



Niue Star

Pacific Community sharpens focus to meet Island's development needs



Dr Colin Tukuitonga is Director-General of the Pacific Community. The 9th Conference of the Pacific Community and officials meeting took place in Niue from 31 October to 5 November. Follow @ColinTukuitonga and #Niue2015. (photo by Bill Vakaafi)

100 Years ago “My Heart Cries A Little ...”

By: Michael Jackson

The celebrations for the 41 Years Self Government, started off with the commemoration of the 150 Niuean Toas that left The shores of Niue, 100 Years ago to October 2015. The Niue RSA with the support from the NZ High Commission to Niue, and the Niue Government, commenced the celebrations with the church service held at the Alofi Ekalesia Niue church , led by Acting President of



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At the Conference of the Pacific Community last week, our country and territory members set the direction of our development organisation for the next five years.

The Pacific Community (SPC) has been providing scientific and technical support to our Pacific Island members since 1947.

While SPC is recognised as the largest implementing agency in the region, changes in the development landscape, increased competition for resources and rising public and development partner expectations mean we must strive to remain effective and responsive to the needs of Pacific people. The establishment of the Pacific Islands Development Forum is the best example of the changing regional order, where new relationships are being forged and traditional alliances are changing. Sub-regional groupings will also change the development dynamics of the Pacific region.

Our new strategic plan involves a greater emphasis on science, innovation and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, to support sustainable development in our region. It was prepared with the active participation of our members, staff and development partners. In Niue, our members have endorsed the Secretariat's move to clearly identify our priority areas of development work and to focus resources accordingly in line with our plan for 2016-2020.

The Independent External Review 2012 identified the particular value of SPC to our small island members, where they rely heavily on SPC for assistance due to their capacity limitations and resource constraints. The challenge for SPC is to balance the need to provide the full range of services required and expected by our members and, at the same time, identify areas of expertise and focus.

SPC will continue to focus on regional public goods where it is generally accepted that these services are most effectively provided by one organisation on behalf of all the members. Infectious diseases surveillance, statistics and tuna stock assessment are good examples. Yet we need to be more selective in what we do.

The demands created by the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and the Pacific Framework for Regionalism are also among the factors impacting SPC that will be on the agenda in Niue.

In addition to contributing to the implementation of SDGs in a range of sectors, SPC will continue to contribute to the development of appropriate indicators and to the collection, collation and dissemination of data for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. SPC is concerned at the volume of indicators and data required for this process and external assistance is clearly needed if Pacific Island countries and territories are to provide reliable data and statistics on the progress made with the implementation of the SDGs.

There is no doubt that funding arrangements influence what we do and how we do things. Sustainable financing is key. With a finite pot of donor financing being negotiated on an organisation-by-organisation basis, the incentives are there to compete rather than collaborate. This needs to change. Improving the coherence of policy advice and the way CROP agencies work together will be an important activity in 2016.

In Niue, our members have also provided guidance to the Secretariat on the key challenges facing the Pacific Community in governance, partnerships, regional architecture and coherence between agencies that comprise the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP).

There is consensus on the benefits of regional integration and cooperation, especially in Small Island Developing States, given their severe resource limitations and capacity constraints. The nine CROP agencies have agreed to collaborate even more in support of the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

There are clear benefits from working together on technical challenges. Technical cooperation works well in many areas because members retain their sovereignty but are still able to benefit from a col-

Dr Colin Tukuitonga



lective approach. There are many examples of successful cooperation between members, including tuna tagging and fisheries science, and in public health surveillance through an established Pacific region network administered by SPC.

Some of the key capabilities considered essential for SPC to strengthen include mechanisms such as country programming, in-country presence and collaboration with other agencies to better understand member priorities and context, and avoid duplication. Furthermore, with constrained resources, effective cooperation with other agencies becomes even more important. Our focus will be on results and the impact of our work.

The global community has set ambitious goals for sustainable development that come into place in 2016, and the all-important UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) is just around the corner. The outcomes of COP 21 will have a bearing on the sustainable development and future survival of all Pacific Island countries and territories, with no exceptions. Understandably, this is an issue galvanising the region and it was reflected in the Conference theme: “Resilient Pacific people – turning the tide”. An optimistic outlook, turning challenges into opportunities and collaboration hold the key.

If you have any question or Opinion regarding any Editorial contact the Editor by e-mail niuestar@niue.nu or ph: 683 3646 (Niue)

Editorial/Tau Manatu he Etitoa



Tau Manatu he Etitoa

“Tolo mai Ki Niue Tau Iki he Pasifika – Fono SPC kehe Mata Maka”

Fakalofa lahi atu kehe higoa he ha tautolu a Iki ko e Famamoui Iesu Keriso.

