

# TANGO's Newsletter

*Your source of news about TANGO and its members*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Talofa and welcome to another exciting new year!

First and foremost, a frequent reader of this Newsletter will obviously notice that the *TANGO's Newsletter* has vastly changed from a densely format to a lighter one. This will avoid too many unnecessary printing costs. This is one way to keep ourselves on our feet in the longer term.

One of TANGO's memorable achievement this year is the opening of its new office, This new office is situated between the Tower and TuFHA Office. TANGO has been renting the Tamagatahi Building and efforts to have its own building has come to reality in late last year and early this year.

TANGO staff moved from the Tamagatahi to the new office in late last year. The opening of TANGO's new office early this year (more on this story below) paved a new path for the future for this NGO umbrella organisation.

With seven local staff, including the Coordinator, TANGO management wishes to acknowledge the great assistance given by government (for providing land space), TANGO Executive Committee (for being very supportive all throughout the process), PWD (for the technical support they rendered), Malefatuga Construction Company (for their tireless efforts in building the office) Building Task Force (for their excellent coordination) and last but not least to the main funder—the European Union..

Without all the above-mentioned figures, the office will not be as it is as we can see today.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

## TANGO OPENS ITS NEW OFFICE

TANGO's new office which is between the TuFHA office and the Airport Tower opens its doors on Friday, 6 March. The weather was extraordinary and all invited guests at that moment were unbelievably excited.

The President of the EKT Church, Rev. Toifga Falani, opened the occasion with a very inspirational and true message. It was a message that reminded everyone and TANGO especially to remember God in everything they do. TANGO's Coordinator, Mrs. Annie Homasi, welcomed all invited guests and also acknowledged all those who took part in the making the new office a reality.

Project Development Officer, Mr. Taukiei Kitara, elaborated on the history of the office, and also acknowledged the efforts made by the various parties who combined their energy and make this dream a reality. He also acknowledged that TANGO's office will be building its new wing once funding has been secured.

TANGO's President also thanked the same people and urges everyone to work together with the Government of Tuvalu, TANGO and relevant stakeholders in making things easier for the development of communities. TANGO's Patron which is the Prime Minister's good wife, Madame Sinalala Ielemia, cut the ribbon for the opening of the new office.

Also present was the Prime Minister, Speaker to Parliament, Taiwan Ambassador and his good wife, the in-country European Union (EU) representative, Mr James Conway and the Pakasoa Group Band which was the main entertainer for the day.

## Special points of interest:

- PWD Rainwater Tank PROJECT
- SDA Programs
- TANGO AGM
- TOSU Drop-In Centre

## MEMBERS' NEWS

## SOCIAL MARKETING OF CONDOMS

One of the interesting current trends evident in Tuvalu youths today, is their increasingly awareness of the importance of having protected sex. In an interview held with Mr. Amouta Falani, who is currently holding the position of Project Officer for the Marie Stopes International, says that condom distributed to main medical centres in outer islands had shown an increase number of people using condoms.

Mr. Falani is working for the Marie Stopes project entitled *Condom Social Marketing* and had with the project since July 2006 and is based at the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA). The project is expected to end in March this year. Mr. Falani's role in the project is to distribute condoms and conduct trainings.

The condom he is distributing is known as *Try Time*.

He is distributing *Try Time* not only to medical centres in the outer islands, but also to bars and night clubs on Funafuti. Peer Educators assist Mr. Falani in the distribution and marketing of *Try Time* to individual youths in Tuvalu. Since the project focuses on marketing, *Try Time* condoms are attached to a cost of 80 cents a packet of three condoms. The whole box of *Try Time* which contained 24 packets cost \$14.00 per box.

"Compared to a free condom, there is little doubt that the person who pays for the condom will not use the condom such as *Try Time*. I believe that when someone pays for the *Try Time* condom, he will be more likely to use it for the right purpose," Mr. Falani said during the

interview, "That is what *Condom Social Marketing* aims to promote."

Mr. Falani had made two follow-up trips to the outer islands to check on the supply of *Try Time* supplied to medical centres. Interestingly, nurses reported that young people really are making good use of *Try Time* condoms, and hence their centres have run out of them.

Most of the islands have already been supplied with two to three boxes, while one of the centres has already used up four boxes. He further said that he is awaiting a new supply of *Try Time* which will be expected to arrive soon.

For more information about *Try Time*, consult TuFHA office during working hours.

