DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

1982/83

SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
I have pleasure in submitting the Director's Annual Report for 1982/83 to the SPEC Committee for approval and transmission to the South Pacific Forum as required under the terms of Article V of the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation.

2. The Report covers the twelve months period June 1982 to June 1983 and has been circulated to SPEC member Governments in accordance with accepted practice.

M U Tupouniua
Director
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PART I : THE REGIONAL SETTING

The period since the last Forum has not been an easy one for the economies of almost all our member countries. During most of it the major international development agencies and financial institutions continued to express deep concern at the effects of the global recession. Depressed world prices for the main primary products, inflation, and consequent balance of payments difficulties and unemployment have continued unabated. Despite these setbacks the traditional donor countries and agencies to the region remain committed to continue their previous levels of assistance. However, in the last few months some encouraging signs of recovery have appeared in the United States' economy which might, if continued, offer improved prospects for the world trading situation in the next twelve months.

2. Along with the rest of the developing world the Forum Island countries have suffered from the deteriorating economic situation. Indeed, the special difficulties faced by Island developing countries have accentuated these problems, necessitating increased efforts for additional assistance for their economies. Conscious of the need brought about by the economic downturn, the Island countries themselves have had to pursue policies aimed at offsetting some of the detrimental external influences. This, coupled with the resilience of the traditional agricultural sectors of many South Pacific economies and continued supporting assistance offered by the international community, has allowed the region to avoid some of the severe effects of poverty, starvation, and virtual economic collapse which are apparent elsewhere.

3. Nevertheless, as the 1982 ESCAP Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific found, all the Pacific Island countries except
Fiji, have suffered major declines in their GDP in recent times. The decline in prices for copra, sugar, fish and minerals has affected the Island countries concerned to a considerable degree, offset a little for a few countries by increased earnings from tourism and manufactured goods. For a number of countries in the region the difficulties induced by the world economic crisis have been compounded by the onset of natural disasters. Fiji suffered extensive damage from Cyclone Oscar which struck the main island of Viti Levu last February, followed closely by Cyclone Sarah.

4. Several significant regional political issues continued to provide a focus for attention and concern, including particularly, political developments in New Caledonia, the continuation of French nuclear testing in Mururoa despite the repeated strong protests of the region, and the possibility of future nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific against the wishes of Pacific peoples. Other tensions in global politics have, by and large, not affected the region, as a region, too directly.

5. A number of elections were held in member countries in the last year. In April 1982 elections were held in Western Samoa but subsequent electoral petitions and by-elections brought about changes of Government twice during the latter half of 1982. As a result of these changes Tofilau Eti assumed the Prime Ministership in December. In July the Alliance Party was returned to power in Fiji with a reduced majority and Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara continued as Prime Minister. In August 1982 Mr Michael Somare won a majority in Parliament in Papua New Guinea and in subsequent parliamentary proceedings he re-assumed the Prime Ministership. The Kiribati Government fell on an issue of confidence in December 1982 but elections in February 1983 returned the previous Government to power with Ieremia Tabai as President. Elections were held in Australia and the Cook Islands in March 1983.
which resulted in new Governments being installed in office, headed respectively by Mr Robert Hawke and Mr Geoffrey Henry. The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Tosiwo Nakayama, was re-elected to the position in May 1983.

6. It is against this background that SPEC has pursued its mandate and work programme in accordance with the wishes of its member Governments.
7. The last twelve months have seen significant progress in a number of areas of SPEC's Work Programme, particularly in trade promotion and information; in the evolution of regional energy and telecommunications development programmes; in moving towards a solution of the Pacific Forum Line's difficulties; in the co-ordination and provision of assistance through various regional aid programmes, particularly under Lome II, and in preparation for negotiations for a successor Convention. Other aspects of the Bureau's activities, such as the planned regional transport survey and the creation of a Pacific Islands Fund, have not fared so well for a variety of reasons.

8. Trade promotion and development continues to be a major focus of SPEC's efforts and resources. In the export area, emphasis has continued on taking increasing advantage of SPARTECA. In regard to traditional and other potential markets, it is clear from surveys done under SPEC's auspices and from national experiences that for the processing and manufacturing sectors in member countries to succeed in exporting, emphasis must be placed on quality and on producing higher returns for small quantities. The Pacific is not able to compete in mass markets with lower-cost, more populous countries. There is, however, ample scope for the development of high quality Pacific products carrying significant added value.

9. A number of important trade-related surveys and reports have been completed which provide potentially useful guidance for member countries on directions for the development of both national effort and regional co-operation in the trade area. It is apparent that,
now SPARTECA is in operation, there is a great deal to be done in strengthening private sector capability to take advantage of SPARTECA and also to increase trade within the region. The recommendations of the Closer Economic Co-operation Study completed last year deserve particular attention in this regard.

10. With respect to the region's main primary products, all of which have suffered from depressed world prices in the last year, the scope for concerted regional action remains to be fully explored. SPEC is seeking support for an initiative to draw the region's coconut industry interests into co-operative efforts and is vitally involved in the preparation for negotiations of a successor convention to Lome II which will have an important bearing on the support available for such products under Stabex and Sysmin.

11. In the trade promotion and information area another development worthy of record is the commencement of a monthly bulletin, Trade and Industry Scene, published as a supplement to SPEC Activities. The bulletin has attracted widespread interest in business and Government circles.

12. On the import side of the balance of payments, two important investigations have been undertaken in the last year. The first, covering the possibilities for savings through co-ordinated import procurement schemes, will be extended this year to cover all member countries, after which the scope for regional action will be more clearly identifiable. Secondly, a consultancy working under the SPEC co-ordinated Pacific Energy Programme, has identified for a number of countries the possibility of significant savings on their present petroleum pricing and supply arrangements. Moreover, the central purpose of Governments in agreeing to the Pacific Energy Programme in September 1982 was a recognition of the need to develop indigenous
renewable sources of energy to reduce oil import bills. The Pacific Energy Programme will see some significant projects undertaken to further this objective. The recent decline in oil prices will not affect the validity of the approach in the medium and long term.

13. In the area of infrastructural support for economic activity, the Forum has taken an important decision on financing for the Pacific Forum Line during the last year. The Line's first feeder service to Tuvalu and Kiribati has also commenced with the support of Australia and New Zealand. After considerable delays beyond SPEC's control the regional transport survey will shortly get underway. The survey will examine inter alia the requirement for other feeder services and the types of ships needed. This survey will also cover rationalisation possibilities in the civil aviation field as requested by the Rotorua Forum.

14. Progress has also been made in evolving a telecommunications development programme to provide a regionally co-ordinated approach to the provision of assistance for upgrading rural communications within Island member countries over the next several years. This will expand the opportunity for outlying communities to participate effectively in national economies.

15. SPEC's involvement in aid co-ordination activities continues to increase as a number of Lome II regional projects move to the implementation phase. SPEC was able to identify funding which, following the approval of the ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers, can be re-allocated to the USP Lome I Project and thus ensure the continuance of its three components until 1985.

16. Preparations for the negotiations for a successor convention
have begun in earnest and the region will need to speak with a con­
certed voice to impress its particular needs on its African and Car­
ibbean partners and on the European Community. In the next year the
negotiating phase will intensify and at the same time the region
will need to begin identifying regional projects which it wishes to
submit for funding under the successor convention. To facilitate that
process, SPEC along with SPC has been involved in the formulation
of criteria and priority guidelines for the selection of projects
for regional funding. These guidelines will come before the pre-Forum
SPEC Committee for consideration.

17. Aid co-ordination with other major donors such as the UNDP
and the CFTC has also grown in importance. A Third Edition of SPEC's
Directory of Aid Agencies is being prepared as well as an analysis
of present aid flows, with a view to tapping non-traditional resources.
Approaches to a wide range of potential donors to the proposed Pacific
Islands Fund have not, regrettably, met with any significant degree
of success.

18. Detailed notes of SPEC's activities in these and other areas
are provided in the body of this Report, but two other important
developments deserve mention in this introduction, namely the estab­
lishment of the Pacific Regional Advisory Service (PRAS), housed at
SPEC, to utilise the Pacific's available skills in the service of
the region; and the commencement of negotiations under the South Pac­
ific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for a convention on the
protection of the environment including a prohibition on the dumping
of nuclear waste and the testing of nuclear weapons in the South
Pacific. SPREP has been undertaken in conjunction with the South
Pacific Commission and is an example of the fruitful and co-operative
spirit which has marked relations between SPEC and SPC in the period
under review.
19. SPEC's relations with other regional organisations and with international agencies have continued to strengthen. In a significant recent development the ASEAN Secretariat has proposed a joint trade study and SPEC is further defining the possibility with the intention of consulting Governments on their views.
PART III : THE WORK PROGRAMME

A. TRADE AND INDUSTRY

a) DEVELOPMENTS UNDER SPARTECA

Regional Committee on Trade

20. The second meeting of the Regional Committee on Trade (RCT) in Canberra from 5-7 July 1982 agreed that while SPARTECA was providing the basis for increased trade between Island countries, Australia and New Zealand, there was scope for further improvement.

21. The Committee recognised the problem of lack of readily available statistics in the Forum Island Countries (FIC's), agreed on the need to publicise the opportunities available under SPARTECA to the business communities, and noted that FIC's had not requested any special types of assistance under the co-operation provisions of the Agreement. The Committee agreed on broad areas which could be funded under the co-operation provisions. These included trade and investment promotion activities, market surveys, and product development.

22. The FIC's expressed concern about possible, adverse effects that the Closer Economic Relations between Australia and New Zealand (CER) may have on SPARTECA. Changes in the Schedules were also brought to the attention of the Committee.

23. Australia and New Zealand were asked to allow raw materials sourced from each country to be included in the calculation of the South Pacific Content to satisfy the Rules of Origin criteria.
10.

Australia and New Zealand indicated that they would consider each request individually.

24. Australia announced it would grant a special quota of 66,000 units of apparel for 1983 and for 1984 to FIC's to assist in developing trade in this area. The total 1983 quota was subsequently granted to Fiji. For 1984 FIC's have requested a total of 260,000 units of apparel and SPEC has sought an increase in Australia's 1984 quota. The matter will be discussed at the Third Regional Committee on Trade Meeting which will be held at SPEC Headquarters from 6-8 July 1983. The Committee also discussed quarantine and transport problems.

- Accession

25. Since the Second RCT Meeting, Nauru has acceded to SPARTECA with effect from 8 August 1982. All FIC's are now Parties to the Agreement.

- General

26. SPEC has increased efforts to publicise SPARTECA by including regular stories in the Trade and Industry Scene Newsletter, distributing and publicising the availability of the explanatory booklet on SPARTECA, and participating in trade promotion seminars. Future training events are being planned where there will be opportunities to provide publicity for SPARTECA.

