

Pacific Leadership Program

Monthly Update



From the PLP Team

Welcome to another edition of PLP's Monthly Update.

May has been another busy period for the PLP team. The month started off with a highly successful gathering of Pacific Leadership Development Organizations in Sydney, followed by meetings of the Program's Advisory Panel and Research Steering Committee. Overviews of these meetings are featured on the following pages.

In this issue, we also update you on the activities of some of our regional and national partners, including the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT), and update you on the latest news from the Solomon Islands Country Program.

As the end of Phase I (30 June) draws ever closer, our focus is now on finalizing partnerships under our Vanuatu and Samoa Country Programs, and confirming Phase II funding and implementation arrangements with existing partners. In addition to welcoming our new partners, we hope to be able to provide many more updates on current partner activities in coming months, as the Program moves into full-scale implementation during Phase II.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue of the Monthly Update. Until next time, best wishes from us all.

Pacific Church Leaders Gather for Nadi Forum

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) held their annual Church Leaders' Consultation from 20—24 April at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji.

The meeting, which focused on the theme of Resettlement and Climate Change, looked at a number of issues including Environment, Human Rights, Governance and Economic issues relating to resettlement. PCC General Secretary, Mr Fe'iloakitau (Fei) Tevi identified that "more needs to be done to have PCC contribute to a more prophetic voice in the Pacific". The Church leaders provided endorsement of the mandate of PCC as the peak regional Church body and agreed on strategies for the Churches to move forward on issues such as resettlement.

The PLP-support meeting provided an opportunity for Program Manager Yeshe Smith and Program Officer Allan Mua to participate and engage with the Pacific Church leaders and raise the profile of PLP.



PLP's Regional Program Manager Yeshe Smith (left) and Professor Maake Masango from South Africa (below) address Church leaders at the PCC Meeting in Nadi.



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Oversight Bodies Reflect on PLP Achievements

PLP is supported with guidance and advice by two oversight bodies, an Advisory Panel, and a Research Steering Committee (RSC). These bodies are made up of a broad representation of eminent Pacific islanders, and Pacific academics.

The Advisory Panel, chaired by Sir Rabbie Namaliu, held its annual meeting in Sydney on 7 May. The Panel heard a report on the inception phase of PLP, and proposed directions for the implementation phase. Some groups that have established partnerships with PLP over the last year, namely the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO), the Pacific Youth Council (PYC), and the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), made presentations to the panel on the work of their organization, the leadership challenges they face, and their relationship with PLP.

A representative of Leadership PNG also briefed the Panel on the meeting of Leadership Developers which had taken place in

the days leading up to the Advisory Panel Meeting.

In summing up the meeting, the Chair said that the Panel was happy with the progress PLP had made in a short period of time, and was looking forward to continuing to support the PLP in its implementation phase.

The RSC, Chaired by Professor Albert Mellam, met on 8 May to consider the focus for PLP funded research over the next three to four years. The focus areas were based on suggestions from PLP's existing partners. The research will look at evaluating the effectiveness of leadership interventions, particularly in the areas of the private sector, church, and women and youth. There will also be work done on why some models of indigenous leadership are more effective than others.

The committee also reviewed the progress to date on the three pieces of research which have already been commissioned by PLP.

Pacific Leadership Developers Share Experiences and Challenges



“A seed has been planted . . . (and) ours is the responsibility of nurturing it, providing a conducive climate in which it can grow”

PLP hosted a meeting of Pacific Leadership Developers in Sydney in the first week of May, to share experiences and discuss common themes in their country initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Leadership PNG, Leadership Fiji, Leadership Solomon Islands, Leadership Pacific, Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue, the Badili Club from PNG and the Young Professionals Training and Development Forum (YPTDF) from Suva. The group spoke of their connectedness from sharing one ocean and the passion and commitment to the development of leaders and good leadership practices in the Pacific.

This meeting was seen as a start to sharing of experience, knowledge and practices amongst these Pacific Leadership groups. Participant Salanieta Tamanikaiwaimaro from YPTDF said, “a

Representatives at the PLP-hosted meeting of Pacific Leadership Developers in Sydney.

seed has been planted and from the nature of the seed, we can determine the nature of the tree but ours is the responsibility of nurturing it, providing a conducive climate in which it can grow”.

The participants agreed on a common mission at the close of the meeting which was:

To nurture Pacific leaders that take responsibility for their own development and are responsive to the needs of their communities; and demonstrate ethical character, vision, love for their people and country and commitment to service.

PLP was happy to support the network in a facilitative role and looks forward to possibilities that will arise from this network in the future.

Solomon Islands Partnerships Go From Strength to Strength



Clockwise from above: Georgina Cope talks through PLP's partnership monitoring approach with ACoM ICP's Dudley Vunagi and Ollie Pokana; Shradha Sharma talks finance with Jenta Tau and Angela Lomasia from YWCA; and Georgina presents to SIDT staff (including Jennifer Wate, second from right) on the partnership between SIDT and PLP.