## TOSU NEW SECRETARY

Mr. Fepuali Kitiseni, the former President of the Tuvalu Overseas Seamen Union (TOSU), had been named the new Secretary General for the Union on Wednesday, 18 March 2009. This was the result of the TOSU election process that had been taken place in early January until March this year. Mr. Kitiseni will be working in his new position for the next four years.

For more information, feel free to contact Mr Kitiseni at email [tosu@tuvalu.tv](mailto:tosu@tuvalu.tv).

## TOSU CENTRE CREATES HISTORY

Under the Mission to Seafarers International, TOSU's Drop-in Centre was established to cater for the welfare of Tuvalu seafarers. Mr. Tommy Alefaio, who was acting as TOSU Secretary at the time, told TANGO Newsletter that the centre was originally established under the funding assistance of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) which comes from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Office equipments such as the computer, fax and telephone for the centre were also procured by the same funding.

Not only the centre is providing Tuvalu seafarers with sufficient office space, TOSU secretariat also used the centre to conducts trainings on HIV and STIs with facilitation and medical expertise

of PMH Doctors, trainers of the Red Cross and TuFHA. The trainings are funded by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

When seafarers are not aware of the seriousness and danger of HIV and STIs, there is great risk to their lives, the lives of the people they love and care about as well as their future. Therefore, according to Mr. Alefaio, it is of vital importance that such trainings is conducted to Tuvalu seafarers taking into consideration the tempting environment they often found themselves in when they are abroad.

Among other four centres in the Pacific, the Tuvalu centre is the only one that runs trainings on HIV and STIs. This has impressed the main office of the Mission

to Seafarers International which is based in Suva, Fiji. This sets the scene for the other four centres in the Pacific.

Mrs. Matakina Simii from the Tuvalu Red Cross Society, who is one of the trainers, said, "I have run a series of training workshops of the same nature with seamen and their wives. But they used to run at the Red Cross Premises and I tell you the turn out is very poor. However, the turn out here is very encouraging."

Mrs. Simii said that "perhaps the main reason for the increase in the turn out may be due to the suitable location of the centre. It is situated just beside the main seafarers (TOSU) main office."

## MEMBERS' NEWS (CONTINUED)

**PONDER AWHILE WITH ABDUL**

I begin with the Name of God, most gracious, ever merciful.

A teacher had a class of about twenty pupils. One of them was called Master X. The teacher would like Master X much. One day these children put a question to their teacher as to how he liked Master X most. The teacher did not give them any answer that day.

In about two weeks time, the teacher brought twenty live chickens to the class and gave one chicken to each child and asked them to go and slaughter in a secret location where there was nobody, and would bring the dead chickens the following day to class.

The next day came where almost all the children brought their slaughtered chicken to the school except Master X who did not slaughter his chicken. "Did he do this out of disobedience?" someone may ask of Master X's behaviour.

The teacher called for assembly and asked the children one after the other, as to where did they kill their chicken. The responses were almost the same. Some killed theirs in the jungle while others slaughtered theirs in a room where there was nobody.

Master X was asked to what point he has brought his chicken alive? Master X replied with humility to his teacher. Oh! My teacher, I have brought my chicken alive because I could not find a place where there was nobody! I too went to the jungle but I found God looking at me, so I came back to my father's room, yet God was already there.

The teacher was delighted and told his children, Oh! My dear children today you have found the answer for yourselves. This is the reason why I liked Master X most. He feared God in the open as well as in the secret.

My dear humble readers, are we not going to learn a big lesson from this humble one of God? Don't we know that God is in everywhere? If the answer is yes we know, then why do we commit sins? If the answer is no, then I am telling you that he is ever awake and is watching our steps we take each moment.

Dear readers, let us avoid sins so that we may achieve salvation in the Hereafter...

Amen

Abdul Hakim Boateng

**INTERESTING PROGRAMMES WITHIN SDA CHURCH**

The Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Church in Tuvalu, in the first quarter of this year, had been actively exposed to most of the inspiring and spiritual empowering programmes. On 22 February, the SDA Health Department under the leadership of Mrs. Pauke Maani led a Medical Health Check on all members of the Church. The programme involved doing the following tests: 1) *Fasting Random Blood Sugar*, 2) *Blood Pressure*, and 3) *Waist Measurement*.

The main purpose of the programme was to get all members of the congregation to know their health status. Fortunately, the majority of those who made their time available to the programme have good test results. The minority who fell under the healthy standard, were prescribed to take a special diet by Mrs. Maani, and were also advised to regularly exercise. A same programme will be also run in June within the congregation.