27. A paper was presented by SPEC to the SPC Sixth Regional Conference of Statisticians highlighting the need to set up systems in each FIC to make certain types of statistics, including trade under SPARTECA, more readily available.
28. A request for assistance under the co-operation provisions of the Agreement particularly focussed on product development has been forwarded to Australia and suggestions have been made to several FIC's about specific activities that could be requested under these provisions.

29. The Commonwealth Secretariat has been requested to finance a project to identify, develop and assist in the establishment of industrial opportunities in FIC's to benefit under SPARTECA.

b) MARKETING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Closer Economic Co-operation Among SPEC Island Member Countries (Free Trade Area Study)

30. Authorised by the Eleventh South Pacific Forum the study was completed in May 1982. The Second RCT felt that Governments required more time to consider and evaluate the report. SPEC has begun follow-up action on some of the recommendations and has prepared a paper to be discussed by the Third Regional Committee on Trade.

- USA/Japan Market Studies

31. The findings of this report, and possible follow-up action suggested by SPEC, were considered by the Second Regional Committee on Trade. The Committee decided that follow-up action should include studies of product availability in the region and the development of new products aimed at quality upper segment markets of the developed countries. The Secretariat is awaiting the outcome of approaches to a number of possible aid sources to secure funds for these activities.
32. Financial constraints experienced by the sponsoring agency, UNIDO, necessitated SPEC arranging alternative funding to complete this project. The final draft report as agreed between SPEC and the consultant undertaking the study, Mr Dennis Rose, was forwarded to UNIDO in August 1982 for printing and distribution. Copies of the report were received in April/May 1983 and a summary of the recommendations and SPEC's views has now been distributed to member Governments. The report will be considered at the Third Regional Committee on Trade to be held in July 1983.

33. Draft reports on the countries covered by the survey team, individual industrial profiles for each country, plus a draft regional report were finally received in October 1982. Specific comments on the regional report, and general comments on the country reports were forwarded to ESCAP in December 1982. Industrial profiles have been distributed to Development Banks, Chambers of Commerce, Government Ministries and other interested parties. At SPEC's suggestion a further inter-agency meeting to review the final documents was dispensed with in order to ensure that the reports are made available to countries as soon as possible. SPEC is pursuing follow up action on the report.

34. Requested by the Chief Executives of Development Banks of FIC's and endorsed by member Governments, this study was undertaken by Dr R B Amerasinghe and financed by the CFTC.
35. The study was completed in December 1982. Copies of the report have been circulated to member Governments and the development banks of the region for comments.

- Technical Standards Survey

36. In November 1981 Papua New Guinea proposed that a seminar be held on the feasibility of harmonising technical standards in the region. In response the Second RCT Meeting endorsed a SPEC proposal that the first step should be an assessment of the standards situation in member countries. With the support of Australia and New Zealand a team of experts from the Standards Bodies of these two countries and Papua New Guinea visited a number of Island countries in April. SPEC is awaiting the final report.

- Regional Long Term Sugar Agreement

37. The parties to the Regional Long Term Sugar Agreement met at SPEC on 10 February 1983 to review the 1982/83 utilisations and agree on price and quota allocations for the year 1983/84. Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu attended the meeting as observers.

- Plant Pests and Diseases Study: Vanuatu

38. Following a request from Vanuatu, a study of the existing plant pests and diseases affecting its exportable products is being undertaken by two experts provided by the New Zealand Government. Travel and other costs are being financed from the Short Term Advisory Services Fund.
14.

- Kava from Western Samoa

39. A brief investigation of the kava market in Fiji was undertaken as a result of a request from Western Samoa.

- Handcrafts

40. Besides providing general marketing assistance to individual countries and business people on request, SPEC has recently appointed Mr Peter Elvy as the Regional Handcrafts Adviser. He is expected to take up duties in late July 1983. The position is funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

41. The recommendation to appoint a Regional Handcrafts Adviser was made at the Commonwealth Secretariat/SPEC Handcrafts Marketing Seminar held in Papua New Guinea in June 1981 and endorsed by member Governments.

- Regional Export Marketing Adviser

42. SPEC has obtained the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat to appoint a Regional Export Marketing Adviser to be based at SPEC. The Adviser will provide on-the-job assistance to commercial firms endeavouring to increase their exports. An appointment to the position will be made in the next few months.

c) TRADE INFORMATION, ADVISORY SERVICES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- Trade and Industry Scene Newsletter

43. In January 1983 SPEC launched Trade and Industry Scene as a supplement to our monthly newsletter SPEC Activities.
44. The newsletter grew out of a need to disseminate trade-related information which SPEC receives and handles. This type of information includes developments regarding SPARTECA, commodity information, business opportunities, new trade publications, sources of assistance, trade promotion activities, the activities of the Trade Unit at SPEC, export and import techniques, investment opportunities and market developments. Trade and Industry Scene is aimed at businessmen and government officials and has attracted considerable interest in both circles.

Trade Information Centre

45. Under the ITC Trade Promotion Advisory Services and Training Project (RAS/79/017), SPEC agreed to establish a Regional Trade Information Centre with the assistance of the International Trade Centre (ITC). The Trade Information Centre is being merged with the Library. The project has supplied SPEC with library furniture, shelving and trade documentation. SPEC now has a comprehensive collection of trade documentation and useful periodical titles, all of which are available for reference at SPEC.

46. Assistance, including equipment, reference books and periodical subscriptions, has also been provided to member countries to build up their trade information services through RAS/79/017.

Private Sector Co-operation

47. SPEC has developed a programme to encourage co-operation between the private sectors of our member countries. It includes the preparation and printing of trade directories and trade promotion material for companies and providing equipment for Chambers of
16.

Commerce. A regional meeting of private sector organisations is also planned to take place when EEC funding is confirmed.

- Advisory Services

48. SPEC will be increasing its advisory and promotional services to member countries when the Regional Handcrafts Adviser and the Regional Export Marketing Adviser take up their positions. Both these advisers will be visiting member countries regularly to give on-the-spot advice, training and to make arrangements for assistance that may be required.

49. SPEC is presently working out revised arrangements with the UNDP to co-administer the Trade Promotion Advisory Services and Training Project (RAS/79/017). Reducing administrative costs will increase the funds available to implement appropriate specific assistance programmes.

50. The report on Import Planning, Procurement and Materials Management in Selected Pacific Island Development Countries, prepared under RAS/79/017, contains many recommendations on how Pacific Islands countries can reduce the cost of their imports. Because of the importance of this subject, especially to the Smaller Island Countries, SPEC intends to arrange activities to implement the recommendations of this report. In the meantime countries can avail themselves of assistance available from the Short Term Advisory Services Fund and the SPEC Fellowship Scheme.

- Training

51. SPEC has assisted and participated in several training events organised under RAS/79/017, one in Port Moresby from 19-23 July 1982 and another in Suva from 3-7 August 1982.
52. SPEC has also been assisting in the formulation of a work programme and will be participating in a series of Mobile Training Workshops on Trade Promotion. The ESCAP/ITC/SPEC workshops are scheduled to be held in Honiara, Apia and Nuku'alofa in July 1983.

d) INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- UNDP/ITC

53. SPEC assists in drawing up the work programme and co-ordinating the activities undertaken by the Trade Promotion, Advisory Services and Training Project (RAS/79/017) which began in February 1981 and is based at SPEC.

- ESCAP

54. SPEC attended the ESCAP Committee on Trade Meeting, which was held in November 1982, as an observer. The meeting, which planned ESCAP's activities in the trade area for 1983/84, was notified of areas of interest to the Pacific by the SPEC representative. SPEC has also suggested relevant research areas for the ESCAP/Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations to undertake.

- Commonwealth Secretariat

55. Apart from providing direct funding for studies and a number of expert positions within SPEC, the Commonwealth Secretariat and SPEC also co-operate closely to develop regional projects in the trade and industry area.
18.

- Commonwealth Regional Consultative Group on Trade (CRCGT)

56. SPEC attended the CRCGT meeting held in Canberra in July 1982 and was able to provide the group with information regarding its activities. SPEC sees advantage in the participation of Commonwealth Pacific Island countries in the activities of this group mainly through the availability of additional funds.

- CHOGRM Working Group on Industry

57. SPEC attended the meeting of the Group held in Suva in August 1982 as an observer to provide information regarding our activities. We are in regular contact with the Port Moresby based CFTC Industrial Adviser to identify specific activities to be undertaken on behalf of our member countries and to suggest appropriate forms of assistance in their efforts to develop industries.

- Centre for Industrial Development (CID)

58. The CID aims to promote industrial development in the region through the encouragement of joint ventures and technology transfer with European partners. SPEC keeps the CID informed of other aid projects conducted in the region which are of particular interest to the work of the Centre and assists in organising appropriate programmes for CID-funded missions.

- EEC

59. A programme of trade promotion activities valued at 696,000 ECU's has been submitted for funding under the Lome II Regional Trade Promotion Allocation. It was developed by SPEC and refined by Mr
Alan Smallman, an EEC funded consultant.

e) DIRECTION OF SPEC'S TRADE WORK PROGRAMME

60. The activities reviewed above clearly indicate that the work of the Trade and Industry Section is both extensive and diverse. It includes numerous specific projects in the trade promotion, advisory and information areas, particularly in relation to SPARTECA. It embraces individual trade enquiries, Governmental requests for assistance, and a great deal of aid co-ordination work in relation to other agencies involved in programmes of regional assistance in the trade area, including briefing consultants and arranging programmes.

61. Because of the sheer variety of trade-related work which finds its way into the work programme, a consolidation of SPEC's trade activities is required in order to give clear direction to our efforts and to achieve concrete results. Arrangements are being made to consolidate our trade work to produce positive results for member countries in areas of relevance and importance to them.
B. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) SHIPPING

Pacific Forum Line/European Investment Bank Loan

62. The financial and operating situation of the Pacific Forum Line was comprehensively considered by the Thirteenth South Pacific Forum in Rotorua in August 1982. The Forum agreed to a financial package to meet the PFL's requirements of US$18.6 million, which included a soft loan of five million ECU from the European Investment Bank (EIB), a grant of one million ECU from the EDF and an injection of US$12.6 million, pledged by Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Western Samoa, with further consideration regarding their participation to be given by Kiribati and Tuvalu. The EIB loan and the additional equity were apportioned between the Island country shareholders in the Line according to a formula proposed by the Bank and accepted by the Forum. The package is designed to equip the Line substantially with more of its own containers and thus put it on a sounder financial footing.

