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I am pleased to submit my sixth annual report for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The report of last year highlighted the 30th anniversary of the Pacific Islands Forum and its many achievements during its first three decades. I also outlined how the Forum was responding to the new challenges faced by the Pacific in the new millennium.

As this is my last report as Secretary General, I will recount the key achievements and challenges of the organisation during my tenure and review the progress made by the Secretariat in meeting these challenges.

The Secretariat’s vision of “a sustainably prosperous and secure Pacific” has four goals:

- enhancing political stability and regional security;
- enhancing management of economies and the development process;
- improving trade and investment and performance; and
- ensuring the efficient management of its human, financial and physical resources.

The pursuit of these goals has resulted in some of the region’s most important achievements, which include landmark agreements on trade and economic cooperation, education, law enforcement, regional security and governance. Much of this success is due to the Leaders’ willingness to seek unity even where there are differences, and to work together to overcome our common concerns and limited resources. This level of cooperation will remain our key asset as we seek closer regional integration to tackle ongoing and emerging social, economic and political challenges to the region.

Political stability and security is essential to sustainable development, and the Secretariat has pursued this goal through a number of strategies including the implementing of the 2000 Biketawa Declaration, particularly in the Solomon Islands.

A major strengthened regional assistance initiative to the Solomon Islands was launched on the 24th July, following a formal request by the Solomon Islands Government and the endorsement by the Solomon Islands Parliament. The initiative was also mandated by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders under the Biketawa Declaration. It is being led by Australia with the participation of New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. Other Forum Island Countries are expected to join later. The success of this initiative will strengthen the ability and the resolve of the Pacific Island Forum to address problems of political instability in the future, under the regional mandate provided by the Biketawa Declaration.

A Regional Security Fund is being set up at the Secretariat to facilitate future regional responses; and a set of leadership principles is being developed to further advance the principles of good governance under Biketawa and other Forum declarations.

Improved law enforcement cooperation to counter transnational crime has been another feature of support in recent years. This, combined with continuing efforts to implement the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation, will go a long way in helping us to achieve our goals. However, I note with disappointment that despite the Leaders’ urgings and the Secretariat’s efforts to prioritise the implementation of the Honiara Declaration, progress has only picked up over the last few years and some members have still not fully met their obligations. Given recent international events, that have also had an impact on the Pacific, it is essential that members fully implement the legislative priorities of the Honiara Declaration.

Economic growth and equity are the other key requirement of sustainable development. Without equity there will be little chance of long-term sustainability. A notable change in the work of the Secretariat in the past few years has been the incorporation of emerging social and environmental issues in its work program to counterbalance its traditional focus on economic and trade development. This has resulted in key regional initiative, such as the Forum Basic Education Action Plan aimed at making basic education, the foundation of all education and training, more relevant to the needs of the Pacific in the modern world. A major regional education project, Pacific Regional Initiative for the Delivery of Education (PRIDE) is being implemented by the University of the South Pacific. Others include the strengthening of gender analysis and support from the Forum for issues such as HIV/AIDS and population growth, which I hope will receive a lot more attention given their huge impact on development in the Pacific. We also need to work more with Civil Society, and the Secretariat now has a policy and a mechanism for doing so.

The efforts of the Forum Economic Ministers to encourage discipline and transparency in economic management have been an important focus of the Secretariat’s support. However, the slow implementation of the Forum’s Economic Action Plan (EAP), including the Eight Principles of Accountability, has become a concern to the Forum. This has resulted in an attempt to reinvigorate the FEMM process through more rigorous stocktakes and dialogue. I hope that greater efforts will be made to implement the economic good governance principles of the FEMM and the Forum’s EAP.

In the meantime, there has been excellent progress in efforts to promote regional economic integration through initiatives such as the proposed Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA) that aim to free up the flow and reduce the cost of transportation and communication in the region. The PIASA is being submitted to the Forum Leaders this year for their approval. This initiative and others that need to be pursued in shipping and communication should result in a more integrated and stronger region that can deal more effectively with the challenges of smallness and isolation.

