



“Christmas greetings from the CAP Australia Secretariat Desk to all our friends in the Pacific Network of Planners”

Yes, time has crept up on us and it’s that time of the year again! We would like to wish all our readers and friends in the Pacific peace and joy for the Christmas season.

This PNOP issue is a fantastic mix of latest news and planning issues relevant to the Pacific, and again we gratefully acknowledge the Pacific Magazine, SIDS and Oceanic Waves for their kind permission to reproduce relevant articles.

I urge everyone to please contribute to this publication as this is intended to be the ‘voice’ of the Pacific planners and requires your input to remain meaningful and continues on into the future.

Alicia Yon Editor

Conference on Built Environment Issues in Small Island States

The international conference on “Built Environment Issues in Small Island States and Territories” hosted by the Faculty of the Built Environment, University of Technology, Jamaica on 2-6 August 2005 was attended by some 85 delegates. The conference focused on the special circumstances that effect Small Island Developing States (SIDS), paying particular attention to the issues effecting the built environment.

Keynote speakers gave presentations on climate change, energy resource issues, disaster management, resilience in [traditional] island knowledge, land use policy and management, value and use of GIS technology tools.

The main issues arising from the presentations and discussion were:

- Increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters impacting on national economies of SIDS;
• Need to build in more resilience into communities to withstand and adapt to disasters;
• Tourism relying on cheap oil will be threatened by the future energy crisis;
• Short term expediency thinking leads to bad outcomes, especially for poor people;
• Effective governance demands community participation and empowerment;
• Civil Society must progress from reactive to pro-active participation
• Involvement of Secondary School students in the community awareness process is important in educating the future adult consumers and parents at an early age;
• Entrenched patronage and corruption is social and economic disease, which must be eradicated for the health of the community;
• Involvement of academics and “experts” in educating the public needs more effective communication targeted at the recipients of the information, including politicians, to motivate ordinary people and push the appropriate emotional buttons;
• Need to keep rules and regulations simple in plain language for easy comprehension;
• Self interest can be a strong motivating force for good outcomes;
• Preaching to the converted in conferences must change to preaching to politicians who make decisions, developers who affect the environment, and the masses who suffer the consequences of poor decisions and inappropriate development.

Inside

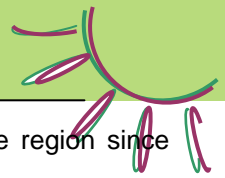
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These issues led to responses which could be summarised as:

- Cross-sectoral integration of all the issues, combining modern science and technological tools with traditional knowledge
- Collaboration by all stakeholders and widen leadership to be inclusive
- Coping strategies – institutional, community, commerce and industry
- Capacity building at all levels of society to promote implementation of strategies
- Communication of information with all stakeholders and public in the most appropriate format in a relevant cultural context, using technology wisely
- Commitment by everyone to increase resilience and sustainability
- Compassion towards the helpless to increase their own empowerment
- Cooperation by the international community - "one earth all involved"

These responses are equally relevant to the Pacific SIDS in varying degrees of scale. As planners, we are at the forefront of promoting cross sectoral integration, collaboration by all stakeholders, communication of information with communities to achieve the necessary coping strategies and capacity building at all levels of society to promote effective implementation.

The future is looming upon us and it will end modern civilisation as we knew it. Climate change, water scarcity, the end of cheap oil and gas energy, leading to dramatic economic and social upheaval, are the long term consequences of this age of unsustainable development and environmental pollution. Hurricane Katrina was a portent of this future, showing how easily even the greatest nation on earth can be humbled by such Acts of God.

The next issue of the PNOP Newsline will focus on the so called "oil peak" and explore some of the consequences particularly relevant to SIDS. However, the traditional resilience of island states may yet be their salvation, by a return to sustainable ways and social values.

A CDROM is being published with the conference proceedings. It will be sent to each nation represented in the Pacific Network of Planners.

By Roger Brewster  
September 2005

### New Zealand Consults on 'Pacific Plan'

New Zealanders get another chance next week to have a say on the Pacific Plan for greater co-operation and integration in the region. At the first consultations in March, Loudine Parsons of the Family Centre, was one of many who criticised the lack of community input, but she says there has

been much more talking around the region since then.

Ms Parsons says the Pacific Islands Forum, which is driving the Plan, has a role to play in bringing needed development to the region. She said it was vital it has access to the best possible information on development. "But at the same time protect our cultures and our patterns of land ownership and our regional environment. So I guess it would take, say a decade, to really thoughtfully bring the best advice into those areas and to be able to talk at the community and non-urban areas - where development is really critical and is in fact in crisis situations," Ms Parsons said.