63. At the request of the Bank, and with the agreement of member countries of the Line, SPEC and PFL officials visited Luxembourg in September/October 1982, to negotiate on an ad referendum basis the terms and conditions of the loan. The resulting draft finance contract was distributed to the seven countries concerned for their consideration. The loan was structured so that the finance contracts form part of a single project with the approval of the finance contract by each of the seven countries required for the loan to proceed.

64. The loan carries interest rates of one per cent per annum
during a grace period of approximately nine years and two per cent per annum during a repayment period of a further twelve years. A condition of the loan is the receipt by PFL of the other grants and equity contributions involved in the package agreed by the Forum according to a timetable proposed by the Bank.

65. Since circulation of the finance contracts in October 1982, SPEC has given top priority to liaising with the EIB and participating Governments in an endeavour to conclude the loan at the earliest opportunity. Participating Governments have signed the loan contracts on the following dates:

- Tuvalu: 12 November 1982
- Western Samoa: 26 November 1982
- Fiji: 14 December 1982
- Tonga: 17 December 1982
- Papua New Guinea: 4 May 1983

66. The dissolution of parliament in Kiribati in December 1982 precluded signature of the contract until a new parliament met in April. Interim arrangements were agreed with the EIB to overcome this difficulty by allowing the loan to proceed following signature by the other participating shareholders. In late May the Kiribati Government advised that it had approved participation in the loan and the finance contract would be signed shortly. This, however, was not sufficient for the loan to proceed as it was necessary also for the finance contract to be signed by Solomon Islands.

67. Meanwhile, tenders had been called for the purchase of containers with the proceeds of the EIB loan and the one million ECU grant to the Line from the Lome II regional allocation. With the delay in finalising the EIB loan, PFL was obliged to seek two extensions of the validity of tender bids. The Eleventh Regional Shipping Council
in Honiara in June 1983 recognised the importance of concluding the
loan arrangements before tender bids expired on 30 June 1983.

68. As indicated in paragraph 76 the Solomon Islands Government
announced its intention to withdraw from the Line at that meeting.
At the request of the Council, SPEC thereupon approached EIB to seek
a modification of the proposed loan arrangements in the light of the
Solomon Islands withdrawal. The Bank promptly agreed to advance to
each of the remaining six participating countries their original loan
allocations subject to the condition that the agreed capital injec­
tions to the Line were met. By mid-June only documentation formalities
remained for the loan to proceed and for container supply contracts
to be let.

69. During 1982 PFL received grants from Australia (A$1.33
million) and New Zealand (NZ$2.841 million) in partial fulfilment
of undertakings made by those Governments at the Rotorua Forum. The
Line has also been substantially assisted in maintaining its services
during the delay in finalising the EIB loan by overdraft facilities
guaranteed by the Government of New Zealand.

- PFL Feeder Service to Kiribati/Tuvalu

70. Regional shipping services were further improved during the
year by the introduction of a PFL service from Suva to Tuvalu and
Kiribati. The service, which connects with PFL's trunk services at
Suva, has received financial support of up to US$300,000 each over
a twelve month period from the Governments of Australia and New
Zealand. In the first few months of its operations the feeder service,
using a vessel chartered from the Kiribati Shipping Corporation, has
provided an efficient and regular service to both Tuvalu and Kiribati.
71. The Advisory Committee on Uniform Maritime Standards held its Sixth Meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea in March 1983. The implementation of a regional training and examination system to rationalise facilities in the region and to ensure that agreed standards were maintained was the principal matter discussed. A formal agreement to adopt such a system is currently under consideration by member Governments. The Committee considered there was an urgent need for a full-time co-ordinator to monitor the implementation of this regional system and recommended that SPEC approach the New Zealand Government to establish such a position as part of its regional aid programme. SPEC has duly submitted such a request.

72. The Committee continued its work programme, agreeing on minimum manning scales for ratings, teaching syllabuses for marine engineers and guidelines for regional examiners. Various other tasks in the programme had been the subject of a funding request by SPEC to relevant agencies and the International Maritime Organisation has now agreed to fund consultancies to complete these tasks.

Regional Transport Survey

73. In 1981 a regional transport survey was approved as a new project in the UNDP Inter-Country Programme 1982-1986. Following agreement by the Tenth Regional Shipping Council in Rarotonga in April 1982 to certain guidelines for the coverage of the survey, terms of reference for a study of regional shipping requirements, particularly in relation to the development of feeder services by the PFL, were drawn up by SPEC and PFL and approved by member Governments.
74. Subsequently, the Thirteenth South Pacific Forum agreed that a civil aviation study should be undertaken to determine the requirements for the development of an effective air transport system designed to meet the needs of Island communities and to enhance economic growth including through tourism, air freight and internal passenger traffic. Both the shipping and civil aviation sectors will form part of the UNDP project. Consultants briefs have been approved by the Eleventh Regional Shipping Council and it is hoped to let a contract for the survey in mid 1983, with SPEC acting as Executing Agent.

Eleventh Regional Shipping Council

75. The Eleventh Regional Shipping Council meeting was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in June 1983. The Council expressed satisfaction at the performance of PFL in the difficult trading and financial situation during the last year. The Council reviewed the progress with implementing the financial package agreed at the Rotorua Forum.

76. After intensive consultations the Solomon Islands Government announced its decision to withdraw from PFL. The Council agreed on arrangements to proceed with the EIB loan and the overall financial package, leaving open the possibility of Solomon Islands resuming its participation in PFL and taking up its share of the EIB loan. The Council members expressed their continuing firm support for measures to provide increased capitalisation of PFL.

77. The Council discussed a number of other matters relating to the region and endorsed the early commencement of the UNDP Regional Transport Survey.
(b) CIVIL AVIATION

Eighth Regional Civil Aviation Council

78. The Eighth Regional Civil Aviation Council was convened in conjunction with the Eleventh Regional Shipping Council, in Honiara, Solomon Islands in June 1983. The Council noted developments in regard to commissioning of the regional civil aviation study requested by the Rotorua Forum, which will constitute part of the UNDP Regional Transport Survey.

79. The Council considered the difficulties in achieving tangible results in co-operation in civil aviation, particularly the inactivity of the Association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA). It agreed that an examination of possible areas for realistic co-operation might be desirable in the light of the results of the regional civil aviation study. The Council also agreed that in spite of a lack of success so far there was still considerable scope for a regional approach to many civil aviation projects, and that such an approach was very important for development of civil aviation in the region.

(c) TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ninth South Pacific Regional Telecommunications Meeting (SPECTEL)

80. The Ninth South Pacific Regional Telecommunications Meeting was held in Alofi, Niue from 28 October to 3 November 1982. The meeting, attended by thirteen countries and territories, reviewed the Regional Telecommunications Training (RAS/81/025) and Regional Telecommunications Development (RAS/81/026) projects. The importance of securing additional funding for the latter project in order to supply
26.

expert services in the future was noted and at the UNDP Inter-Country Programme Review Meeting held in Port Vila in 1983 a further US$240,000 was duly allocated to increase the capabilities of the ITU Project Office and continue the availability of short-term consultancy assistance. The same meeting also allocated an additional US$150,000 for training and scholarships for the Telecommunications Training Centre, which Australia, New Zealand and the CFTC continue to support as in the past.

81. During SPECTEL 9 a separate workshop was held on the Rural Telecommunications Study of the South Pacific which was completed with Australian, New Zealand and ITU assistance in September 1982 (and remains confidential to Governments). Following the workshop, the SPECTEL meeting concluded that the study's recommendations were of great significance for the future development of telecommunications in the countries of the region. It agreed that a regional meeting of Ministers of Telecommunications should be held early in 1983 with a view to formulating positive recommendations for the consideration of the South Pacific Forum in August 1983. The Government of Australia offered to provide A$50,000 to fund such a meeting.

- Regional Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications

82. In preparation for the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications SPEC and ITU jointly convened a working party of telecommunications officials at SPEC Headquarters from 28-31 March 1983. The working party examined the Rural Telecommunications Study Report recommendations and formulated proposals for the consideration of the Ministerial meeting.

83. The Ministerial Meeting held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on 28-29 April, agreed to recommend to the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum that
a regional co-operative approach to many of the requirements of national telecommunications development should be adopted. It proposed that a South Pacific Telecommunications Development Programme be established under SPEC's co-ordination to achieve these objectives.

- Pacific Basin Communications Study by PSSC

84. Following the completion of Phase I of the study undertaken by the Public Service Satellite Consortium (PSSC) in 1981, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) agreed to proceed with Phase II. The Report on Satellite Communications for the Pacific Islands was completed in December 1982 and describes the requirements, options and costs for the use of communications satellites for rural telecommunications.

85. The study emphasised that INTELSAT could provide increased services for satellite communications in the region.

- Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC)

86. SPEC was represented at the Fifth Annual Pacific Telecommunications Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii from 16-19 January 1983. A focal point of the conference was the discussion on the telecommunications needs of the Pacific as identified by the recently completed Rural Telecommunications Study of the South Pacific and the Report on Satellite Communications for the Pacific Islands by the PSSC. The Japanese Research Institute of Telecommunications and Economics (RITE) also presented its study on a Pacific Regional Satellite Communications System. However, the Japanese proposal failed to gain acceptance through lack of accurate technical and financial data on which such a system could be evaluated.
Satellite Options: Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS)

87. In accordance with the Thirteenth South Pacific Forum's decision SPEC expressed to the United States Government the region's interest in acquiring access to the NASA TDRS satellite communication system which was scheduled for launching in 1983. Following an initially negative response and a subsequent technical evaluation, NASA advised that modifications to repoint the antennae of the TDRS satellite were technically feasible but could not be accomplished without schedule impact and consequent costs. However difficulties in the launch programme which subsequently developed prompted the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications to reaffirm interest and SPEC has made a further approach to the US authorities requesting re-consideration of the availability of TDRSS.

(d) TOURISM

- SPEC's role in Tourism Development

88. Following the decision of the 1982 pre-Forum SPEC Committee, SPEC has restricted itself to monitoring tourism development in the region and in particular the formation of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP).

89. With the agreement of the ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers SPEC will put forward a proposal to the EEC for funding support for the TCSP under Lome II, in addition to the project already submitted on a Regional Tourism Promotion Strategy (referred to below under Lome II Regional Projects). SPEC has kept the TCSP informed on the latter proposal. A check-list of studies on tourism in the region has been circulated to Governments.
C. RESEARCH AND PLANNING

(a) ACP DEVELOPMENTS

ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers

90. The second meeting of the ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers was held in Apia, Western Samoa on 28–29 March 1983. It was attended by Ministers from the eight ACP Pacific countries. The Secretaries General of the ACP Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission and representatives from the University of the South Pacific and the Forum Fisheries Agency attended as observers.

