



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles du Pacifique

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Media release

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PIANGO Convenes First NGO Melanesian Sub –Regional Meeting

Identifying capacity building needs and implementing relevant programmes was the focus of the first Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) Melanesian Sub-regional meeting held in Nadi from the 27 – 29 November, 2008.

Bakanebo Tamaroa, PIANGO's Executive Director said the organisation was grateful to the AUSAID Pacific Leadership Program which funded participants from Fiji (Fiji Council of Social Services), Vanuatu (Vanuatu Association of Non Governmental Organisations) , Papua New Guinea (Melanesian NGO Centre for Learning) and the Solomon Islands (Development Service for Exchange) to the meeting.

“This is a very good start for the PIANGO Secretariat as it is able to plan its activities around the capacity building needs identified by the Melanesian National Liaison Units (NLU). Capacity Building is our business and we, as the Secretariat will only learn to do better from the critique and suggestions of our members,” he said.

The meeting identified areas of technical support and assistance, discussed the Graduate Diploma Programme, reviewed existing Monitoring and Evaluation techniques and templates and endorsed a sub-regional capacity building support programme.

Management of the Graduate Diploma for Not for Profit Management is the core capacity building activity for the four Melanesian NLUs and the consultation allowed the participants to discuss ways of improving their service to communities in the Pacific.

Newly-appointed PIANGO Capacity Building Programme manager, Arieta Moceica was overwhelmed with the outcome of the meeting.

“It is good to get into the crunch of the capacity building needs of the Melanesian region especially the GDP programme which has been the core activity of PIANGO. Understanding and attending to the problems highlighted by the NLUs would provide better results, hence would advance PIANGO's vision of strengthening the NGO sector,” she said.

More than 30 students from the Melanesian Sub regional have graduated from the programme and are currently working to strengthen the Non Governmental Sector.

Information Sharing and Advocacy, including the development of web sites and ICT was identified as a core need which the Secretariat, through its AusAID-funded Pacific Media Assistance Scheme,

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Aotearoa/New Zealand	CINGOA	Niue	NIUANGO	Interim Members	
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Cook Islands	CIANGO	Samoa	SUNGO	East Timor	CSCBF
Fiji	FCOSS	Solomon Islands	DSE	Guam	Sanctuary Inc.
Kanaky/New Caledonia	UTLN	Tahiti	Hiti Tau	Palau	PCAA
Kiribati	KANGO	Tonga	CSO Forum	Wallis & Futuna	ASCV
FSM	FANGO	Tuvalu	TANGO	West Papua	West Papua

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will work toward building the capacity of information officers from NLUs from the Melanesian Sub Regional.

“Through this project, NLUs will be able to interact with the media, develop communication strategies for their umbrella organisations, have simple knowledge of ICT and web development. This is only the beginning as the project is projected to continue sustainable Training of trainers (TOT) modules that will roll out into national training.” PIANGO’s Programme Manager Information Sharing told participants at the meeting.

Furthermore, the need for a standardized Monitoring and Evaluation tool for the Melanesian Region was highlighted. Mr. Tamaroa presented the Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PIMER) Framework which was formulated through numerous Monitoring & Evaluation tools such as Result Based Management and Most Significant Change.

“The framework has been endorsed by the PIANGO Board in 2007 and it is designed to easily monitor outputs and outcomes against activities. Currently, the Secretariat is implementing this framework and the NLUs are welcome to do so if they see it useful, rather than reinventing the wheel,” he said.

A significant outcome of the sub regional strategies was the proposal for PIANGO to take on a more proactive in Regional Advocacy in issues such as Economic Partnership Agreement, Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), and Pacific Agreement on closer Economic Relations (PACER) and Environmental concerns.

Meeting facilitator and PIANGO technical Advisor Emele Duituturaga said the outcome of the workshop was a positive start for PIANGO as it lays the platform for the Secretariat capacity support for the sub region and a solid foundation as it prepares for the Micronesian, Polynesian and Francophone Sub Regional meetings schedules for early 2009.

End

Caption: Participants at the first Melanesian Sub Regional meeting held at the Capricorn International Hotel in Nadi