Courtesy of Pacific Magazine  
23 September 2005

### AUSTRALIA: Farm workers needed

The peak farmers' group in Australia has released a plan to address the skills shortage in the nation's agricultural sector - with the help of workers from the Pacific region. The National Farmers Federation says prospective employers need more information on migration visas, which could allow seasonal and guest workers to help fill the labour shortage, Radio Australia reports.

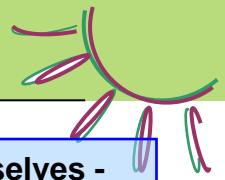
Opponents of guest worker schemes say Australians could miss out on jobs and the guest workers themselves can be exploited. But the workplace relations manager with the National Farmers Federation, Denita Wawn, said such a scheme is still worth exploring. "And certainly that would be a short-term stay visa for the seasonal time of peak periods in the Australian market, particularly in the horticultural sector."....Radio Australia/PNS.

Courtesy of Pacific Magazine  
22 September 2005

*The planning implications of this scheme could be to reduce population pressures in small island states and increase remittances. In the longer term it may be linked to trans-migration from states, vulnerable to sea level rise.* Ed.

### Crashing and burning? Pacific Regional Air Service Agreement

The Secretary General of the Association for South Pacific Airlines (APSA) believes the Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement, better known as PIASA, could be dead and buried within the next couple of months. ASPA's George Faktaufon says the association has finally got support for a cost benefit analysis of the agreement. "PIASA has been flogged as the answer to all our air transport ills, but the supposed benefits are unsubstantiated," he says PIASA was developed to integrate aviation services of Pacific Island Forum members.



Signatories are Cook Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and most recently, the Solomon Islands. Faktaufon says proponents of the agreement claimed it will generate additional traffic to the region through competition, that it will improve frequency, improve capacity, and cut fares. Faktaufon says they were told "everyone will be happy because competition will drive everything else. "PIASA is a fairly one-sided agreement. It's an economist's dream. It's a utopia," Faktaufon says. "The region didn't ask for it."

Faktaufon also says it was prompted more as a result of frustration from Australia and New Zealand about the way aid money was being spent, particularly in the aviation sector. "At the moment, governments are joining (PIASA) blindly," Faktaufon says, "so we are happy that AusAID has agreed to fund a study. We believe some countries were coerced into signing. "That study will look at the tangible benefits and costs to joining PIASA. Faktaufon acknowledges it will likely show benefits for some island nations that don't have national airlines, such as Tuvalu and Cook Islands. Meanwhile, the association is being kept busy monitoring a number of other changes in the sector.

ASPAs concerns about the long-term impacts of the movement of low-cost carriers into the region are well documented. Faktaufon says of companies like Virgin Pacific, "we don't know if they are here to stay. When we look at the economic benefits of airlines, we need to look at the total benefits to the islands. "He's pragmatic about the pressure sustained high fuel prices are having on the operating costs of airlines. "No matter what you do you can't find economies of scale," Faktaufon says. "We buy fuel in U.S. dollars, but revenue is in local currency.

"There are some savings to be made if you are operating wide bodied aircraft on long haul services (for example Air Pacific) but for most regional airlines, they are operating three hour flights on narrow bodied aircraft and they are really struggling to save." [Fuel is about 30% of total costs] Faktaufon cites political interference in regional airlines as a continuing threat to their viability. "What planes they buy, who they hire, what routes they service, it's still a big problem..."

At Royal Tongan, Polynesian, Air Niugini, Solomon Airlines, Air Kiribati, there have been problems with government interference. "Faktaufon takes some hope that with the "good governance" conditionality being "enforced in the region", interference in airlines will stop. Aside from the fairly solid performers in Air Pacific, Air Caledonie and Air Tahiti Nui, Faktaufon points to Air Niugini as an airline to watch and says "it should do well if government can keep its hands off it." Of the region's other carriers he says Solomon Airlines "is still finding its way," that the future of Polynesian Airlines is uncertain and, with a wry laugh, that Air Vanuatu "has a 26 person board, how would you like that?"

**Courtesy of Pacific Magazine**

**By Samantha Magick**

**September 2005**

### **Communities helping themselves - Positive impact by the International Waters Project**

In the Pacific we have long recognized that community participation is essential if we truly want to achieve the sustainable management of our environment and natural resources. Too often in the past we have also focused our attention and energy on addressing the symptoms of environmental degradation rather than the "root causes." How many of us have participated in beach or village clean ups only to return the following week to find that all the rubbish has returned to our public spaces? If we continue to ignore the root causes of our environmental problems then our environment, natural resources, public health, tourism and economic well-being will continue to be put at risk.