91. With negotiations for a new co-operation arrangement to replace Lome II to begin with the EEC in September 1983, the Council was concerned to develop a Pacific position which emphasised the unique nature of the Islands of the Pacific and would ensure that their development problems were well understood by Europe. At the Council's direction a working party of officials met in Suva on 25–26 April 1983 to develop the broad objectives and priorities for Pacific/EEC co-operation. These were then endorsed with some minor variations by the Council at a Special Session held in Brussels on 14 May 1983. The Council also agreed that SPEC should take up the offer of the Commonwealth Secretariat to provide support for the recruitment of a qualified regional expert on a short-term basis to assist SPEC in developing the Pacific position. Mr John Samy, Director of the Central Planning Office, Fiji, has been appointed to undertake this task.

92. Other issues discussed at the Council meeting in Apia included progress on the implementation of the Lome II projects, difficulties experienced under Stabex, further efforts to promote assistance through the Industrial Co-operation provisions of the Lome Convention,
and support for the Tourism Council of the South Pacific through the Trade Promotion Allocation.

93. In addition to the endorsement of the Pacific Position Paper the Special Session of the Council in Brussels on 14 May 1983 also agreed to certain reallocations of unutilised Lome II funds.

Lome I Regional Projects

94. All of the regional projects funded under the Lome I regional allocation of 10 million ECU have now been completed except the University of the South Pacific Project, involving agriculture, marine resources and rural development programmes. Funds were to be spent by 31 December 1982, but due to slower expenditure than expected the programme will be continued under Lome I funding at a reduced level until 31 December 1983.

95. The second meeting of the ACP Pacific Group Council in Western Samoa agreed that the balance of 1.2 million ECU available under the Lome II Allocation, after allowing for the first six priority projects, be utilised to continue the USP project at least until the end of the Lome II period (February 1985). An assessment of the programmes and their relevance to the region's needs is being carried out prior to EEC financing approval of the re-allocated funds.

Lome II Regional Projects

96. During 1982-83 considerable progress has been made in the development and implementation of the Lome II Regional Projects. Consultations with the Commission have resulted in a number of difficulties being overcome including: confirmation that the Regional Allocation be set at the upper limit of the range earlier notified i.e.
25.9m ECU; agreement to finance a study on the upgrading of airports, a project not previously considered sufficiently regional in character by the EEC; and agreement to finance problem-free individual components of projects if difficulties are being experienced with other elements.

97. Three of the six approved Lome II regional projects, namely Pacific Forum Line container purchase (1m ECU); Regional Telecommunications (8.75m ECU) and the Forum Fisheries Agency Headquarters Building (400,000 ECU), have all been given financing approval by the EEC and implementation should commence shortly.

98. Part of the SPEC Capabilities Project (108,000 ECU) has been used to develop the Regional Energy Programme Project (6.19m ECU) which is now before the Commission awaiting financing approval.

99. A consultant firm is undertaking a study of the airport improvement component of the Communication Facilities Project (7.946m ECU). The Western Samoan tug boat component of this project has been submitted to the EEC for decision, while a recent ICAO report on the Civil Aviation Training School component is under examination.

100. Consultancies to develop both a Trade Promotion Programme and a Regional Tourism Strategy have been completed and SPEC has submitted to the EEC two projects for financing approval from the Lome II Regional Trade Promotion Allocation.

101. Tourism representatives from Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa participated at the 1983 ITB Berlin Trade Fair with assistance from the Trade Promotion Allocation.
(b) ADVISORY SERVICES AND FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Pacific Regional Advisory Service (PRAS)

102. The Head of the Pacific Regional Advisory Service, Dr Ako Toua, took up his position on 23 July 1982. The Commonwealth Secretariat is meeting the costs of this position.

103. The pre-Forum SPEC Committee meeting held in Rotorua in August 1982 reviewed the implementation of PRAS to date and the SPEC Committee Budget Session in December 1982 decided that the Head of PRAS should report to the Committee at its annual Budget Sessions. At the latter meeting the Australian Government agreed to the usage of the remaining funds from the establishment of PRAS as a Service Fund to assist with initial transfers under PRAS. Some progress has been made with the compilation of the register of skilled regional personnel and a number of requests have been received for the supply of advisory services.

Advisory Services for Development

104. Funds provided by UNDP through ESCAP enable SPEC to respond to requests from member Governments for short-term advisory assistance in a wide range of areas. The funds cannot be utilised except in response to specific requests from one or more member Governments.

105. During calendar year 1982 the funds were under-utilised, but increasing awareness of the availability of these funds among member Governments has led to greater demand this year. The project has recently been used to cover the costs of fuelwood consultancies in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and a plant pests and diseases study in
Vanuatu. Assistance has been approved for consultancies for the Tonga Broadcasting Commission in the accounting area; the Tonga Commodities Board in an evaluation of the construction division; and USP participation in a general survey of Transnational Corporations being undertaken by ESCAP. Other requests are in the pipeline. The importance of the project's funds being utilised in harmony with PRAS's capabilities is well-recognised by SPEC.

SPEC Fellowship Scheme

106. The SPEC Fellowship Scheme has been operating since 1977 and has been funded by Australia, New Zealand and the CFTC. The objective of the Scheme is to provide South Pacific countries with assistance which is available quickly and with a minimum of red tape to give practical on-the-job training in other countries in the region. Demands on the Fellowship Scheme have increased noticeably over the last two years and in the last twelve months, 24 Fellowships have been awarded.

107. Details of the Fellowships granted from June 1982 to date are as follows:

Niue

. an officer from the Public Works Department undertook training in Fiji with British Petroleum for eight weeks in the area of practical bulk fuel operations;

. an officer from the Department of Telecommunications went to New Zealand for five months to attend a Radio Technician Block Course in Wellington;
an officer from the Customs Department participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks;

an electrician was sponsored for a training attachment with Fisher & Paykel Ltd in New Zealand in the area of servicing automatic washing machines, for five weeks.

Papua New Guinea

an officer from the Customs Department participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks;

two locally employed officers from the Papua New Guinea High Commission in Suva undertook training attachments with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Port Moresby for one month each.

Tuvalu

an officer from the Customs Department participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks;

an officer from the Telecommunications Department was attached to the Fiji Posts & Telecommunications Department for training for seven weeks;

a magistrate was attached to the Fiji Courts for two weeks for training.

Solomon Islands

a quarantine officer underwent training with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture in quarantine procedures for eight weeks;
an officer from the Customs Department participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks.

Cook Islands

a Customs Officer participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks;

an officer from the Department of Internal Affairs was in Fiji for two weeks for a training attachment with the Department of Foreign Affairs;

an officer from the Ministry of Works was in Fiji for a six months attachment with Ministry of Works for training in hydraulics.

Federated States of Micronesia

two Customs Officers participated in the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks;

an officer from the Statistics Department underwent statistical training in the Cook Islands for four weeks.

Vanuatu

two officers from the Customs Department attended the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks.

Western Samoa

an officer from the Customs Department attended the regional customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks.
Tokelau

. an officer from the Office of Tokelau Affairs was awarded a Fellowship to attend a four week course in Financial Management at the University of the South Pacific.

Kiribati

. a Chief Fisheries Officer was sponsored for a one month training attachment in the area of Fisheries Surveillance and Licensing in FSM;

. an officer from the Customs Department participated in the customs training course in Fiji for eight weeks.

108. In addition to the above SPEC has recently approved the following:

- a request from Solomon Islands for a short attachment with the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Tourism for an officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade;

- a request from Papua New Guinea for an eight week attachment of an Immigration Officer with the Fiji Immigration Department.

109. The SPEC Fellowship Scheme operates on a quota system of two Fellowships per country per year. However a flexible approach is adopted where the training needs exceed the quota, especially in the smaller Island governments. The Fellowship Fund at 30 April 1983 stood at F$34,229.
Regional Legislative Drafting Unit

110. In accordance with the decisions of earlier SPEC Committees and following a survey of Government's views, the 1982 pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting was asked to consider the establishment of a Regional Legislative Drafting Unit, under the auspices of SPEC, to provide expert assistance in this field to those Governments requiring it. The SPEC Committee agreed in principle to the proposal provided the costs of the Unit were met from extra-budgetary sources. It was estimated that A$50,000 would be required to cover establishment costs, support staff salaries and other office costs and it was understood CFTC would be in a position to fund two legal experts from July 1983. SPEC has not been successful in attracting support to cover the establishment costs of the Unit, despite approaches to two Governments and one international organisation.

111. In a separate but related development, at the SPEC Budget Session in December 1982 the Government of Australia announced its readiness to provide a cash grant of A$50,000 to enable SPEC to engage short-term assistance for Island member countries in the field of legislative drafting. The cash grant was offered as an interim measure to meet urgent needs while SPEC continued to seek external funding for the Unit.

112. In January 1983 SPEC invited Governments to indicate whether they had urgent legislative drafting tasks which might be met through the Australian grant, stressing in particular the opportunity for Smaller Island Countries to avail themselves of the offer. Only three Governments have so far responded, one of which has indicated interest.
Regional Projects: Criteria and Priorities

113. On the recommendation of the Senior Planners Conference held at SPEC in June 1982, the pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting in Rotorua endorsed a study of regional development criteria and priorities to be undertaken by SPEC and SPC in consultation with member countries, and accepted that the report would be examined by a regional meeting at senior official level early in 1983.

114. Representatives of SPEC and SPC prepared a draft report in September/October which was subsequently distributed to both SPEC and SPC member countries and relevant regional and international organisations for comments. The draft report together with the comments received were considered by a SPEC/SPC meeting of senior officials held at SPEC Headquarters, Suva, on 21-23 February 1983. The Australian Government provided assistance for Island country attendance at the meeting.

115. The meeting agreed on a set of criteria and priority guidelines for the selection of projects for regional funding. These criteria and priority guidelines were submitted to and endorsed by the SPC Planning and Evaluation Meeting in May 1983 for submission to the Twenty-Third South Pacific Conference. They will be put to the pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting in Canberra in August 1983.

Pacific Islands Fund

116. The Thirteenth South Pacific Forum noted the report entitled "Proposals for a Pacific Islands Fund - an Evaluation" and requested SPEC, before undertaking further detailed work, to investigate antici-
pated funding sources and report back to the next Forum. SPEC has, jointly with the SPC, canvassed possible sources of assistance but responses to date have not been encouraging.

- Special Problems of the Smaller Island Countries

117. SPEC is attempting to follow closely the recommendations of the Smaller Island Countries meeting held in Niue in February 1982. Particular emphasis has been placed on ensuring that the various sectors of the Work Programme incorporate measures to alleviate the special problems of the Smaller Island Countries. During the period under review the Project Officer concerned visited two of the Smaller Island Countries, the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati, to familiarise himself with the difficulties and problems that are encountered.