Meanwhile, (when this Newsletter went into press) an SDA Singing Group called the Echoes of Hope (EOH) were preparing for their visit to Motufoua Secondary School in the next voyage to the island of Vaitupu. The EOH will be performing songs and dramas to students of Motufoua. The visit was a request made by the EOH to the school and which was very well received by the latter. The group is led by Mr. Laitailiu Seone.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

**PWD RAINWATER TANK PROJECT**

Funafuti households have been benefited from the Rainwater Tank Project that is currently implemented by the Public Works Department. On the PWD April's (*Water—Sanitation—Waste*) Newsletter, it was reported that six hundred 10,000 litre rainwater tanks were been manufactured and already distributed to households on Funafuti. Another 900 tanks are in the process of manufacturing. The completion of these 900 tanks will increase the household rainwater storage capacity on Funafuti by 9,000,000 litres.

The Newsletter reported that before anyone wishing to get a tank, he needs to prepare a suitable base for the location where it must be smooth and not have any protruding rocks. The site will then be inspected by the PWD. The delivery of the tank from the PWD to the household will be the responsibility of the householder. For more information, please call Mr. Pisi Seleganiu at 20304.



# MANAGEMENT NEWS



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING WORKSHOPS

On 25–27 February, Youth Mental Health (YMH) Project Coordinators around the region took part in a training workshop that introduces them into the project. The workshop was conducted in the National Museum, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Eight countries are implementing the project—Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu—and its fully funded by NZAID, through the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International. (FSPI).

Regional Project Coordinator, Mrs. Margaret Leniston was the main facilitator of the workshop, while all country coordinators had a share of the facilitation sessions during the second day of the training. This would allow them to familiarize with the skills of conducting YMH workshops when they return to their respective countries.

“We will be expecting upon our return to our own countries to do a number of things.” Mrs. Toaki said, “We need to write a report on this workshop ; conduct two YMH workshops which needs to be all finished by July this year”

She also said that the project was an interesting one since it teaches them to facilitate workshops and also learn at the same time. “After conducting the workshops in our own countries we are required to write a brief report. Not only that we also need to get at least five participants in these workshops and interview for any significant change they experienced after taking part in these workshops.”

## TANGO MEMBERSHIP AS OF END OF MARCH 2009

TANGO membership as of end of March 2009 stands at forty-eight (48):

1. EKT Women Association	2. Tuvalu Red Cross Society	3. Tuvalu National Council of Women	4. Tuvalu Family Health Association	5. Tuvalu National Youth Council	6. EKT Church	7. Tuvalu National Chamber of Commerce	8. Women in Business
9. EKT Youth	10. Tuvalu Overseas Seamen Union	11. OITA Association	12. Island Care	13. Pre-School Council	14. EKT Girls Brigade	15. SDA Church	16. Tuvalu Assembly of God
17. Lotomalosi	18. Tafemai	19. Lototasi	20. Voluntia	21. Lafogaki	22. Falemagatai	23. TalaFai	24. Tuvalu Boys Scout Association
25. Tuvalu Girl Guide Association	26. EKT Boys Brigade	27. Tuvalu Association of Sports	28. Bahai Faith Association	29. Amadyha Muslim Association	30. Catholic Church	31. Maritime Credit Union	32. Fale Kalava
33. Mouhala	34. Niukita	35. Mamafa	36. Poiteloto	37. Moemitiga	38. Te Vaka	39. Lolipukupuku	40. Talaofenua
41. Tamaine	42. Millennium Choir 2002	43. Alatau	44. Sikuleogali	45. Seimeana Youth	46. Vai o te Ola	47. Tuvalu National Association of Fishermen	48. Sagale Tutasi

## TANGO 2009 AGM

TANGO Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2009 will take place on Friday 24 April at the TuFHA Conference Room. The meeting will be about the updates from TANGO Management on the 2008 activities, achievements and future plans. Also in this meeting, will be the presentation of 2008 financial report and the proposing of the 2009 Budget for approval.

The election of new members for the ExComm will be also conducted. Members who have not paid their membership fees. are kindly reminded to pay their fees before the AGM takes place.

## TANGO ASSISTED COMMUNITIES

One of TANGO's priorities is assisting communities with their developments work. This includes the development of their Strategic Plans.

TANGO assisted Nanumea Island with the development of their Strategic Plan (SP) 2009–2012. TANGO Training and Information (TIO) Officer visited the island of Nanumea in mid-March to check on the status of the SP.

The assembly of island leaders on the island (known as the *Tokofitu*) will be ensuring that the SP will be implemented this year.