The International Waters Project (IWP), SPREP's largest single project, is due for completion at the end of 2006. After seven years, and an investment \$US8.5 million, it is now an opportune time to begin the process of trying to understand how this Global Environment Fund-supported project has helped to strengthen environmental management throughout the region.

The IWP is working with pilot communities in 14 Pacific Island countries to find practical ways to strengthen environmental management in the areas of coastal fisheries, waste reduction, and freshwater protection. The IWP is executed by the UNDP and administered by SPREP from its headquarters in Apia, Samoa. In each country a national coordinator has been appointed within a lead government agency to manage the project.

A National Task Force consisting of key stakeholders from government, non-government agencies, and the local community, has been appointed to support the national coordinator. In effect, thousands of people around the region are now participating in the International Waters Project in an effort to model new ways of managing our waste, our water, and our coastal fisheries.

The project is working with pilot communities to identify possible low-cost solutions that can help countries improve resource management at the national level. The IWP is not about funding infrastructure, such as water treatment plants or landfills. It is about helping communities to understand the root causes so they can develop low-cost solutions that they can apply themselves. In turn, these community-based solutions and management plans can then be used to help strengthen the effectiveness of our environmental management at the national and regional levels. Given the growing urgency of the waste problem, it is hardly surprising that eight of the participating countries (Kiribati, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu) have chosen to focus on finding ways to



strengthen the management of solid and liquid waste.

In this, SPREP's "Year of Action Against Waste," these community pilots have already provided invaluable lessons that have contributed towards the development of our regional solid waste strategy. Samoa and the Cook Islands have chosen to focus their energies on improving the management of their catchment and watershed areas. Niue, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Solomon Islands have chosen to focus on strengthening the management of coastal fisheries. In Vanuatu's Crab Bay community on Malekula Island, the IWP has worked to train community facilitators in collecting information about their vital fisheries resources such as the land crab.



**In Vanuatu, IWP local facilitators are helping their communities to understand the impacts of overfishing.**  
Photo: Courtesy of SPREP

They are now using this information to develop their own management plan and rules to complement existing traditional management practices. In the middle of last year it came as a wake-up call to many people working in the region when the IWP published a socioeconomic baseline survey of Jenrok, its pilot community on Majuro Atoll. While the project's intention was to help improve the management of waste, this report made it clear that many of the 2,000 people in this congested urban community were struggling to cope with a lack of even the most basic services, such as access to fresh water and housing.

Together with the analysis of the community's waste stream, the project now has a clear baseline from which to measure future successes in promoting composting, recycling and the diversion of hazardous materials from its sensitive coastal areas. In June this year the economic valuation of water pollution carried out by the Cook Islands IWP revealed the danger of doing nothing to address the growing impacts of land-based pollution on our fragile islands. The report estimates that water pollution could now be costing Rarotonga NZ\$7.6 million (US\$5.4 million) every year.

The IWP is just one example of how SPREP is trying to generate maximum value from limited resources. Increased regional collaboration and the pooling of these limited resources will continue to be required if we really want to help to address urgent environmental issues such as waste

management that are common among all Pacific Island countries.

**Courtesy of Pacific Magazine  
By Asterio Takesy  
October 2005**

*The writer is the director of the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, which is based in Apia, Samoa. See [www.sprep.org.ws](http://www.sprep.org.ws)*

## Oceania Development Network

Established in October 2003, the Oceania Development Network (ODN) is a network of academics, researchers, policy makers and development practitioners in the Oceania region, and is the regional body of the Global Development Network.

- The ODN organises various activities including research competitions, conferences and has an on-line forum for discussions of issues relating to the Pacific. The latest event on the ODN calendar was the 2nd Biennial Conference held at the University of Papua New Guinea in PNG between 12th -14th October 2005.

A short report on the conference has been included in this edition of the Newsline, Pg 10.

For more information, visit the ODN website ([www.gdn-oceania.org](http://www.gdn-oceania.org))

## 2006 World Planners Congress and World Urban Forum - Vancouver

The very first World Planners Congress (WPC), linked to the 3rd World Urban Forum (WUF) will be held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2006. The WPC will be on 17 – 20 June and WUF on 19 – 23 June. The WPC broad theme is *Turning Ideas Into Action*, with sub themes addressing:

- Planning for more with less
- Planning for the unplanned (e.g. climate change, natural disasters)
- Planning for creative change
- Planning connects
- Planning as a collaborative art
- World perspectives
- Diversity and the future

The WPC web site is at <http://www.wpc2006.com/> for submissions of papers, proposals and diverse media, including posters, videos and film for consideration as part of the Congress program.