118. Preliminary investigatory work is being carried out on the possibility of Australia and New Zealand establishing or expanding short-term employment schemes for the Smaller Island Countries. Governments have also been approached by SPEC to make available information on their aid programmes so that a data base for the region can be established and gaps in funding more readily identified.

- Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation

119. Apart from administering the Regional Disaster Relief Fund, SPEC has also been involved in the co-ordination of initiatives proposed by other organisations in the field of disaster preparedness and rehabilitation. Particular efforts have been made to ensure that there is no duplication in this area. Thus an inter-agency meeting was held at SPEC in November 1982 to discuss an effective approach towards improving national and regional capabilities in coping with
disasters and also organisational arrangements for a Disaster Preparedness Strategy Seminar subsequently held at SPEC Headquarters in March 1983. The seminar, co-sponsored by PIDP, UNDRO and ADAB, examined in detail various areas which could be developed in order to assist the countries of the region in their efforts to formulate their national disaster plans. It also identified possible areas where co-operation at the regional level would be required in order to attain the maximum success in coping with natural disasters.

120. The seminar felt that there was a need for SPEC to play a more active role in disaster co-ordination and that if this be the wish of the member countries then a clear definition of SPEC's role in disaster co-ordination should be established. Proposals in this regard will be put before the pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting in August.

Regional Disaster Relief Fund

121. Following severe damage caused by Cyclone Oscar in March, a grant of F$15,000 was made to the Government of Fiji for relief and rehabilitation activities from the Disaster Relief Fund. The level of the Fund currently stands at F$523,867.

South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)

122. The Thirteenth South Pacific Forum received a full report on the SPREP and considered proposals for Phase II. It deferred endorsement of them to the Twenty-Second South Pacific Conference pending the provision of an acceptable formula on the financing of Phase II. The Forum agreed that preparation for the meeting of legal experts to draft a regional agreement on the prevention of storage and disposal of nuclear waste should proceed.
123. The Twenty-Second South Pacific Conference, meeting in Pago Pago in October 1982, reached agreement on a voluntary financing formula for member Governments' contributions towards Phase II of SPREP. Specific governmental contributions in addition to those currently provided by member organisations of the Co-ordinating Group have since been solicited and a number received.

124. An Expert Meeting to draft a regional agreement dealing with inter alia the prevention of the storage and disposal of nuclear waste was held at SPC Headquarters, Noumea from 24–28 January 1983. Negotiation of the agreement, entitled "Convention for the Protection and Development of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region" was not completed at the January meeting and a further meeting has been scheduled for November this year with a view to finalising the text in readiness for adoption by a Plenipotentiary Meeting in early 1984. Good progress was made and agreement reached on most provisions, but two major contentious areas remain, viz:

(a) the definition of the "Convention Area" and, in particular whether areas of high seas in the South Pacific region beyond 200 nautical miles from a state or territory should be included; and

(b) the language of Articles 10 and 11 dealing with the prevention of storage, disposal and dumping of radioactive wastes and the testing of nuclear devices in the Convention Area.

125. A brief report on financial support for Phase II of SPREP and on the Convention will be presented to the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum and the Twenty-Third South Pacific Conference.
Pacific Regional News Service

126. The Rotorua pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting agreed that SPEC, with assistance provided by Australia, should carry out a further analysis of the proposal to establish a Pacific Regional News Service, and its implications, for the consideration of the 1982 SPEC Committee Budget Session. Mr Ashley Wickham, General Manager, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, carried out the assignment.

127. During October Mr Wickham visited SPEC Island member countries for consultations with the appropriate authorities, especially the Ministries of Information and the broadcasting services. Mr Wickham completed his report on 12 November 1982 and it was circulated to all member Governments soon afterwards.

128. The 1982 SPEC Committee Budget Session considered the report on the proposal to establish a Pacific Regional News Service, including its long-term financial implications, and decided to defer it to the 1983 pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting for further consideration.

CCOP/SOPAC

129. Following a 1981 request SPEC recommended for consideration by the 1982 pre-Forum SPEC Committee a number of options for CCOP/SOPAC's future legal status and long-term arrangements for the Technical Secretariat. The SPEC Committee decided to maintain the status quo.

130. At the UNDP Inter-Country Programme Review Meeting held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in April 1983, US$250,000 additional funds were
allocated to the project to enable it to continue at present levels to 1986.

(d) LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

- SPEC Library

131. The Library collection closely reflects SPEC's work programme and is designed to provide information support for SPEC Officers in their work. The collection is available for consultation by member Governments and researchers in the region.

132. The Library contains a full set of SPEC working papers and documents. A comprehensive and up-to-date collection of member countries' statistical publications relating to trade is maintained and copies of development plans and one newspaper from each member country are kept. A complete set of documents from ESCAP and UNCTAD are also kept and a number of periodicals are received regularly. Attempts are being made to collect consultants reports which have been done for member countries so that SPEC can disseminate the information they contain and also cut down on the possibility of duplication.

- Aid Information Services

133. The third edition of SPEC's Directory of Aid Agencies is currently being compiled. The second edition, published in 1978 included brief descriptions of 83 organisations which provide assistance to the Pacific. In the third edition these entries will be updated and the Directory will be considerably expanded with information on organisations not previously included. Publication is dependent on receipt of replies but it is hoped to have the Directory published by August 1983.
SPEC Series

134. Owing to several draft country profiles requiring substantial amendments, the final printing of the SPEC Series could not be completed before the end of 1982. It is anticipated, on assurances from the Asia and Pacific Research Unit (APRU), that the printing of the Series should be completed in the third quarter of 1983.

SPEC Activities

135. SPEC's monthly newsletter continues to inform member countries and organisations on the work of SPEC. Further presentational improvements have been made in the last year. A supplement, Trade and Industry Scene, has been published since January 1983 and is covered more fully under the Trade sub-section of this Report.

Press Releases

136. In order to inform people in the region of developments relating to SPEC, Press Releases are regularly distributed to newspapers, magazines and broadcasting stations in member countries.

SPEC Brochure

137. This brochure, which briefly describes SPEC, its objectives, membership, functions and work programme, has been considerably updated. The revised brochure was printed and distributed in May 1983. Extra copies are available on request from SPEC.

Forum Booklet

138. Delays were experienced with the Forum Booklet project during
1982 due to technical difficulties with both the text and the photographs. This being the case, it was suggested to member Governments to alter the focus of the booklet to cover instead the first fifteen years of the South Pacific Forum (1971-1986) and to recruit an independent person to undertake the task on a professional basis.

D. ENERGY

139. Following the establishment of SPEC's Energy Unit in early 1982, SPEC was instrumental in arranging a series of closely-linked meetings in September 1982 to ensure the emergence of a co-ordinated Pacific Energy Programme. The Energy Unit has since been active in the organisation and co-ordination of activities approved for implementation under the programme with funding from various sources of regional assistance. Some of these activities are viewed below.

PACIFIC ENERGY PROGRAMME (PEP)

- Pacific Energy Programme Review Meeting

140. SPEC, in collaboration with ESCAP, convened the first annual review meeting of the Pacific Energy Programme at SPEC Headquarters on 22–24 September 1982. The meeting was attended by energy planners from both SPEC and SPC member countries. Funding agencies and other Pacific regional organisations involved in energy activities attended as observers.

141. The main items discussed were:

- a review of the energy situation in Pacific Island countries;
- proposals for the use of US$2M from the UNDP and ECU
6.19M from the EEC during their present funding cycles; and

co-ordination of energy activities among member countries, among funding agencies and the many regional and international organisations participating in energy activities in the Pacific region.

142. The regional review was prepared by Dr Ken Newcombe of the Australian National University, on the basis of a series of country reports prepared by a team under his leadership which toured the Pacific in early 1982. Based largely on proposals in these country reports, the meeting agreed to a closely-co-ordinated list of energy activities to be submitted for funding under the UNDP and EEC Regional Programme for the next three to four years. The activities are aimed at reducing the dependence of Pacific Island countries on imported petroleum through the establishment of pilot projects to utilise local energy resources, monitoring and assessment of these pilot projects, training workshops on energy management and petroleum pricing, supply of technical assistance as required, and the dissemination of information about relevant technical developments. The meeting also agreed to the establishment of a UNDP project office, located in Suva, to co-ordinate and provide technical advice and policy guidance on activities funded under the UNDP programme, in collaboration with the SPEC Energy Unit.

143. The project document agreed to by the Review Meeting in 1982 was officially accepted by the United Nations Office in New York, and ESCAP in Bangkok in early 1983. However, actual implementation of projects other than those referred to below was delayed until the appointment of a Project Manager. Mr Peter Johnston, formerly Director of Energy in Fiji, took up the position in May 1983. Since the
September meeting the SPEC Energy Unit has prepared and submitted to the EEC office the Project Dossier for activities agreed for funding under the Programme. Financing approval is still awaited from the EEC.

— Pacific Energy Programme Inter-Agency Meeting

144. In line with the directive by the South Pacific Forum to coordinate energy activities in the region, SPEC convened a meeting of funding agencies and other Pacific regional organisations involved in energy activities at its Headquarters on 27 September 1982. Held immediately following the PEP Review Meeting, the Inter-Agency meeting was called especially to enable the agencies to identify, on the basis of the discussions at the review meeting, the possibilities for participation in the Pacific Energy Programme, as well as to help coordinate their own energy activities in the region. Agencies represented included ADB, ADAB, ANU, Commonwealth Secretariat, CHOGRM Energy Group, CRRERIS, EWC, ESCAP, EC, NZ(EAD), ODA(UK), SPC, Transenerg (France), UNDAT, UNDP, USAID, USP, World Bank and the Japanese Embassy (Suva). It was recommended that a similar meeting be held in conjunction with the next review meeting of the Pacific Energy Programme.

— Country Energy Reports

145. The final reports on the national energy situations in the countries visited by the PEP Mission in 1982 will be circulated to Governments by mid-year. Each Government has had available to them copies of the first draft (June–September 1982) and the second draft (November 1982) and SPEC is pleased to note that several of the recommendations in those reports have already been acted on. The regional review report is expected to be completed later this year.
Country Visits and Information Activities

146. The SPEC Energy Unit aims to keep in close touch with countries not just through correspondence, but also through personal visits. In particular, the Senior Energy Officer visited Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on his way back from a CRRERIS Review Meeting, in New Delhi. Further visits will be arranged later in the year in consultation with the Governments. The Energy Unit has also commenced producing periodic updates on the PEP and related energy activities for circulation to interested parties.