Fakalofa lahi atu kehe tau Iki he Pasifika ko e matakau South Pacific Community fakalataha mo e tau

hukui he tau motu takitaha mo e tau tagata gahua.pihia mo e i lalo hifo he matakau Tau Takitaki he Pasifika (Pacific Island Forum Secretariat)

Mai he tau tau 40 tau kehe molea atu ko e matakau ni a nai ne fae taute e tau fakaholoaga he tau motu takitaha. Ne fakahigoa fakamua ai ko e South Pacific Commission, matakau taha ia ni ae kae hiki noa ni e matahiku mai he Commission kehe Community.

Ko ia e takitaki he magaaho nai ko e taha tau pulotu Ekekafo ha tautolu ko Dr Collin Tukuitoga mo e

ke iloa foki he falu ne nakai la iloa ia ko ia e tagata Niue fakamua ne moua e tuaaga Takitaki (Secretary General) he mnatakau nai ko e Lilifu Ekepule/ Palemia kua Okioki ko Hon Mititaigimene Viviani. Kakano he mena ia ko e tagata Niue ke ua aki a nai ha tautolu ne kua takitaki matakau lahi nai.

Kehe haaku a iloaaga ko e liga ko e fonoaga ke fa aki a nai he tau hukui he pasifika kua fakahoko ki Niue he ono mahina nai kua mole mo e to huhu e falu ha tautolu koe heigoa ha tautolu e tau tagata he motu ka moua mai ha ko e tau fonoi pehe nai. Ko e haaku a tali loga e tau mena mua atu tau tupe ka tamai e lautolu ke fakaaoga ke he motu, ti pihia mo e to taatu poke fakapulua atu e lautolu ka omai ha tautolu a motu ke he pasifika poke lalolagi.

Ko e matakau nai foki ke kumi atu e tau tupe poke falu a tau lagomatai kehekehe mai he falu a motu poke falu matakau he lalolagi ke taute aki e tau gahua ha tautolu.he motu. Ko e tau matakupu foki ne kua fakatutala a lautolu ki ai ke tuga foki mo e vaha kua lahi kehe tau puhala ke totoko atu aki e Hikihikiaga he Matagi, ti pihia mo e loga foki he tau mena ne kua fe lauaki mo e tau momoui he vaha nai.

Amanaki ni ma tau kapisiga ne fenoga mai kua fiafia a mutolu kehe ha mutolu a nonofo fakaku mai kehe mata maka fulufuluola ha mautolu.

Kia Monuina e totouaga he NS nai.

Etitoa.

Report by Naea Michael Jackson VP NCOG, Niue's Private Sector Rep in Rarotonga

Niue's representatives to the Forum Ministers meetings in Rarotonga consists of the Associate Minister Hon Dion Taufitu representing Niue as Minister of Trade his official is Morgan Mougavalu of Customs, and Dorren Siataga Accountant from Treasury represent the Government as the Minister did not go because of other commitments.

Niue Chamber of Commerce President Catherine Papani was suppose to represent Niue Chamber of Commerce but last minute have to represent PIPSO (Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation) as the PIPSO Chair did not attend so Niue is the assistant chair. So that is why PIPSO requested Chamber Secretariat to send someone at the very last minute to take Niue's place.

As this is a special meeting or dialogue of the Forum Ministers of both Economic and Trade it was very interesting and this was the first time that the representatives of the Forum Countries Chamber of Commerce sit together with Ministers from the region to discuss issues that will assist national Chamber's of Commerce in each country.

Before the two days sessions

First Time for Private Sector Reps in Region To Meet With Ministers

of dialogue with officials and Ministers the COC representatives from Forum Island countries who are mainly Presidents or Chairpersons held our workshop and discuss issues that we feel that needs to present to the two ministers meeting. This dialogue was facilitated by PIPSO and FORUMSEC and was chaired by the President of the hosting country's COC.

After Cathrine Papani representing PIPSO presented their report the discussions continue and at the end of the workshop a paper was prepared to submit to the Ministers two meetings at the next two days. Than its time for us to meet with them the officials first and with the ministers. It was something they all say that has never happened before, for the Private Sector to sit together face to face with the Ministers and discuss issues together in relation to the economic development of each country.