It is important for Pacific nations to be involved. A limited number of attendees could be sponsored to the WPC. Interested planners should contact us by 30 November at [pnopnews@gmail.com](mailto:pnopnews@gmail.com)



## New Zealand Planning Institute® and Planning Institute Australia Congress 2006

**Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre**  
Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia  
2 - 5 April 2006

### YOU ARE INVITED!

In need of some inspiration? Imagine the Gold Coast...it's the perfect location for imagining urban futures, considering coastal impacts, thinking about the needs of regional communities and contemplating sustainability. Built environment professionals will come together in April 2006 to consider the challenges and to exchange ideas for creating harmonious, vibrant communities. Regeneration, adaptation and innovation will be explored by urban designers, statutory planners, housing specialists, young planners, architects, transport and environmental planners, community planners, and many more.

The Gold Coast has the highest growth rate in Australia and attracts visitors from across the globe. The broad beaches, beautiful hinterland and fun of the Gold Coast will provide the backdrop and inspire us to imagine new and creative futures. Join us for Imagine – Impacts2. This Congress is the second jointly convened by the Planning Institute of Australia and the New Zealand Planning Institute®.

### THE CONGRESS AND ITS THEME

The first joint congress, successfully held in Wellington in 2002, developed a theme of "IMPACTS"; a universally understood concept in the day to day activities of planners and planning. Impacts can be both positive and negative. The 2006 Congress will stress the positive side of impacts. Impacts that can make for better communities, environments and even a better world. The 2006 joint Congress wishes to take this positive concept to another level, challenging the profession to imagine the possibilities in terms of innovative new approaches to urban design, sustainability, community, integration and implementation; and our relationship to the Pacific and beyond.

The theme of IMAGINE...IMPACTS2 will call on all those in planning to live our dreams. To dream of what our ideal communities and environments should be; to dream of what the future should bring us; to dream new solutions and new possibilities to make it so; and by then living our

dreams, take the communities of Australia and New Zealand, along with the profession, to what we desire them to be.

### THE CONGRESS STRUCTURE

The theme of IMAGINE...IMPACTS2 is wide ranging and allows the program to accommodate a variety of presentation options.

The program will encourage:

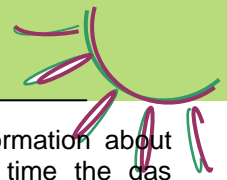
- formal papers;
- dedicated workshops on relevant planning challenges for Australia and New Zealand planners;
- familiarisation tours;
- mobile workshops;
- quick-fire snapshot presentations; and
- formal hands-on training, in accredited courses.

The conference has a direct link with the Young Planner program, YP Connect, providing a focus on issues relevant to young planners. Authors or organisations intending to submit a paper, snapshot or to participate/present in a workshop are invited to submit a synopsis of no more than 300 words outlining the aims, contents and conclusion of their paper or presentation; or about their intended role in a workshop.

### CONTENT OF PRESENTATIONS

The papers and presentations are expected to address innovations in:

- urbanism (new urbanism, urban design, metro planning);
- sustainability (energy, water, natural resource planning);
- community (healthy cities, community engagement, population, ageing);
- integration (transport, infrastructure, funding models, metro planning);
- strategy and statute (frameworks, models, how to's – for local government planners and others)



Workshops are encouraged on:

- capital city planning;
- emergency and hazard management;
- climate change;
- elected planning representatives issues;
- retail trends – shop; showrooms; factory outlets.
- common Australia/New Zealand issues, e.g. Management of Wine Industry; Planner Training.

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for planners in the Pacific region to attend the conference, available through the AusAID International Seminars Support Scheme. The program will cover your airfares, accommodation and a daily living allowance. Conference registration is not included in the sponsorship package however, we are attempting to source alternative funding for this.

We need you to contact us immediately to register your interest for the program before we can make the sponsorship application on your behalf to AusAID. Applicants must be prepared to give a presentation during the conference. This can be either a formal paper or a quickfire snapshot of your region and the current planning issues it faces. Preference will be given to those planners who have not previously had the opportunity to attend a conference of this nature.

For further information, or to register your interest please contact:

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**THE DEADLINE REGISTRATION OF INTEREST FOR SPONSORSHIP IS WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2005**

**Panic at the pump -  
Rising oil prices continue to  
threaten the region**

Hurricane Katrina, which hit the Gulf States of the United States in August, was a human and economic catastrophe. It has exacerbated perhaps the largest threat to Pacific Island states, and indeed economies around the world, the impact of ever-increasing fuel prices. And it has promoted Guam Attorney General Douglas Moylan and his counterpart in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Pamela Brown, to announce that they are participating in a United States-wide investigation of gasoline prices. The National Association of Attorneys General will look

into obtaining documents and information about fuel prices. Brown states "Every time the gas companies raise their prices, they issue the same cookie cutter press release stating the rise is due to increased demand from China and consumers are expected to accept this. The fact is we simply do not know enough about the exact nature of supply and reserves."