Petroleum Pricing and Supply Study

147. A series of country studies of the petroleum pricing and supply situation began last year as "preparatory assistance" for the UN-PEP. They have continued this year as part of the main programme. In the absence of the Project Manager, organisational details have been handled by the UNDAT office in Suva, acting on behalf of ESCAP, in co-operation with SPEC. Under the PEP one consultant, Mr Warwick Richards, has given advice on matters of petroleum pricing and supply to the Governments of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Mr Richards has also been working in Fiji on a national basis (not funded through the PEP). Another consultant, Mr W Matthews has given similar service under the Programme to the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau.

148. The studies have revealed the potential for quite significant savings in petroleum supply and pricing contracts and the consultant's reports are recommended for serious study by Governments.

149. The UNDP Project Document envisages two further regional activities taking place in this area in 1983. The consultant has
been invited to prepare a proposal for a continuing advisory service, including the regular provision of updated information about factors affecting petroleum pricing. It is hoped that this proposal would be considered at the next PEP Review Meeting. It is also hoped to hold a workshop for price controllers on petroleum pricing, later this year.

Wood Stoves Project

150. The UN consultant, Mr Jerry Richolson of Fiji visited Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga and Western Samoa in late 1982. In these countries he demonstrated a new type of wood-burning stove (the "JALEF") and also a "bucket-type" charcoal-burning stove. The latter in particular, is reported to have been taken up with enthusiasm in Niue and Western Samoa where several score are now in use. The consultant is currently preparing detailed manuals setting out the construction and use of these stoves. These manuals will form the basis of further follow-up work in some countries already visited and also in those countries not yet visited.

Short Course on Energy Planning

151. This course will be held as part of the PEP at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, from 5-19 July, 1983. It is intended primarily for middle-level public servants who are, or will be, engaged in energy planning either in line or as counterparts to external advisers. However, participation is not limited to such people. Financial support for one participant from each island country is being provided by CFTC and SPC.

152. A guide to the principles of renewable energy sources and their exploitation has been prepared by the SPEC Senior Energy Officer
in collaboration with a consultant to UNDAT. It will be used as reference material for the PEP course on Energy Planning.

Fuelwood Surveys

153. Following requests from several countries, SPEC has engaged a consultant to investigate in more detail the use and resource availability of fuelwood in those countries. This project has been funded by ESCAP and the Australian Government. The consultant, Mr Keith Gray of Australia, is a forester by profession and has concentrated on the feasibility of establishing plantations of fast-growing wood species for use as fuel.

154. Reports have been presented to Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Work is now underway in Kiribati and Tuvalu, with special attention to the wood resource on Christmas Island which would be required to support the steam-power plant proposed under the EEC component of the Pacific Energy Programme.

ADB Technical Assistance

155. Following the 1982 PEP Review and Inter-Agency Meetings the Asian Development Bank has offered US$500,000 to its developing member countries in the Pacific for "technical assistance in the energy sector." SPEC has since informed the countries of the ADB offer of assistance and invited them to submit proposals for the use of these funds. SPEC has also assisted some countries in identifying projects. The ADB assistance will be co-ordinated within the Pacific Energy Programme.
UNDP Energy Account Assistance

156. During the visit to Fiji in early 1983 the Manager of the UNDP Energy Account, Mr B Harland, indicated to SPEC that this Fund might be able to finance a number of activities identified by the PEP Mission but failing to attract any financial assistance at the 1982 Review Meetings. One of these activities is the provision of Energy Planners for several Island countries, identified by most countries represented at the September 1982 Review Meetings as a great need. SPEC is following up this and other possibilities in energy conservation and retro-fitting of hot-air generators with UNDP, New York.

LIAISON WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES

Energy Liaison

157. SPEC continues to liaise closely with other organisations involved in energy-related activities in the Pacific region. These include: SPC, USP, EWC, ADB, ESCAP, the CHOGRM Working Group on Energy, UNDP, EEC, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Approaches have also been made to the OPEC Fund to ascertain its willingness to participate.

158. The Energy Unit is currently preparing an Energy Compilation outlining ongoing and planned energy activities in the Pacific region. The Compilation will assist national Governments, funding agencies and regional organisations to deploy their resources so as to avoid duplication and increase productivity.
SPC Technical Meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

159. The timing of this meeting was also co-ordinated with that of the PEP Review Meeting, in order to minimise travel time and expenses of delegates attending both. The meeting was held in Papeete from 28 September to 10 October 1982 and gave participants from other parts of the Pacific the opportunity to examine the substantial programme on renewable energy in French Polynesia. Much was learnt about gasifiers and photovoltaic applications in particular, that will be useful in the development of the EEC pilot projects. The SPEC delegation emphasised the opportunities for continued fruitful co-operation in this area, both among SPEC member countries and other territories in the Pacific and between SPEC and SPC.

CHOGRM Working Group on Energy

160. The CHOGRM Working Group on energy met at SPEC Headquarters immediately before the Pacific Energy Programme Review Meeting, on 20–21 September 1982. This arrangement was also initiated by SPEC to promote co-ordination between the CHOGRM, UNDP and EEC energy programmes, and ensured a fuller participation by Pacific members of CHOGRM than in the past. Held concurrently with this meeting was a technical Workshop on Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation organised and funded by the Government of Australia.

161. CHOGRM agreed to fund a wide range of activities complementary to those of the EEC and UNDP programmes. These include demonstrating solar water heating and energy waste heat recovery systems for commercial and industrial applications, and retro-fitting of boilers with biomass burners/gasifiers. Finance for the Group's activities has since been approved by the Commonwealth Secretariat, tenders have
been called for some projects and field work is expected to commence about mid-1983.

- CRRERIS (Commonwealth Regional Renewable Energy Resources Information System)

162. Following the recommendation of the CHOGRM Energy Group meeting, the Suva CHOGRM agreed to grant SPEC direct access to the CRRERIS. SPEC has since informed the countries of this as well as offering to provide material from CRRERIS for those countries not members of the Commonwealth. This offer of assistance has also been extended to non-SPEC island member countries through the SPC. A meeting to review the operation of the system was held in New Delhi, India, at the end of April 1983. SPEC was represented by the Senior Energy Officer.
PART IV : REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(a) FORUM AND SPEC

Thirteenth South Pacific Forum

163. The Thirteenth South Pacific Forum was held in Rotorua, New Zealand on 9-10 August 1982. All Forum member countries were represented. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Honourable Robert Muldoon, CH, MP, chaired the meeting. The Forum accepted the Annual Report for 1981/82 submitted by the Director ad interim.

164. The Forum discussed and accepted the report of the Forum Mission to France led by the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Rt Honourable Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, KBE, GCMG, the former Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable Noel Levi and the former High Commissioner of Tonga in London, H.E. Mr Inoke Faletau, concerning the issue of self determination and independence of the French Pacific territories. The Forum adopted a Resolution on the subject and decided to review developments further at the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum.

165. In other decisions the Forum reaffirmed its previous position concerning the dangers of nuclear testing and dumping in the Pacific; agreed to a financial package totalling US$18.6m for the Pacific Forum Line; requested a study of the civil aviation situation in the region; noted the proposal to establish the Pacific Islands Fund but requested an assessment of available funding; expressed interest in the possible availability of the NASA TDRS satellite for the region's telecommunications needs; adopted several Resolutions on matters concerning fisheries and the Law of the Sea Convention; deferred any decision on the creation of a Single Regional Organisation for consideration at the Twenty-Second South Pacific Conference; re-appointed Mr Mahe
Tupouniua to the position of Director of SPEC following the death of Dr G B Gris and the interim Directorship of Mr Jon Sheppard; and approved the 1982 SPEC Budget.

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**SPEC Committee**

166. The 1982 pre-Forum SPEC Committee meeting was held in Rotorua, New Zealand from 4-6 August 1982. The Committee reviewed the Bureau's Work Programme, and endorsed the Director's Annual Report for 1981/82 for Forum approval. The representative from Tonga, Mr Dan Tufui, chaired the meeting.

167. The 1982 SPEC Committee Budget Session was held at SPEC Headquarters, Suva on 1-2 December 1982. The Committee considered and approved the 1983 SPEC Work Programme and Budget. The Budget is being presented to the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum for approval.

168. The 1983 Budget of F$858,508 is lower than that for 1982 by F$61,397, leading to a consequent reduction in member Governments' contributions of F$15,904 for Australia and New Zealand and F$1,325 for Island countries. A number of proposals for improving the staff resources of SPEC to cope with the increased workload generated in recent years were not approved and SPEC is currently operating under some constraints in these areas. It is hoped the matter will be reviewed more favourably at the next Budget Session.

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**SPEC Meetings**

169. During the period under review SPEC organised and serviced the 25 meetings which are listed at Annex 1. In addition, the Director and professional officers have attended a wide range of work programme-related meetings convened by other agencies. The number
of meetings keeps growing, and a large number of requests for SPEC to host, convene or attend meetings have had to be turned down. Apart from increasing pressure on manpower resources it has been observed with concern that some meetings are not always well-defined as to the objectives to be achieved. Efforts are being undertaken to ensure that meetings are not held as a matter of routine but are convened only when productive results can be accomplished.

(b) REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

170. Cordial and productive relations have been maintained throughout the period under review between SPEC and its sister organisations in the region - the Forum Fisheries Agency, the South Pacific Commission, the University of the South Pacific and the Pacific Islands Development Programme.

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

171. The 1982 pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting agreed that the FFA Director should attend future sessions of the SPEC Budget Committee as an observer. The 1982 SPEC Committee Budget Session agreed that the Director should also be invited to attend pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meetings. Both organisations now attend each other's Committee meetings as observers.

172. The Deputy Director attended the Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting held in Apia, Western Samoa from 2-5 May 1983. Since then the ACP Pacific Group has agreed to reallocate unutilised funds to overcome the shortfall on the FFA Headquarters building to be funded under Lome II.
University of the South Pacific (USP)

173. SPEC has explored all avenues in seeking solutions to ensure the continuation of the USP project funded under the Lome I Convention, and, as reported above, the ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers has agreed to allocate ECU 1.2 million of the Lome II regional allocation to this purpose.

174. SPEC has also indicated to the University, in response to a Council resolution, that it would support its attendance at meetings which will be required to discuss regional projects to be decided upon by ACP Pacific Governments for submitting to the EEC under the successor convention to Lome II.

175. As requested by the Thirteenth Forum, SPEC has made itself available for discussions with USP regarding the development of a Pacific Regional Identity Card to expedite the movement of staff in the region in the course of their work on behalf of USP.

South Pacific Commission (SPC)

176. SPEC and SPC are involved at the working level in joint activities in respect of SPREP, the proposed Pacific Islands Fund, Regional Development Planning and the Pacific Energy Programme. These activities have been covered in detail in relevant sections of this Report.

177. The Director a.i. attended the Twenty-Second South Pacific Conference in Pago Pago, American Samoa in October 1982 and the SPC Secretary General attended the SPEC Committee Budget Session in December 1982 as an observer. That meeting decided that the Secretary General should in future be invited to attend pre-Forum SPEC Committee
meetings as well as Budget Sessions.