Our efforts to improve regional coordination, through the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), to which most regional organizations belong, are also paying off now. Two more organizations have been added to bring total
membership to 10, and the CROP is now recognized as a key mechanism for regional coordination and promoting sustainable development through the work of all regional organizations. The support of my colleagues both past and present in regional organizations has been vital in this.

**Improved performance in trade and investment** is necessary for economic growth. Trade is also a key area through which to promote regional economic integration. I am therefore very pleased that the two major trade-related agreements were concluded during my tenure, the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the Pacific Agreement for Closer Economic Relations (PACER), and have now entered into force. This is in fulfillment of one of the Forum’s founding aims. And if they result in a more vibrant and integrated region, as is the intention, then they will greatly strengthen the Forum’s hand in responding to the pressures of globalization and the challenges of economic and political developments being faced by our region at the moment.

I am also pleased to have seen in recent years the increase in the Secretariat’s efforts to promote the regional overseas markets, which saw the opening last year of the fourth Forum trade office (in Beijing) and the continuing improvements in the workload of the Secretariat’s Trade and Investment Office (in Auckland, Sydney and Tokyo).

Across the work of Secretariat in the political, economic and trade arenas, there are a number of cross-cutting strategies that I wish to mention. The first is the application of good governance, which we see highlighted in the Biketawa Declaration and the Forum’s Eight Principles of Accountability. Good governance is now widely recognized as a pre-requisite of sustainable development. A key aim of the Secretariat is to help make the process of governance in the Pacific more transparent and accountable, thus ensuring equitable and sustainable growth.

This good governance strategy needs to also be applied to the phenomenon of globalization and trade liberalization, given the extent to which they determine the fate of many small Pacific island economies. As globalization has not resulted in equitable or sustainable development in many parts of the world, it is important that it too be made more transparent and accountable. Recent analyses on underdevelopment and poor aid use in the Pacific fail to recognize that globalization, or the manner of its articulation, is also part of the problem.

Thus the second cross-cutting strategy of the Secretariat, which is the Forum’s engagement in the international fora, has focused in the recent years on securing a commitment from our development partners to “level” the global playing field. This must include efforts to improve corporate and international governance and by giving the small and vulnerable island states a special and differential treatment in multilateral trade and aid. This is the approach we have been taking to the World Trade Organization, which I expect to be enhanced in the coming years with the setting up of the Forum Representative Office in Geneva later this year. It is also an approach being taken by the Pacific to the negotiations with the EU over Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), which has been such a feature of our support over the past two years.

I am also pleased that our engagement with development partners and multilateral bodies and international organizations has helped to increase their interest support for the Forum’s policy objectives, including through development assistance. The number of Forum Dialogue Partners has increased from 8 to 12 and there are others wanting to come in. We have now established stable modalities for the regional aid programs of partners like the European Union, Japan, Canada, the Peoples Republic of China, France, United Kingdom, South Korea, Taiwan/ROC, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations. We have a well-established annual dialogue with partners and special summits between the Forum Leaders and the Leaders of Japan.

Indeed, although the Secretariat’s core policy and secretarial support functions are met from member contributions, we rely heavily on other donors, including our own two members Australia and New Zealand, for the funding of staff and material resources essential to our activities. Donor assistance on an on-going basis is gratefully acknowledged in the Financial Summary at the back of this Annual Report and in our annual Budget and Work Programme.

Looking towards the future, I believe that regional integration, which is the third of our cross-cutting strategies, offers the best, some say the only, way up for our region with the majority of our members being small, isolated and resource-poor. We have to enhance our otherwise limited national capacities by being part of a larger regional entity that can deal with the world in a more equal footing. And we need to raise the capacity of our people, our most important resource, to meet this challenge.