At press time, the price of diesel and premium-grade gasoline in Guam was over US\$3 per gallon, and almost \$3.50 per gallon on Saipan. It is a scenario being repeated through the region. In French Polynesia, President Oscar Temaru's Council of Ministers hiked the price of fuel by 15 French Pacific francs per liter to 143 F CFP (US\$1.54) per liter of unleaded petrol. It was the first change in fuel prices on Tahiti since May 1, 2004.

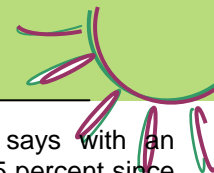
Samoa's finance minister, Misa Telefoni Retzlaff, released a statement saying "as long as the world continues to consume oil at the increasing rates we have over the past two years, especially with China emerging as a huge industrial power, we must be prepared to see prices sustained at a very high level. These forces are beyond the control of governments everywhere."

And in the Solomon Islands, John Roughan of the Solomon Islands Development Programme observed, "The Solomons yearly import of energy-petrol, diesel, kerosene, oil-is over SI\$90 million (US\$11.9 million) with only food imports topping the fuel bill ...We can't afford such a drain on our small cash base. Of course now we sadly dish out more and more of our few dollars to pay for less and less fuel, thinking that we have no alternative."

Airlines have been talking about the impact of fuel rises on their operations for more than a year. This has translated to increased fuel surcharges by Air Niugini, Air Pacific, Air New Zealand and a raft of other airlines.

The Horizon Lines shipping company in the U.S. filed for an emergency 2.5 percent fuel surcharge to take effect on Sept. 15, on top of an 11.5 percent fuel surcharge imposed incrementally by Horizon during the past two years. Other shipping companies, including Matson Navigation, were likely to follow.

Other industries have included the fuel situation into their profit and loss projections. The operations of Fiji gold miner, Emperor Mines Ltd. are now under review, after it listed a AUD\$33.7 million (US\$25.8 million) net loss for the year ended 30 June, compared to a loss of AUD\$4.9 million (US\$3.7 million) in the previous fiscal year. Emperor cited high fuel prices as one of the operation problems leading to this result. There is more to come. The Guam Power Authority has asked the territory's Public Utilities Commission for a 9 percent to 11 percent rate increase, the second major hike in the past four months. That has led to increased discussion about the need to find alternatives such as coconut fuel. Business, power utility and government officials met to discuss biofuel development in Vanuatu in early



August, focusing on the challenges the private sector faces in developing a widespread and viable biofuels industry. National action plans are now being developed as a result of that meeting. In French Polynesia one company, Technopro, unveiled a biodiesel fuel-making machine that uses copra oil at the Biofenua stand at the recent Agricultural Fair held on the island of Tahiti. Peter Sharp of Rabaul Shipping Company in Papua New Guinea says PNG could save K100 million (US\$32.1 million) in foreign exchange from imported diesel if copra output was processed into coconut oil and used as a diesel fuel replacement.

And at the recent Melanesian Spearhead Group Meeting in Goroka, Papua New Guinea offered MSG members first option on surplus refined oil products from the Napa oil refinery in Port Moresby. Trade and Industry Minister Paul Tiensten told his counterparts, "I would rather see that the surplus production (of 17,000 barrels) being shared among our wantok MSG countries so that we can leverage our overall trade within the region. Most of the fuel products in the region are imported from Singapore.

The Asian Development Bank says with an increase of world crude of nearly 75 percent since the start of this year, "in net oil-importing countries (which include all Pacific Island states bar Papua New Guinea) rising oil prices will squeeze income and demand, present an inflationary threat, and have fiscal consequences."

**Courtesy of Pacific Magazine  
By Samantha Magick  
October 2005**

*Our next PNOP issue will be dedicated to the oil debate. This issue will have enormous impact on our daily living within the near future and should be factored into all strategic planning and future visioning exercises as a critical element.*

*For any contributions or suggestions on this topic, please contact the Secretariat Desk at [pnopnews@gmail.com](mailto:pnopnews@gmail.com)  
Ed.*

## SIDS University Consortium launched at Mauritius for implementing BPOA - Pacific community-based conservation course



**The Prime Minister of Mauritius Hon. Paul Raymond Berenger (fourth from left) oversees the launching of the SIDS University Consortium. USP's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Konai Thaman is seated second from the right.**

The SIDS University Consortium was officially launched at the International Meeting (IM) to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in January 2005, at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Center in Port Louis, Mauritius.

