PLP; Tarusila Bradburgh, PYC

Contact Us

If you have any feedback on the Monthly Update, suggestions on how it can be improved, or would like to contribute stories, pictures or information on your own PLP-related work, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Allan Mua on telephone +679 322 0273 or by email: info@plp.org.fj