We have now set the stage for closer regional integration through policy initiatives such as the PICTA and PACER, PIASA; the Biketawa Declaration and Law Enforcement Cooperation; the Basic Education Action Plan and PRIDE, CROP and others. We have also made regional integration and human resources development the key priorities for donor assistance to the Secretariat. I do hope to see a lot more effort go into this, including at the higher political level, so that we can see in the near future the emergence of a real and viable Pacific Community that can bring us closer to our vision of a sustainably prosperous and safe Pacific.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to express my gratitude to the Forum Leaders and the Forum Officials Committee for their support during my tenure as the Forum’s Secretary General. The Secretariat and indeed the region would not have been able to achieve so much without the support from members as well as from our development partners. I am sure that with such support and the Forum’s strong foundation of achievement and tradition, my successor and staff at the Secretariat will be able to provide the assistance that is needed to consolidate the successes and meet the challenges outlined in this report.

W Noel Levi, CBE
Secretary General
2002 PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM LEADERS

SUVA • FIJI

(L-R Front row) Rt Hon Prime Minister Michael T Somare, Papua New Guinea; Hon Prime Minister John Howard, MP, Australia; Mr Noel Levi, CBE, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Hon Prime Minister Litaena Qarase, Fiji; HE President Rone Harris, Nauru; Rt Hon Prime Minister Helen Clark, New Zealand; VHR Prime Minister Prince Tuku‘aho Lavaka Ala, Tonga; Hon Prime Minister Tuaepa Safale Malielega, MP, Samoa (C-R Back row) HE Beretilisi Tukuroro Tilo, Kiribati; Hon Premier Young Vician, Niue; HE President Tommy E Tamengere Jr, Palau; Hon Prime Minister Dr Robert Woogton, Cook Islands; Hon Prime Minister Edward N Natapei, MP, Vanuatu; HE President Leo A Falaitan, Federated States of Micronesia; Hon Prime Minister Sir Allan Kemakeza, MP, Solomon Islands; HE President Kessai H Nave, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Hon Prime Minister Sanford Sopoaga, Tuvalu.

FORUM MEETINGS AND VENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Western Samoa</td>
<td>Apia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Rarotonga</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Nuku‘alofo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Rarotonga (mini-Forum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Port Vila</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Alofi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>Honiara</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tarawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Port Vila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Rotorua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Rarotonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Saiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Western Samoa</td>
<td>Apia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Nuku‘alofo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tarawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Port Vila</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>Pohnpei</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Prior to the Forum formal session, Leaders meet in an informal Retreat to discuss issues of common concern. The outcomes of the Retreat help form the language of the Forum Communiqué, which is further developed and endorsed at the formal session, outlining the region’s positions on key issues.
2002 FORUM OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

The Forum Officials Committee (FOC) is the governing body for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The FOC comprises senior representatives from all Forum Governments and oversees the Secretariat’s activities.

The FOC meets immediately prior to the annual Pacific Islands Forum to discuss key issues for the agenda of the Leader’s meeting. The FOC also meets towards the end of the year to approve the Budget and Work Programme for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

![Picture of Director John Sheppard and other officials]

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr Noel Levi, CBE (third from left, front) and Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Cook Islands, Mr Edwin Pittman, Chair of the 2002 FOC, fourth from left, front with members of the committee.

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat was established in 1972, initially as a Trade Bureau, and is based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings.

The Secretariat is funded by contributions from Forum members and donors who support an annual budget of about FJ$14 million a year.

The organisation is headed by the Secretary General who is responsible to the Forum and to the Forum Officials Committee (made up of representatives from all Forum Governments) which oversees the Secretariat’s activities. The Secretary General is also permanent Chair of the 12-member Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP). The Heads of CROP meet regularly to coordinate their activities to avoid duplication of effort.

The Deputy Secretary General is responsible to the Secretary General for the management of the Secretariat. Under the Deputy Secretary General, four Directors oversee the work of the Secretariat’s four divisions - Corporate Services; Development and Economic Policy; Political, International and Legal Affairs, and Trade and Investment. There are 100 professional and technical support staff, including the trade offices.

The Secretariat operates four trade offices in Auckland, New Zealand; Beijing, People's Republic of China; Sydney, Australia and Tokyo, Japan.