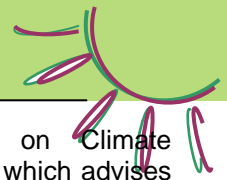
Capacity building workshops, side events and partnership activities addressing a wide range of SIDS-related issues were held during the IM, which also saw the launching of the SIDS University Consortium.

A University of the South Pacific (USP) team to the IM witnessed the launching of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the SIDS University Consortium on 14 January 2005.

The USP team consisted of Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor and well-known Pacific educationist Prof Konai Thaman, Prof of Pacific Islands Biogeography Prof Randy Thaman, and Director of the Pacific Centre for Environment and

Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) Prof Kanayathu Koshy. Director of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) - Pacific islands and senior lecturer at USP, Dr Joeli Veitayaki, also attended through IOI sponsorship. An MOU was also signed between USP and the United Nations University (UNU) during the meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum group. On behalf of USP, the MOU's were signed by Prof K. Thaman.

PACE-SD has been actively involved in negotiations for the SIDS University Consortium and the USP-UNU MOU, through the involvement of its Director Prof Koshy as a member of the team negotiating the agreements. "The SIDS University Consortium is officially seen as one of the implementation mechanisms for the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA) capacity building and it features well in the final Strategy Document," Prof Koshy said. *"The USP-UNU link up promises improved collaboration in the area of environment and sustainable development."*



At the conclusion of the meeting, delegates adopted the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of SIDS. However, there was no agreement reached on climate change and sea-level rise, and on globalisation and trade liberalisation, during the meeting.

An extended brochure on Pacific Island Countries and Multi-lateral Environment Agreements and a book on Sustainable Development and the Pacific Island Countries, were produced by PACE-SD for the IM. "USP has a lot to look forward to in terms of action for the commitments we made at the IM and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg," Prof Koshy said. "It is now for us and SIDS to work out an implementation strategy."

Courtesy of *Oceanic Waves* Vol 7, Issue 1  
March 2005

**UN's Kyoto treaty against global warming is now in force. What does it mean for planning in the Pacific?**

The Kyoto treaty against global warming came into force on February 16 2005, with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urging the world to save the planet by adding to the limits on greenhouse gases and the UN environment chief stressing that many in the United States, [including some States and municipal governments,] support the protocol despite the US Government's opposition, a United Nations Press Release stated.

**But what does this mean to the planners and policy makers in the Pacific? Are they to be merely the victimised onlookers to a performance on the world stage or are there implications here too? Or is it just all more talk?**

**Talk**

Under the Kyoto Protocol to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), industrialized countries are to reduce their combined emissions of six major greenhouse gases during the five-year period from 2008 to 2012 to below 1990 levels. So far 128 member States have ratified the accord. For many countries, achieving the Kyoto targets will be a major change that will require new policies and new approaches, the UN Press Release said.

"By itself, the Protocol will not save humanity from the dangers of climate change," Mr Annan said in a video message to a ceremony in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto, where it was negotiated in 1997. "So let us celebrate today, but let us not be complacent.

*"I call on the world community to be bold, to adhere to the Kyoto Protocol, and to act quickly in taking the next steps. There is no time to lose".*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the scientific body which advises governments and the UN, concluded a few years ago that global temperatures may rise by as much as 5.8 degrees centigrade by 2100 without action. Yet a more recent report by the International Climate Change Task Force, an alliance of three think-tanks in the US, Australia and Britain, argues that even a two degree rise could take the planet past a point of "no return".

In fact, although it is not yet a signatory, Australia is expected to meet the first round of Kyoto commitments closing in 2012, of 108% of 1990 emissions, thanks in part to reduced land clearing in Queensland. But many experts including Australia's recently retired chief scientist, Robin Batterham, have called for an increased commitment by Australia to the fight against global warming. He said Australia must halve its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

**Action - Carbon Trading**

One of the early outcomes is trading of greenhouse gas emissions – so called "carbon trading".

The idea behind emissions trading is that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) — a major cause of climate change — can be traded by those producing it. Carbon trading has been operating in Europe since January 2005.

Companies producing more CO<sub>2</sub> than they are allowed must buy allowances from those using less. The EU emissions trading scheme requires the largest emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> to begin trading in carbon allowances.

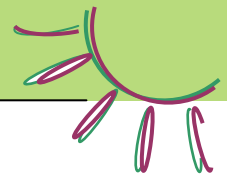
Under phase one of the plan, the EU set a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cap. This was then broken down and allocated to 1000 installations such as electricity generators, oil refineries, iron and steel makers and other heavy users of energy.