We were given the opportunity by the Chairman which is the Minister for Economics of Cook

Island to speak and express or share with Ministers what our individual countries are facing in terms of assistance whether financial or technical. I was really honoured to speak on behalf of Niue COC and to share with other Ministers including our own Hon Dion Taufitu.

I have no hesitation in telling the meeting that our Private Sector receives a lot of support from the Government of Niue and the Government of New Zealand to make sure that our Private Sector are getting the assistance they need in order to get their businesses going.

Our Minister for Private Sector who is also Minister for finance is very supportive of our Private Sector and with the very active Chamber of Commerce Secretariat the Private Sector receives grants to improve their business's and even funding for short term training.

During my turn i told them how our Private Sector Chamber of Commerce Secretariat has developed in the last few years

with assistance from government of Niue and also NZ. They were all very impressed with the development and the financial grant assistance that our Minister of Private Sector has given our small struggling small businesses, as other islands are still struggling to get any assistance from their Governments.

To sit together in the same table with Ministers from our Forum countries and discuss issues that need to improve our small businesses is quite an experience and something that has never happened before.

I must thank our COC Secretariat and our Chairperson for recommending me to attend and also to PIPSO and Forum Sec for the funding. Fakaue lahi to the hosting country for looking after us over at Rarotonga. To our Hon Dion Taufitu and his officials for the support and transport Hon Minister.



Pacific
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U.S. and Pacific Partners unite to build climate resilience

5 November 2015

Alofi, Niue – A new U.S. Government initiative was launched today to help communities in the Pacific Islands region address the negative effects of climate change.

The United States Agency for International Development will partner with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme for a five-year initiative that will strengthen the national capacity of up to 12 Pacific Island countries to effectively plan, coordinate and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC) project was announced by the U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu, Judith

Cefkin, at the 9th Conference of the Pacific Community under way on the Pacific island of Niue.

The Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, welcomed the new partnership and its focus on responding to some of the key challenges that limit the ability of Pacific Island countries to effectively implement national climate change priorities.

“Participating countries will benefit from capacity building and training programs, as well as peer-to-peer exchanges through this timely USAID initiative,” Dr Tukuitonga said. “This cooperation expands the support in the Pacific Islands region and will help enable countries to respond urgently and sufficiently to the impacts of climate change,” the Director-General said.

A climate change finance tracking tool will be piloted in at least one Pacific island country with a robust public financial management system to ensure sustainability so that neighbouring islands can learn from its experiences. The project will also carry out selected national climate change finance assessments.

The ISACC project will build on existing national adaptation processes that are multi-sector and whole-of-island approaches that have been successful in the region, and will continue to be sustained by a range of partners through pooling of resources and expertise.

“This will strengthen the adaptation planning processes of each country, including their ability to access and manage climate finance and to build multisector approaches to climate change and disaster risk reduction,” Ambassador Cefkin added.

In addition to working with SPC on climate change adaptation, the United States also supports SPC’s efforts to promote the transition to renewable energy in the Pacific. Last July, the United States, SPC, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) hosted 86 participants in Hawaii for a workshop on strategies for increasing renewable energy use among Pacific Island countries.

“By diversifying their portfolios to include clean and sustainable renewable energy, Pacific Island

nations will enhance their security and reduce their vulnerability to volatile energy commodity prices,” Ambassador Cefkin told the Conference.

“The United States is committed to working with our partners in the region to increase the climate resilience communities in the Pacific Islands and promote sustainable and inclusive economic development,” Ambassador Cefkin said.

The theme of the biennial Conference, chosen via a public competition in Niue, is “Resilient Pacific People – Turning the Tide.” For more information, visit www.spc.int/crga.

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NB: date shown is for Niue (GMT-11 hours)



Niue set to enjoy reliable electricity supply

From today the people of Niue will enjoy reliable and efficient electricity supply as the country's electricity distribution network project was commissioned by the European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, His Excellency Andrew Jacobs.

For the past decade, people in the Vaiea area were faced with considerable stress as they did not have access to power due to the damage of 64 kilometres of underground HV cable in 1998. 22 kilometres of Niue's high voltage network cable had been replaced, but 42 kilometres remained and the Niue Power Corporation (NPC) was under a great deal of pressure to repair the problem and restore power as soon as possible.

The European Union, under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) provided funding of EUR 1.5 million (NZD 2.6 Million) to the Niue Government to replace (supply and installation) the 42 kilometres of the HV cable.