DIRECTORS/SERECTARY GENERALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972-1979</td>
<td>Mahe Tupounluia</td>
<td>Director, Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1982</td>
<td>Gabriel Gris</td>
<td>Director, Papua New Guinea (died in office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>John Sheppard</td>
<td>Director Acting Interim Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1983-1986 Mahe Tupounluia, Director, Tonga
1986-1992 Henry Naisali, Secretary General, Tuvalu
1992-1998 Ieremia Tabai, Secretary General, Kiribati
1998-2004 Noel Levi, Secretary General, Papua New Guinea
2004- to be appointed by the 2003 Pacific Islands Forum
Development & Economic Policy Division

The Division provides advice on economic and social policy and development, and works to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation at all levels, including with development partners.

In line with the Forum Secretariat's vision for "a sustainably prosperous and secure Pacific", the Division addresses "sustainable prosperity" through improved education and livelihood opportunities, to help increase individual security and lay the foundations for social and political stability.

The priority projects for 2003 are set out in the accompanying table. Significant developments in the past year include:

- expanding the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific to include the Fiji School of Medicine and the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment;
- establishment of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office in August 2002, in Port Vila, Vanuatu, to seek economies of scale and to overcome limited capacities in member countries by providing safety oversight services and training;
- the Chair of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting attended the SPREP Environment Ministers Forum in July 2002, and exchanged views on environmental vulnerability in the context of meeting Pacific Island aspirations for sustainable livelihoods;
- the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, saw the Pacific collaborating to achieve recognition of the special case for Small Island Developing States.

Development and Economic Policy

The economics section of the division facilitated the development of common goals and sharing of experiences among member countries, and assisted in enhancing capacity in economic management, reform and development.

Regional economic issues are discussed and addressed at the annual Forum Economic Ministers meeting (FEMM). The 2003 FEMM was held in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands on 11-12 June (see FEMM box).

A workshop was held in March 2003 in Nadi, Fiji, for senior finance, planning and environment officials, as well as national non-state actor representatives, on "Sustainable Development and Economic Policy and Planning." This was a build-up to the Ministerial discussion session on this issue in Majuro. The participants shared their experiences in addressing barriers to put into place effective frameworks for integrating these three pillars of sustainable development and looked at potential solutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Objective &amp; Mandate</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Regional Oceans Policy Framework</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sustainable development Mandate; Forum (1999 &amp; 2002)</td>
<td>Postponed to February 2004 due to funding constraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Programme</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enhanced commitment to Pacific sustainable development Mandate; Forum, FEMM (2002) and CROP</td>
<td>FEMM framework for sustainable development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gains from regional cooperation Mandate; PACP Leader (2000s)</td>
<td>Implementation of WSSD and preparations for BPOA + 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Regional Indicative Programme - 9th EDF</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gains from regional cooperation Mandate; Forum &amp; Aviation Ministers</td>
<td>EU 9th EDF PRIP envelope fully committed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Aviation Ministers Meeting</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gains from regional cooperation Mandate; Forum &amp; Aviation Ministers</td>
<td>Adoption of PIASA in 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Strategy &amp; Millennium Development Goals</td>
<td>1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Growth and development Mandate; Forum and FEMM (2002)</td>
<td>Progress establishment of PASO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar on Guidelines for Harmonisation of Donor Practices</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Growth and development Mandate; Work Programme; Monterrey Consensus, WSSD</td>
<td>Poverty alleviation and MDG strategies formulated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biennial FEMM Stocktake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improve implementation of FEMM decisions Mandate; Forum and FEMM</td>
<td>Enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPD - Work Programme Priorities for 2003
In enhancing FIC capacity, the economics section focuses on members’ support and regional advocacy at key fora. This has included participation in workshops and meetings organised by ADB and PECC, and support and advocacy on issues such as economic governance and harmful tax practices. Assistance was also provided to the Government of the Solomon Islands in developing a framework for national economic recovery planning.