178. SPEC's Deputy Director attended the 1983 SPC Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting held in Noumea in May and the regular annual consultations between the two organisations are scheduled for July 1983.

179. At the time of writing this Report it was announced that at the invitation of Australia, a full meeting of the Commission would be held in Canberra immediately following the Forum.

- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)

180. SPEC has maintained close contact with the Administrator and staff of PIDP at the East-West Center in Hawaii on activities concerning both organisations, such as the Pacific Energy Programme, the project on multinational corporations' role in the Pacific and the Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation Programme.

181. PIDP in collaboration with ADAB, UNDRO and UNDP organised the Disaster Strategy Seminar which was hosted by SPEC in March 1983. PIDP also jointly sponsored with the USP a Seminar on Pacific Islands Regional Co-operation which was held in Western Samoa from 24 February to 2 March 1983. The Director and the Research Officer participated at this seminar.

182. The opportunity is taken here to record SPEC's appreciation for the support and co-operation of the former PIDP Administrator, Mr James Makasiale, who has returned to Fiji as Permanent Secretary of Agriculture.
183. SPEC continues to benefit greatly from assistance provided by the CFTC. Approval was given to fund the positions of Head of PRAS, Regional Export Marketing Adviser and Regional Handcrafts Adviser. Funds were also provided for the Study on a Regional Crop Insurance Scheme.

184. Following attendance with Pacific Forum Ministers at the ACP/EEC Council and a Special Meeting of ACP Pacific Group Ministers in Brussels in May, the opportunity was taken by the SPEC delegation on the way home to visit the Secretariat.

185. A round table discussion was held with Directors where ongoing CFTC-funded regional projects were reviewed, problem areas identified and critically examined. These discussions clearly indicated the need for closer consultations and co-ordination between the two organisations in implementing regional projects. Calls were also made on senior executives including the Secretary General with whom discussions centred on his proposed visit to the Pacific for informal talks with Island Leaders following the Canberra Forum. A number of other Commonwealth developments of interest to the Pacific were also discussed.

186. The Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored the second round of a programme of exchange visits during early 1983 among senior officers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and SPEC. The Deputy Director of SPEC visited the CARICOM Secretariat and its associated institutions from 28
February to 12 March 1983. A report on this visit has been circulated to member countries. The Deputy Executive-Secretary of the ECOWAS Secretariat visited SPEC and the FFA from 4-14 April 1983 and had informative discussions with the staff.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

There has been little contact between the ASEAN Secretariat and SPEC during the period under review. With the appointment of a new Secretary-General of ASEAN, HE Ambassador Chan Kai Yau, a revived interest by ASEAN in the countries in the region may increase the relevance of an ASEAN/Forum dialogue. A recent communication from the ASEAN Secretariat has suggested that the possibility of developing trade relations between the two regions on a longer term basis should be investigated through a study of marketing opportunities in both the ASEAN and Forum countries. SPEC had earlier made a similar suggestion. The ASEAN/Forum dialogue remains an important part of our Work Programme because of its long term implications for the region notwithstanding the apparent lack of real progress since the last Forum.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP, under its Resident Representative in Suva, Mr Arthur Holcombe and his staff, continues to provide SPEC with valuable financial and technical assistance through regional projects with which SPEC is associated, namely: Trade Promotion, Advisory Services and Training; Transport Survey of the South Pacific; Telecommunications Training and Development; Pacific Energy Programme; and SPEC Series.

The Director attended the Inter-Governmental Review Meeting of the UNDP Inter-Country Programme 1982-1986 held in Port Vila,
Vanuatu from 14-16 April 1983. SPEC submitted in advance suggestions for reallocation of funding to certain projects. The meeting allocated additional funds to a number of projects co-ordinated by SPEC in the areas of telecommunications, tourism, trade promotion, short-term consultancies, and support for the "Lome III" negotiations.

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

190. Working relations have been maintained between SPEC and ESCAP particularly on programmes such as the Industrial Survey of the South Pacific, the Pacific Energy Programme and the Short-Term Advisory Services Project.

191. The Director of SPEC attended the first week of ESCAP's 39th Session in Bangkok in April 1983 and gave a statement in which he drew attention to the over-concentration of ESCAP resources in Asia and the need for special measures to deal with Pacific member countries' needs. This is something we have been saying for years, and will continue to do so until satisfaction is obtained for the Pacific component of ESCAP in terms of a fairer share of the total resources available.

192. The Director took the opportunity to hold formal discussions with the Executive Secretary who was sympathetic to the Pacific position and agreed to seek practical measures for improvement. The Executive Secretary visited the Pacific during May and it is hoped capitals visited were able to lend further support to the Pacific case with ESCAP.
193. As the Regional Authorising Officer for the development and implementation of regional aid projects funded by the EC, SPEC is required to maintain close and continuous contact with the Suva office of the Delegate of the Commission of the European Communities. An officer appointed under CFTC funding and attached to the Bureau deals full-time with EEC funded regional projects and Pacific/ACP matters. These subjects have been reviewed in detail in a preceding section of this Report.

194. To maintain the momentum in the implementation of the Lome II projects and ensure the effective utilisation of the aid provided, the Bureau has also found it desirable to have direct contact with the Commission from time to time. The Director a.i. visited the Commission in Brussels in mid-June 1982 to take up issues arising out of the first ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers meeting held in Suva in April 1982. The Project Officer responsible for EEC/ACP matters visited Brussels in December 1982 and held discussions with Commission officials. The Director and the Project Officer responsible visited the Commission in May 1983 to follow up on progress of the Lome II Regional Programme.

195. As the secretariat to the ACP Pacific Group SPEC continues to endeavour to develop more productive relations with the ACP secretariat in Brussels. This aspect of the Bureau's work programme is of increasing importance as the commencement of negotiations for an ACP/EEC co-operation arrangement to succeed Lome II after February 1985 draws near. The Project Officer responsible for EEC/ACP matters attended the 30th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers (Budget Session) in Brussels in December 1982 in an observer capacity.
196. The Director and the Project Officer also attended the 31st Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the 8th ACP/EEC Council of Ministers Meetings in Brussels in May 1983 as observers. Special Joint Sessions were also held on STABEX and Financial and Technical Co-operation during the same period.

- United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT)

197. The United Nations Development Advisory Team based in Suva and led by Mr Arthur McCutchan ably assisted SPEC in the development of the Pacific Energy Programme and in other areas during the period under review. Its quick-action services to the region continue to be of importance.

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

198. SPEC continues to draw on the technical skills and knowledge of the ITU project personnel based in Suva in pursuing regional telecommunication development in the region. This has been of particular importance in the contract negotiations for the development and implementation of the Lome II project on Telecommunications.

(d) RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

199. SPEC continues to enjoy cordial relations with non-member countries which provide substantial assistance to the countries of the region including the USA, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, West Germany, France and Malaysia. A number of Island non-member countries have indicated interest and participated in several SPEC activities where possible, namely the SPEC Fellowship Scheme, the Regional Criteria and Priorities meeting, the Pacific energy Programme and the Regional Telecommunications Projects.
200. The total agreed 1983 SPEC budget amounts to F$858,508 consisting of F$846,808 Ordinary Expenditure and F$11,700 Capital Expenditure. It represents a decrease of 1.32% over 1982. In that year the increase was 12.58% over 1981.

201. Appreciation is recorded here for financial assistance available for four established positions in SPEC viz: the Head of Pacific Regional Advisory Service (PRAS) and an officer responsible for EEC projects and trade promotion under CFTC and the positions of the Senior Energy Officer and the Energy Officer under the Australian Aid Programme. Appreciation is also due to those Governments, in particular Australia and New Zealand, and organisations which have supplemented the resources available to SPEC on behalf of its member countries with extra-budgetary funding.

202. The 1983 budget was approved by the SPEC Committee Budget Session in December 1982 and is being presented to the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum Meeting for formal approval, in accordance with Article IX of the SPEC Agreement.

(b) SPEC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

203. New Zealand has already provided $75,368 for furniture and equipment for the new building, to be constructed with Australian assistance. It will be recalled that the first set of office buildings and staff houses including the Conference Hall were funded by New Zealand with Australia providing the furniture and fittings. Acknowledgement is made of the continuing interest and valuable assistance given to SPEC from its inception by both countries. A full design
study and site plans for the new building, prepared with financial assistance from Australia, have been forwarded to the Australian authorities for consideration. Progress on this project has experienced delays but it is hoped procedural constraints would ease up shortly to allow the project to proceed.

204. Apart from a growing number of requests for office accommodation for experts involved in SPEC-related projects there is pressing demand for additional space for permanent staff - both professional and administrative. One staff house has already been converted into offices to meet immediate requirements, an expediency offering temporary solution to one problem but creating another in the process. The new office building is urgently needed.

(c) NEW DIRECTOR

Mr Jon Sheppard, Deputy Director from 1979 and Director ad interim from 16 March 1982 returned to Canberra and assumed duties with the Department of Foreign Affairs in December 1982. By mutual arrangement the new Director had agreed to the Director a.i. staying on until the end of the year in order not to disrupt his children's schooling in Fiji.

The Thirteenth South Pacific Forum in Rotorua last year re-appointed me Director for a period of three years. I assumed duties on 3 January 1983.

(d) PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Dr Ako Toua, formerly High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea to Fiji, was appointed Head of the Pacific
Regional Advisory Service for a period of two years from 23 July 1982.

Mrs Helen Wong, a BA and GCE graduate from the University of the South Pacific, and an officer of the Cook Islands Government, was appointed Project Officer for a period of three years from 1 September 1982.

Mrs Phyllis Buksh, a BA graduate from the University of the South Pacific, was appointed Project Officer with effect from 13 September 1982 for a period of three years. Prior to her appointment Mrs Buksh was a Protocol Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism in Fiji.

Mr Steven Vete's contract was renewed for another tour of three years from 5 September 1982 and he was promoted to Trade and Industry Officer from 1 November 1982.

Mr Gyan Singh's contract as Administration Officer was renewed for a two year term, from 1 October 1982.

Mr Ikipa Tongatule's contract as Research Officer was extended by a further six months from June to the end of 1983.

(e) SOUTH PACIFIC TRADE COMMISSION

Mr William McCabe was appointed trade Commissioner from 9 August 1982. He is seconded from the Department of Trade and Resources in Australia on contract for
three years. Mr McCabe has worked in the Pacific and has wide experience of export requirements of the Island member countries.

Mr K Talake completed his three year contract as Trade Development Officer on 4 November 1982 and returned to Tuvalu.

Mr S Waqatairewa was appointed Assistant Marketing Officer on 5 January 1983.