While commissioning the rehabilitation of the electricity distribution network project at the Niue Power Corporation office today, Ambassador Jacobs said: "Since 2002 the European Union has devoted substantial resources to supporting the adoption of renewable energy technologies and promoting energy efficiency in small island states in the Pacific, both in the framework of the European Development Fund and through other dedicated instruments," "Less reliance on fossil fuels

– combined with investment in alternative, affordable, and reliable energy sources – is a prerequisite for sustainable growth and a key means of mitigating climate change impacts. In a similar vein, we know that secure and reliable energy access will drive development and bolster economic prosperity in Niue." Jacobs added.

Ambassador Jacobs said to give the beautiful island states of this region a secure and sustainable future, sustainable energy is the solution. The European Union remains committed to being part of that solution.

Premier of Niue, Hon Toke Talagi said: "The Government of Niue acknowledges the development assistance from the European Union through EDF 10 which enabled the replacement of the island's whole ageing 11kV underground cable," "The project is a momentous undertaking which ensures quality electricity is available to all communities in Niue." Hon Talagi added.

Under the 10th EDF the EU has supported Niue in; continuing its efforts in promoting energy conservation across all sectors, providing specialised technical assistance and intuitional strengthening, installing further solar PV generations capacity and the electricity distribution network project, which was commissioned today.

ENDS

For enquires, more information or to arrange interviews you can contact

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Pacific family and UN Envoy turn tide on youth outlook

5 November 2015

Alofi, Niue - In recognising the need for a high-level forum to monitor the situation of youth and drive progress in the Pacific, the member countries and territories represented at the Pacific Community's 9th Conference today agreed that a focus on youth would become a standing agenda item at the organisation's governing body meetings.

This was one of 21 agreed recommendations put forth at the biennial Conference in Alofi, Niue, following a High-Level Dialogue on "Nurturing a resilient generation and future Pacific leaders".

The dialogue was facilitated by the Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC), Dr Colin Tukuitonga, who said this was an opportunity to make a difference in ensuring responsive youth development in the region.

"We know that these issues are not new. There has been very little change in the status of youth in the Pacific in the past 10 years. Yet the implications of these issues are huge, affecting the ability of countries and territories to develop economically and socially," said Dr Tukuitonga.

"Failing to invest sufficiently in youth will trigger substantial economic, social and political costs," he said.

The dialogue provided an opportunity for Pacific Community members, youth representatives, development partners and the UN Secretary General's Envoy for Youth to explore opportunities to increase investment towards a range of issues affecting Pacific youth, including non-communicable diseases, climate change and employment.

Over half of the Pacific region's 10 million people are under the age of 25, of which an alarming 23 per cent are currently unemployed.

To address this, Pacific member states agreed to support the development of opportunities to help build skills for young people, in the form of regional awards for youth enterprise, youth internships at SPC and the adaptation of good practices through South-South cooperation.

The members also recognised the Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023, coordinated by SPC and the Pacific Youth Council, as the regional approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific.

"Youth are opportunities not liabilities," the UN Youth Envoy, Ahmad Alhendawi, said in a strong and heartfelt keynote address to Pacific delegates and development partners participating in the dialogue.

"We are talking about more than 5 million current and upcoming brilliant minds that have the potential to transform the region. "I am planning to work closely with the Pacific Community and the Pacific Youth Council and its member organisations to mobilise and support young people from the region towards achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals," he added.

Pacific government representatives also got the opportunity to hear of current efforts being implemented by Samoa, Solomon Islands and Australia to catalyse youth development at the national and regional level.

They also expressed great appreciation at the valuable insight provided by Pacific

Youth through a statement delivered by the Pacific Youth Council Vice-Chair, Inangaro Vaka'afi.

"Young people are sometimes put into groupings and labelled by society with rather negative connotations like NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training. These types of labels do not incite pride or hope but if you can see it from our perspective, these young people are actually potential game changers of the economy," Vaka'afi said in addressing the forum.

"Youth across the Pacific are taking the lead in climate change actions and solutions with youth-led movements like the Pacific Climate Warriors from the 350.org networks.

"We respect our elders, culture, traditions and ways but we also need to step up and use our voice not only as the leaders of tomorrow but as your partners today," Vaka'afi said, based on a statement prepared with input from Pacific Youth Council members across the region.



Honourable Premier Toke Talagi and European Ambassador His Excellency Andrew Jacobs.



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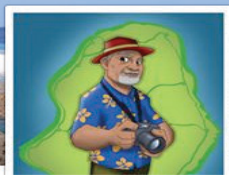


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9th Conference Of The Pacific Com- munity (Farewell 2) - 5 Nov 2015

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