Regional Policy Coordination

The regional coordination section focuses on achieving economies of scale and enhancing capacity through sectoral cooperation and providing support for members at regional and global fora. Advice is provided on social and gender issues; sustainable development principles; and policies for the development of infrastructure.

Social policy issues are an increasing focus of the Forum agenda.

In 2002, the Forum noted the need to balance efforts to limit population growth with those required to develop human resources. The development of human resources has been given particular attention through the Forum Education Ministers Meeting held in Suva on 11-12 December 2002. Ministers took this opportunity to review the Forum Basic Education Action Plan adopted at their first meeting in 2001 [see FEDMM Box].

The 2002 Forum also discussed HIV/AIDS and the potential impact this could have in the region if left unchecked. The rate of increase in some countries is cause for concern, while several factors, such as the proportion of young people, the number of professional seamen and propensity for travel, indicate a high degree of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Forum recognition of this problem, has already yielded a major gain - a concerted regional approach to access global funds on HIV/AIDS has resulted in the Global Fund accepting a proposal, put forward by eleven Forum Island Countries with assistance from SPC, WHO and UNAIDS, with US$6.304.000 being awarded for five years.

The Forum Secretariat supports gender equality as an outcome of policies and programmes in order that both men and women can equally contribute to, and benefit from, sustainable development in the region. Gender analysis and advice on policy and programme development has been provided by the Secretariat to member countries, CROP organisations, non-state actors, and intergovernmental organisations across a variety of sectors and issues.

REGIONAL AUTHORISING OFFICER

The Secretary General is mandated by Pacific ACP Leaders to be the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) for the European Development Fund (EDF) Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP).

The RAO coordinates EDF regional programming and ensures that all PRIP projects are implemented according to the rules and conditions of the EDF. The RAO is dually accountable for programme expenditure to Pacific ACP NAOs and the Chief Authorising Officer (the European Commission).

Much of the RAOs work focuses on the administration of PRIP programmes, the closing, acquittal and evaluation of completed programmes and the coordination and development of new projects. The RAO is supported by two technical officers and two administrative assistants within the Forum Secretariat. Currently the RAO is the contracting authority for twelve major regional projects valued at over Euro44.4 million.

Highlights over the past year were:

- Financing Agreements worth Euro23 million signed
- 100% Financial Commitment rate achieved on 6th, 7th and 8th EDfs
- 9th EDF Regional Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme signed.
- Nine new 9th EDF projects developed through CROP/NSA working groups
- 9th EDF proposals valued at Euro29 million submitted to the EC

The RAO is currently focused on achieving full commitment of the 9th EDF; the timely commencement of new projects, and - to take advantage of the new performance rules governing programming - the formulation of new programmes for ‘supplementary’ financing under the 9th EDF.

The Pacific Regional Strategy Paper provides the regional framework for cooperation of the 9th EDF regional indicative programme. This runs for five years under the Cotonou Agreement. On 5th October 2002, it was the first RSP to be signed from the sub-regions of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group.

The three focal areas identified in the RSP to be funded under the 9th EDF regional programme are Regional Economic Integration (Euro 9 million), Human Resource Development (Euro 8 million), Fisheries (Euro 5 million) and the Non-Focal Sector (Euro 7 million).

Funds under the Non-Focal Sector are to extend the 8th EDF regional projects to the six new Pacific ACP countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue and Palau).

The European Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Mr Paul Nielson, signed the Pacific RSP for the European Union during a ceremony at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Acting Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon Ratu Jone Kubuabola, signed on behalf of the Pacific ACP states, while the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr Noel Levi, CBE, signed as the Regional Authorising Officer for the EU/ACP regional programme.
The Secretariat provided ongoing support to the development of gender policies and the implementation of the CROP Gender Strategy (1998). This includes training to build capacity to integrate gender issues into workplace policy and development programmes to achieve gender equality outcomes. The Secretariat organised two regional workshops for Pacific Island members on gender, social and economic issues in global trade and multilateral trading systems and on the elimination of violence against women (see box).