Each installation has been given a CO<sub>2</sub> allowance and, if it emits CO<sub>2</sub> above that, it must buy unused allowances from others in the scheme. Prices for carbon allowances have been rising dramatically this year, from about €12 (\$A19.20) a tonne in April to about €20 at the beginning of June and more than €29 by the beginning of July.

Forests are a natural carbon sink, absorbing and storing carbon through photosynthesis. So emissions offsets can be created by managing forests more sustainably to increase net carbon stocks.

A growing pack of entrepreneurs worldwide see emissions trading as a path to doing well by doing good. Some of these players are in the brokerage business, either in start-ups or as units of larger companies. Some are pursuing vertical market opportunities, identifying specific strategies for greenhouse-gas (GHG) capture. Other players include major corporations with significant GHG exposure who believe the best defense is a good offensive. [Tobias Webb in *The Age* 31 Jul05]

Australia may not have ratified the carbon trading system, but Melbourne-based hydro-electric group Pacific Hydro was involved in one of the first bank-brokered deals for carbon credit in June 2005. Pacific Hydro has two joint venture



hydroelectric power projects in Fiji with Fiji Electricity, and carbon credits from these facilities were bought by British Gas through ABN Amro.

*Such projects have positive implications for land use planning ranging from small scale projects to broad scale afforestation in some Pacific states.*

However, on the downside, the Pacific relies heavily on petroleum based transport and energy. In June 2005, a group of British airlines, airports, aircraft manufacturers and air navigation operators proposed to "work towards" entering the EU's emissions trading scheme, possibly beginning in 2007-08. *Should the Pacific based airlines be encouraged to make similar arrangements?*

#### **Action - Clean Development Mechanism**

A program related to carbon trading is the Clean Development Mechanism. CDM allows companies in industrialised nations to earn credits from emissions-reducing projects in developing countries. Hence there is considerable scope for Pacific nations to bid for assistance in projects ranging from cleaner air and better fuel efficiency to waste management. [See article below]

*The Pacific planners should become pro-active in listing potential candidate schemes for the CDM.*

#### **Asia-Pacific Partnership: Complementing Or Competing With Kyoto?**

*The following excerpt was written by Liz Bossley, CEO of the Consilience Energy Advisory Group Ltd and a Director of the London Climate Change Services Group in the Middle East Economic Survey VOL. XLVIII No 32 8 August 2005.*

At the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum in Laos on 28 July the US, Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea announced the creation of a new Asia-Pacific Partnership (APP) on clean development, energy security and climate change. These six countries account for about 50% of global GHG emissions.

The vision statement of the APP says "the partnership will collaborate to promote and create an enabling environment for the development, diffusion, deployment and *transfer of existing and emerging cost-effective, cleaner technologies and practices*, through concrete and substantial cooperation so as to achieve practical results."

The technologies targeted for collaboration are:

#### **Energy efficiency**

- Clean coal
- Integrated gasification combined cycle
- Liquefied natural gas
- Carbon capture and storage
- Combined heat and power
- Methane capture and use
- Civilian nuclear power
- Geothermal

#### **Rural/village energy systems**

- Advanced transportation
- Building and home construction and operation
- Bio-energy
- Agriculture and forestry

- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Solar power
- Other renewables

*These should be familiar themes for Pacific planners and will become increasingly relevant in the future decades as the world's leading polluting nations try every strategy to reduce the overall level of GHG emissions. Let's get smarter as well as cleaner to attract the technology to our region.*

**Compiled by Roger Brewster**

#### **AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW - CLIMATE JUSTICE**

*Climate Justice* means, first of all, removing the causes of global warming and allowing the Earth to continue to support our lives and those of all living beings. This means maintaining the atmosphere and the climate in a state that will not threaten human civilisations or ecosystems. This entails radically reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Climate Justice means fostering a just transition to a healthier and more just environment to work and live in. It means providing assistance to communities threatened or impacted by climate change, including trans migration if necessary.

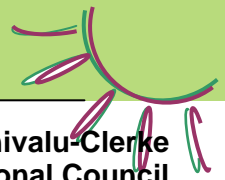
Climate Justice means that while all countries should participate in the drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the industrialised nations, which historically and currently are most responsible for global warming, should lead the transformation. [*Hence the CDM and APP roles*]

Climate Justice for developing nations means that international institutions such as the World Bank and World Trade Organization should halt their funding and promotion of corporate-led fossil fuel-based globalization and instead foster the transformation to sustainable and equitable development based on clean energy technologies.