205. The appointment of Dr Ako Toua was a matter for the SPEC Committee. All other appointments of staff and renewals of contract referred to above excepting the Research Officer's, had been made by the Director a.i. before the new Director assumed duties.

206. All professional staff positions have now been filled.

207. A current SPEC staff list appears at Annex 2.
PART VI : CONCLUSIONS

208. SPEC has had another busy year in carrying forward its expanding work programme and other related activities flowing from its mandate under the SPEC Agreement. A number of issues stand out in the Annual Report and although some have become routine and familiar, there have been new ones as well, indicative of the changing regional milieu. They are also a reminder that the pace and direction of economic development in the Pacific is in large measure, controlled by forces outside the region. The global recession set initially in the industrialised countries has inevitably affected overall development efforts in the region and in many cases has driven Island countries to depend even more on external aid. This runs counter to policies aimed at achieving greater self-reliance.

209. Political developments in the region have centred on decolonisation and the questions of nuclear testing and dumping of nuclear waste. SPEC has not drawn any conclusions on political developments as they are considered outside the SPEC mandate.

210. Recent changes in Governments as a result of elections over the last few years have brought on the regional scene new leaders and new policies which will affect the course of regional co-operation in the next few years. However the resource gap, vast distances, relative isolation and other geographic and economic disadvantages of the Pacific region underly the importance of continuing regional co-operation.

211. SPEC's achievements, although modest, indicate that a good deal can be done, and that relief from economic dependence for Island countries is feasible through collective endeavours despite the constraints of economic and political considerations. In conjunction with
other regional organisations and aid donors efforts were made to develop regional criteria and priorities and to bring about more effective aid co-ordination which will provide a better framework for fostering regional co-operation.

212. The focus of the Work Programme has been on trade and economic development, with particular emphasis on infrastructural activities. SPARTECA is providing a basis for increasing exports to Australia and New Zealand. The Regional Committee on Trade continues to monitor developments and where appropriate changes are effected to improve the implementation of SPARTECA. As trade between the FIC's continues to be restricted SPEC has made a number of recommendations to the Third Regional Committee on Trade meeting to promote inter Island trade.

213. The work programme of the Trade Unit has gone through very rapid expansion as a result of increased demand from SPEC member countries. It now encompasses several new areas of trade activity as indicated in the body of this Report.

214. To ensure that the resources of the Bureau are properly directed towards purposeful and productive ends an in-house exercise in consolidating these various activities is being undertaken. SPEC continues to believe that it is better to concentrate its resources on a few things and do them well than to spread them too thinly on the ground.

215. The Forum Fisheries Agency has begun to fulfil the objectives for which it was formed. Its activities, along with proposed new initiatives for collaborative efforts in marine resources, should ensure that the benefits of a well planned programme of exploitation, conservation and management of fisheries resources together with marine
sea-bed resources, accrue directly to the peoples of the Pacific.

216. A report on the activities of the Forum Fisheries Agency by its Director is being submitted separately through SPEC. However the Bureau continues to maintain an interest in the activities of FFA and has been directly involved in attempting to secure EEC finance under the Lome Regional Programme for the construction of the new Headquarters building in Honiara.

217. SPEC continues to work closely with the PFL. As noted elsewhere in this Report PFL has established a feeder service to Kiribati and Tuvalu with Australian and New Zealand financial assistance. The serious financial and operational problems faced by the Line have been clearly identified in the past and last year's Forum decision, the most far-reaching in scope and intention to date, went some way to solving some of these. SPEC has actively supported PFL in their efforts to secure financial assistance from participating member Governments and the EEC.

218. At the recent Shipping Council meeting in Honiara it became clear that a new approach to the institutional arrangements for PFL needs to be formulated. The present arrangements under which PFL management, Board of Directors, shareholders' meetings; SPEC secretariat; officials ad hoc meetings; Shipping Council of Ministers and the Forum all have some involvement may require re-assessment. The linkages are not always clear and implementation of decisions becomes quite difficult. It might be useful to form a small group at the highest political level, with a small task force working to it, which could concentrate exclusively on the problems of PFL and on implementing solutions agreed to by the Forum. The impression gained at Honiara was that routine meetings of the above bodies were insufficient to deal effectively with the problems given their importance and magnitude.
219. With regard to the other areas of SPEC's work programme the importance of regional co-operation in energy and telecommunications continues to expand. In both areas SPEC is to co-ordinate programmes for future development.

220. The demands placed on the SPEC Fellowship Scheme underlies the importance of training and manpower planning for our member Governments.

221. The initial enthusiasm which accompanied the establishment of SPEC appears to have declined, and it is important for effective SPEC performance that new and creative ways be developed to secure the fullest support and confidence of member Governments. Recognising that it is necessary to improve communications between Headquarters and member countries to strengthen awareness and closer relations, SPEC has already taken a number of initiatives in this direction.

222. In the eleven years SPEC has been in operation much has been achieved and much remains to be done. The SPEC Work Programme as can be seen from the Report has expanded considerably, partly as a result of normal growth and partly from new decisions of the SPEC Committee and/or the Forum.

223. With the increasing budgetary pressure faced by member Governments and therefore SPEC it has become necessary to find ways of enabling SPEC to attain a reasonable standard of performance within available resources.

224. An increasing number of projects in the Work Programme are funded from extra-budgetary resources. However despite this, the core professional capability and essential operations in the administrative
area must still have to be made in the SPEC Budget. Where proposals
to strengthen the professional and administrative capability cannot
be met the resultant savings must be measured against the gains origin-
ally envisaged. A more flexible approach would be desirable.

225. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to member Govern-
ments for their support and understanding and to the SPEC staff for
their co-operation and loyalty over the past year. SPEC's ability to
carry out its mandate effectively hinges on both Governments and staff
working closely together. A major part of my task over the next two
years will be to try to foster this harmonious relationship.

SUVA
21 June 1983.
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<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Terms of Reference Meeting for the UNDP Transport Survey</td>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>SPEC HQS</td>
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<td>Regional Conference of Senior Development Planners</td>
<td>7-11 June</td>
<td>SPEC HQS</td>
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<td>Regional Committee on Trade Meeting</td>
<td>5-7 July</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
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<td>Uniform Maritime Standards Sub-Committee</td>
<td>12-14 July</td>
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<td>Pre-Forum SPEC Committee Meeting</td>
<td>4-6 August</td>
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<td>Thirteenth South Pacific Forum</td>
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<td>Working Group on Criteria and Priorities</td>
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<td>Niue</td>
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<td>1-3 December</td>
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<td>Advisory Committee on Uniform Maritime Standards</td>
<td>15-17 March</td>
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<td>29-30 March</td>
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<td>28-31 March</td>
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<td>Brussels</td>
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<td>South Pacific Regional Shipping Council and South Pacific</td>
<td>31 May -</td>
<td>Honiara</td>
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<td>Regional Civil Aviation Council</td>
<td>3 June</td>
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### Annex 2

#### SPEC STAFF LIST

1 June 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR</td>
<td>Mr Mahe U Tupouniua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPUTY DIRECTOR</td>
<td>Dr Peter Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Gyan Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Ikipa Tongatule</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRADE &amp; INDUSTRY OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Steven Vete</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEAD OF PRAS</td>
<td>Dr Ako Toua</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENIOR ENERGY OFFICER</td>
<td>Dr Anthony Weir</td>
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<td>LEGAL OFFICER</td>
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<td>ENERGY OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Tommy Scanlan</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Paul Gini</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mr Frank Miro</td>
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<td>Mr Garry Wiseman</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mrs Helen Wong</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mrs Phyllis Buksh</td>
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<td>Mr Koroseta To'o</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIBRARIAN/ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER</td>
<td>Miss Rosemary Cassidy</td>
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<td>Miss Nancy Lochan</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Aziz Akbar</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE OFFICER</td>
<td>Mrs Andra Vailate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Mrs Ann Sellars</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERSONAL ASSISTANT</td>
<td>Mrs Iona Whippy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER</td>
<td>Mr Filimone Boletawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLERK</td>
<td>Mr Manoa Kaiyanuyanu</td>
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<td>CLERK</td>
<td>Mrs Bodh Mati Shyam</td>
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</table>
FILING CLERK
STENOGRAPHER/TYPIST
STENOGRAPHER/TYPIST
STENOGRAPHER/TYPIST
TYPIST/TELEX OPERATOR
TYPIST/RECEPTIONIST
DRIVER/MESSENGER
MACHINE OPERATOR

Mr Uday Prasad
Mrs M Talahiva Tupou
Ms Aditanaivua O Umu
Mrs Shamshul Nair
Mrs Melania Natuna
Mrs Nirmala Nand
Mr Jeremaia Tuwai
Mrs Florrie Hania

South Pacific Trade Commission

TRADE COMMISSIONER
MARKETING/ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
ASSISTANT MARKETING OFFICER
SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Mr William McCabe
Mrs Christine Moore
Mr S Waqatairewa
Mrs K Collins
### SELECT LIST OF SPEC PUBLICATIONS

**June 1982 – June 1983**

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<tr>
<th>Event/Meeting/Agreement</th>
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<td>Regional Conference of Senior Development PLANNERS, June 1982</td>
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<td>Thirteenth South Pacific Forum - Summary Record, August 1982</td>
<td>SPF(82)REP</td>
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<td>Pacific Energy Programme Review Meeting - Agreed Record, September 1982</td>
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<td>Regional Committee on Trade - Second Meeting, Agreed Record, July 1982</td>
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<td>Ninth South Pacific Regional Telecommunications Meeting - Agreed Record, October-November 1982</td>
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<td>SPEC Committee Budget Session - Agreed Record, December 1982</td>
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<td>Financial Statements as at December 1982</td>
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<td>BUDGET Out-Turn Report for Year Ended 31 December 1982</td>
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<td>Proposed Budget &amp; Work Programme for 1983</td>
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<td>Proposed SPTC Budget &amp; Work Programme for 1983</td>
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<td>SPTC Financial Statement as at 31 December 1981</td>
<td>SPEC(82)SCS.11</td>
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<td>Director's Progress Report</td>
<td>SPEC(82)SCS.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation - Approved Budget and Work Programme for Year Ending 31 December 1983</td>
<td>SPEC(82)19</td>
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<td>SPEC Activities (Monthly Newsletter)</td>
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Regional Meeting on Criteria and Priorities - Agreed Record
Advisory Committee on Uniform Maritime Standards - Agreed Record
ACP Pacific Group Council of Ministers Meeting - Agreed Record
SPEC/ITU Telecommunications Officials Working Party Meeting - Agreed Record
South Pacific Regional Shipping Council Meeting - Agreed Record
Regional Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications - Agreed Record
ACP Pacific Group Working Party Meeting - Agreed Record