Natural resources policy and coordination form part of the Secretariat’s role in coordinating regional policy initiatives. Key achievements in this area during the past year include:

- The inclusion of the sustainable development needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and reaffirmation of the special case of SIDS in the Johannesburg Plan of Action arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).
- The development of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, endorsed by Forum in 2002. The Policy provides a basis for the strengthening of national and regional actions in relation to oceanic and coastal resources in the Pacific.
- Priorities for sustainable forest management through the United Nations Forum on Forest initiatives.

The coming year will see continued implementation of WSSD outcomes, particularly the 14 Type II umbrella initiatives launched by Leaders that provide the basis for partnerships in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSSD. Focus will also be placed on preparations for the Barbados Plan of Action + 10 conference to be held in Mauritius in 2004.

Preparations are in place for a Regional Ocean Forum to be held in early 2004 to develop a Regional Ocean Strategic Action Plan.

In the area of economic infrastructure policy the Secretariat has concentrated on issues of access, efficiency, liberalisation and private sector involvement.

Work related to ICTs is guided by the Communications Action Plan, which covers issues such as ICT capacity in the region, ICT and development, and regional cooperation. The Forum Secretariat works closely with the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association and other agencies on ICT capacity in the region, and ICT and development.

At the Forum Communications Policy Meeting in April 2002 in Suva, Fiji, Ministers requested accurate and updated data to improve understanding of ICT developments in the region and to enhance decision-making in policy and programme development. This resulted in the Pacific ICT Survey 2002 and a report, Pacific ICT Capacity and Prospects, which detailed ICT developments and constraints in the region. The survey findings were presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Pacific Telecommunications Council in Honolulu, Hawaii in January 2003.

Also in January 2003, Japan hosted the Asia Pacific regional conference in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The Pacific region, through the Forum Secretariat, submitted a regional paper discussing the regions ICT development status, and needs and priorities. This conference paved the way for the Pacific Islands Regional Consultation on the WSIS was held on 9–11 April 2003 in Suva, Fiji. The Forum Secretariat is now working on preparations for the WSIS, to be held in December 2003 in Geneva.

The Secretariat’s work in the civil aviation sector has focussed on three areas initially highlighted in the Forum Aviation Action Plan 2001: economic regulation and liberalisation, regional safety regulation oversight, and airfreight. Air connections are key in the geographically dispersed and remote Pacific region.

To further the Forum’s goals of encouraging private sector development and competition, a Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA) has been developed to create a single regional aviation market. The fourth Forum Aviation Policy Meeting, held on 13-16 July 2003 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, endorsed the PIASA to Leaders for signature. Further work in this area will now focus on developing mechanisms for the support of essential air services to meet socioeconomic development objectives.

In respect to air safety regulation, Forum Aviation Ministers, meeting in Apia, Samoa in 2001, approved in principle an inter-governmental cooperative approach to establish the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO). In 2002, the PASO opened in Port Vila, Vanuatu, with
eight founding members. Other countries are expected to join over time and some may also use PASO services on a contract basis.

The Forum Secretariat jointly developed a draft Air Freight Action Plan with the Forum Fisheries Agency to facilitate regional cooperation in airfreight services for export.

Building on this, at their 2003 meeting, Aviation Ministers adopted a policy framework for cooperative development of airfreight for export promotion intended to maximise the value of exports.

Ministers approved in principle a regional action plan to facilitate the development of new services, particularly by identifying ways for governments to encourage private sector development of airfreight.

The Secretariat has assisted the Pacific region in structuring an integrated policy, and planning framework to map out future energy developments through the:

- Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Plan, which provides a framework to implement Ministerial decisions by coordinating regional activities and offering guidelines for national actions; and
- Pacific Islands Energy for Sustainable Development Initiative, a Type II partnership initiative developed for WSSD.

The Pacific region is implementing the Pacific Islands Energy for Sustainable Development Initiative, which calls for development of a broad range of renewable energy technologies and improvements to the efficiency of the conventional energy sector. Funding and technical assistance to implement the activities is being sought.