Ultimately, Climate Justice means holding fossil fuel corporations accountable for the central role they play in contributing to global warming. This signifies challenging these companies at every level, from the production and marketing of the fossil fuels themselves, to the unjust "solutions" they propose, and the fossil fuel-based globalization they are driving under the guise of carbon trading.

Developing countries can sell unused quota of carbon emissions to companies and countries who have exhausted their supply. Beware that selling unused quotas cheaply can simply a way out of taking responsibility for climate change. So, the industrialised countries create the problem, watch others suffer its effects, buy their way out of it cheaply, then sit back and watch the profits roll in from the technologies they sell to the poor. This is 'carbon colonialism' - the continuation of an exploitative relationship rooted in history.

So Climate change is yet another example of the inequalities of power and disproportionate share of suffering that exists in the interaction between the rich and poor peoples of this world. Climate Justice integrally links human rights and



ecological sustainability. It incorporates trade and globalisation. It is about redressing inequalities of wealth, power and access to the earth's resources.

*The Rising Tide is a coalition of groups who came together to organise protests and events at the United Nations Climate Conference of Parties# 6 in The Hague, in November 2000*  
<http://www.risingtide.nl>

### Support for Women in Town/City Councils

"Support women standing for the Municipal Elections" is the National Council of Women Fiji slogan to voters as preparations are underway for the Municipal Elections on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005.

Women's participation as candidates in the municipal elections have been steadily increasing. In 1993 a total of 21 women stood as candidates in the Municipal Elections of whom 7 gained representation. In 1996 a total of 30 women contested the Municipal Elections of whom 13 gained representation. In 2002 a total of 36 women contested the Municipal Elections, out of which only 9 gained representation.

Whilst the statistics have shown that women are becoming more empowered in their confidence and ability to contest the Municipal Elections, the success rates of women gaining representation on town and city councils have fluctuated.

Although cultural and traditional values continue to be factors that hinder women from contesting the elections, NCWF salutes the women who have taken up the challenge of contesting this year's Municipal Elections.

Women make up half the population of Fiji and should be represented equitably on decision making bodies including the town/city councils.

NCWF believes that women would be able to contribute effectively to town or city councils they are elected onto, because women are more caring and good managers of resources. Women are more issues orientated and address basic issues of grassroots and the disadvantaged, which are usually women's issues. [1]

We also believe that when women and men work in partnership better quality decisions are made and more is achieved.

International and regional conventions and treaties that encourage and promote women's increased participation at all levels of decision making include the Beijing Platform of Action, CEDAW and the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action.

Additionally the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005 – 2015 declares that "women's input into decision making is imperative for appropriate, sustainable development for families, communities and Pacific Island countries and territories".

**By Ms Mavis Toganivalu-Clerke**  
**Secretary – National Council**  
**of Women Fiji**

[1] *Extracted from the Report on Developing a More Facilitating Environment for Women's Political Participation in Fiji, commissioned by the Pacific Regional Office of UNIFEM, conducted by Suliana Siwatibau, Ravesi Johnnton, Neemah Khan and Nainasa Whippy.*

### Oceania Development Network Conference

The Oceania Development Network (ODN) recently held its 2<sup>nd</sup> biennial conference at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby between October 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

In line with the conference theme – 'building better Pacific economies'- a wide range of issues relevant to the Oceania region was presented at this conference. These include: security, peace and development; natural resources and economic growth; and governance, institutions, and service delivery. In addition to the key note speakers at the conference (such as Dr Manu Barcham from Massey University, Dr Billy Manoka from University of Papua New Guinea and Prof Tony Angelo from the Victoria University of Wellington), the conference also presented an opportunity for younger researchers in the Oceania region to present their findings.

A key feature of the conference has been the policy session organised towards the latter part of each day of the conference. This session presented a platform for lively discussion and debate about the various issues presented earlier in the day. This session was attended key personalities from the public and private sectors in PNG including: Prof Scarlett Epstein (Divine Word University); Aivu Tauvasu (Pacific Island Trade and Investment Commission); Major General Jerry Singirok (retired Chair Gun Committee); and Mike Manning (Institute of National Affairs-PNG).

The outcomes of the conference will be published in a special issue of the Development Bulletin – coordinated by the Development Network based at the Australian National University in Canberra. Meanwhile, copies of the presentations will be made available on the ODN website at [www.gdn-oceania.org](http://www.gdn-oceania.org).

The changing of the ODN Secretariat also took place at this conference, with the role of the chairperson been handed over to Dr David Kavanamur of the University of PNG, who will hold this role for the next 2 years.

Please keep an eye out for new ODN activities to be organised by the new Secretariat at UPNG.

**By Fikreth Shuaib**  
**ODNet Coordinator**  
**October 2005**