The PLP team completed its first bi-monthly partnership visit to Solomon Islands from 20—24 April.

A key feature of PLP's partnership approach is to foster close working relationships with partners, and provide a range of assistance and support, depending on partners' specific needs. This may include financial support, technical expertise, formal and informal capacity development, and information sharing. In return, our partner organizations bring a wealth of local knowledge, networking opportunities, and other complementary benefits to the relationship.

The bi-monthly visits are an important part of the partnership approach; they enable both PLP and partners to develop an in-depth understanding of one another's work, and to identify and iron out any potential issues before these have the opportunity to impact on the work of either party. After signing Partnership Agreements with the Anglican Church of Melanesia's Inclusive Communities Program (ACoM ICP) and Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) in February 2009, PLP's Program Officer, Georgina Cope and Finance Officer, Shradha Sharma returned to Honiara to 'check in' with partners, monitor progress, and discuss any issues or areas of possible support identified since the last visit.

Shradha spent time with the finance teams of both organizations, to learn more about each partner's finance and reporting systems and agree arrangements and timings for reporting on PLP funded activities. Georgina

also briefed partners on PLP's four monthly partnership monitoring approach. This approach allows PLP and partners to develop criteria against which the other — and the overall 'partnership' — can be measured; and also provides for reflection on outcomes and lessons learned from the previous four months of implementation. Georgina and Shradha also had the opportunity to meet several SIDT staff and deliver a brief presentation on PLP and its partnership with SIDT.

Building on the relationship developed over the past few visits, the PLP team also met with the YWCA Board, to explain the Program and discuss possible areas of future collaboration. At the YWCA's request, Shradha also spent time with YWCA staff to examine the organization's current financial accounting system and suggest areas for improvement.

Georgina and Shradha enjoyed spending time with the staff of ACoM ICP and SIDT, as well as the YWCA, and learning more about the work of each organization. The next bi-monthly visit is scheduled for early June. In addition to undertaking the first partnership monitoring exercise, this visit will also allow PLP staff to observe more closely some of the key partner activities (such as ACoM ICP's Chiefs Leadership Training being undertaken with PLP support).

SIDT Training Blitz Brings New Skills to Staff and Village Leaders

PLP partner, the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) held a week long ‘Training Blitz’ for its staff and Village Facilitators at SIDT headquarters in Honiara, from 11–15 May.

A total of 20 sessions were held during the week covering a wide range of topics, from time management and planning and basic communication skills, through to IT and internet skills and the project management cycle. A session was also held on SIDT’s past, present and future, and examined how SIDT can achieve sustainability in an uncertain world. In this session, Executive Coordinator Jennifer Wate took participants on a ‘journey’ through SIDT’s past, and all were encouraged to reflect on the past 27 years of SIDT’s work.

The training sessions were conducted by Jennifer Wate, Michelle Taylor, SIDT’s organizational adviser (an AusAID funded Australian Volunteer/ AVI) and Luke Johnston, from the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP).

The May ‘Training Blitz’ (and the next one scheduled for June) was developed in response to the strong demand from SIDT staff, management and Board for training and skills development support across a wide range of areas. However, due to the nature of SIDT’s community-based work, it has often been difficult to get staff together in Honiara to participate in training. These two weeks have been ‘quarantined’ by staff – where possible nobody schedules

external meetings or field trips – and the sessions are held in mornings only.

It is hoped that the wide range of topics covered during the training blitz will give staff and Village Facilitators a ‘taste’ of new skills and tools which can be taken back and further developed in the workplace.

A significant component of PLP’s support to SIDT is the provision of core funding for the organization (including some key staffing costs). It is hoped that this will help to stabilize the organization, and provide SIDT with some ‘breathing space’ to consolidate and grow. This focus on staff training and development is an important first step in strengthening SIDT’s organizational ‘core’



SIDT Executive Coordinator, Jennifer Wate (left) and other team members enjoy SIDT’s May ‘Training Blitz’.

Monthly Calendar

Date	Organisation	Event/ Activity
14–26 May	ACoM ICP	National Mothers’ Union Conference, Solomon Islands
18–22 May	ACoM ICP	Diocese of Hanuato’o Youth Conference, Solomon Islands
19–22 May	PIPSO	Samoa country visit and National Private Sector Organization (NPSO) survey
19–23 May	PLP	4th country visit to Apia to continue development of Samoa Country Program
21–23 May	UNDP	‘Strengthening CSO Capacity Towards Achievements of the MDGs in Pacific: Capacity Assessment of CSOs’ Workshop, Nadi
1–5 June	PIPSO	Niue country visit and National Private Sector Organization (NPSO) survey
8–12 June	ACoM ICP	Chiefs Leadership Training Program, Gela, Solomon Islands
8–12 June	SIDT	In-House Staff ‘Training Blitz’
8–14 June	PCC	‘Designing a Good Governance and Leadership Training Program’, Samoa
23 June	PIPSO	Board Meeting, Nadi
June (date TBC)	CLGF	Training of Trainers Workshop on Financial Management, Nadi

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.

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