Development Cooperation

Promoting the effective use of development assistance is the key focus of the development cooperation section. This includes analysis and supporting technical assistance for regional development programmes, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The section also manages three small grants schemes - the Short-term Technical Advisory Scheme, the Forum Secretariat Fellowship Scheme and the SIDS Development Fund.

Participation in the Rome High Level Forum on Harmonisation of Donor Practices on behalf of the Pacific, in particular, and SIDS, in general, helped to profile the region's interests. In this regard a significant achievement was the recognition of the SIDS in the design of guiding principles.

The annual PIC Development Partners meeting was an opportunity for PICs and Development Partners to discuss the implications of the Rome Declaration. The meeting is the main opportunity for both groups to openly discuss issues of mutual concern. This meeting immediately follows the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) and also discusses implementation of the Forum Economic Action Plan as revised by successive meetings.

The Millennium Development Goals advocacy with member countries was a key task for the Division. A multi-stakeholder workshop was also held for PICs concerning the achievement of MDGs and the incorporation of these into national planning processes. Continued follow-up, advocacy and technical support to members were provided throughout the year.

Considerable resources have been directed toward the inception of the Taiwan/ROC-Pacific Islands Forum Scholarship Scheme, which offers:

- long term sponsorship of students to complete formal qualifications at undergraduate and post graduate levels;
- short-term awards of up to two months, to build human resource capacity in the Pacific region, through the work of regional organisations.

The Secretariat's assistance schemes include two funds financed by Japan - the Pacific Islands Development Cooperation Fund and the Japan-Forum Partnership Programme. These finance activities in energy, environment, tourism and cultural development.

Two technical assistance programmes are managed by the Secretariat on behalf of Forum Island Countries and donors. The first of these, the Canadian - South Pacific Oceans Programme - Phase II (C-SPOD II), is winding down, with available funds fully committed in principle and the Programme scheduled to close in the second half of 2004.

The second technical assistance programme is the European Union (EU) funded Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP).

Under the PRIP, the EU funds Technical Assistance positions to support the Regional Authorising Officer, who is the Secretary General through appointment by the Pacific ACP Group Leaders. Very good progress has been made in all areas of PRIP implementation. These include full financial commitment on the 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds - the Pacific's 9th EDF Regional Strategy Paper was the first among all ACP regions to be agreed.

Through the CROP working group mechanism, projects valued at Euro 29 million were developed and submitted to the Commission for funding under the 9th EDF.

A new PRIP initiative in Basic Education will be implemented through the PRIDE project. Other 9th EDF projects will include the Regional Economic Integration Programme, to further develop regional and national capacities in trade and tourism; and the Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific ACP countries (DEVPISH) to be implemented jointly by FFA and SPC.

The 9th EDF will also finance the extension of EU funded 'natural resource' programmes to the six new Pacific ACP countries.

Over the next year, the RAO will focus on achieving full commitment of the 9th EDF; the timely commencement of new projects; and - under new performance rules governing programming - the formulation of new programmes for 'supplementary' financing under the 9th EDF.
FORUM EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING


Several components of the Plan will be implemented as a project, “Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Education” (PRIDE), within the European Union’s 9th EDF Pacific Regional Indicative Programme. Start up of this work has occurred with funding from NZAID.

Key highlights of the Ministerial Meeting included:
- welcoming of the report by UNESCO on progress in implementing Education for All in the Pacific and the request by Ministers for development partners to support its implementation.

FORUM AVIATION MINISTERIAL

Forum Aviation Ministers endorsed the regional Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA), and approved the Aviation Action Plan 2003, at their meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 16 July 2003. The Action Plan is focused on Economic Regulation and Liberalisation; Regional Safety Regulation Oversight Programme; Airspace Management and Airfreight for Export Promotion.

Ministers welcomed work on mechanisms for the support of essential services, that allow countries to intervene when required to meet socio-economic development objectives, and that are consistent with the Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA). To further the Forums goals of encouraging private sector development and competition, Ministers agreed to endorse the PIASA for signature at the Pacific Islands Forum next month in Auckland, New Zealand, by Leaders of Forum island Countries that wish to become Parties.

Ministers recommitted themselves to improve safety oversight and to meet their obligations under the ICAO Convention on International Civil Aviation by enhancing regional capacity. Ministers noted with recognition that financing education is a key issue in improving basic education and consideration of a range of strategies (including reviews, training and workshops) to assist countries improve their education financing and thus improve the quality of education.

- emphasis on the importance of early childhood care and education for increasing the efficiency of primary and secondary education, contributing to future productivity and income, reducing gender inequities and increasing female participation in the labour force, children

• discussion of the serious challenge of education of children and youth with disabilities and the outlining by Ministers of measures to improve access to education by those with disabilities

The Ministerial meeting was followed by a roundtable dialogue that brought together Ministers, officials, CROP organisations, intergovernmental organisations, donors and regional non-state actors.

"There is a long way to go in achieving a quality education to equip our children. Our challenge is to develop an education system that prepares our young people to fulfil their dreams; places greater importance on character building values, and ensures equity.”
- Prime Minister of Fiji and Forum Chair, Hon. Laisenia Qarase, opening the Forum Education Ministers Meeting.

appreciation the successful establishment of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) and the approval of the first Business Plan by the PASO Council of Directors.

Ministers adopted a policy framework for cooperative development of airfreight for export promotion intended to maximise the value of exports. Ministers approved in principle a regional action plan to facilitate the development of new services, particularly by identifying ways for governments to encourage private sector development of airfreight.

The theme of the 2003 FEMM, "Addressing Economic Disparities", recognised that a core economic policy aim is to identify and remove those obstacles that keep the poor from taking part in economic activities.

A common concern at FEMM has been the need to improve the planning processes followed by Pacific Islands. The Ministers discussed Economic and Social Development and the Environment, highlighting their experiences in integrating sustainable development issues into economic planning and budgeting. Discussion on the Millennium Development Goals recognised their relevance to the Pacific, and their usefulness in improving the integration of planning for sustainable development. This discussion will be built upon in 2004 when Ministers have asked for an analysis of national planning frameworks in the Pacific.

Other concerns considered at FEMM 2003 included the regional economic outlook, international tax and investment issues, issues in country risk assessments, corporate governance and statistics. Ministers also discussed progress in work on commercial law, environmental vulnerability, and risk financing for disasters.

Considering implementation of the Forum Economic Action Plan Ministers noted reforms that have occurred in member countries that progress the implementation of FEMM decisions. If the Pacific is to develop in a sustainable manner then it is vital that governments, regional organisations and development partners are committed to learning the lessons of past experience. They also recognised the importance of integration of FEMM decisions into national processes, and in the monitoring of these. The result of a stocktake of FEMM implementation will be presented to FEMM in 2004.

FUNDING ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

The Forum Secretariat (FS) coordinates several programs which provide funding assistance to Pacific Islands Forum member states. Details of each scheme are available from the Forum Secretariat.

Assistance Scheme for Law Enforcement Agencies

Increases FICs access to international and regional law enforcement and legal expertise and to develop regional and international contacts for information exchange on management and technical issues.

FIC Travel and Consultancy

Provides assistance and advice to member countries on international relations issues, and access to international processes to generate and maintain support for Forum positions.

Forum Secretariat Fellowship Scheme (FSFS)

Aims to promote development in public and private sectors by funding short-term development-oriented practical attachments of up to three months in a range of technical and income generating fields.

Industry Development & Training Project (IDTP)

Provides assistance to manufacturing and processing industries to develop export capacity and enhance trade and investment.

Legal Drafting Assistance

Provides assistance with legal drafting to support regional priority policies and programmes, in particular including the priorities specified in Forum Communiqués and the Honiara Declaration.

Marketing Support Fund (MSF)

Helps small businesses wishing to initiate exports of their products to inter-regional and extra-regional markets.

Regional Natural Disaster Relief Fund (RNDRF)

Provides member countries with $20,000 for immediate relief in the wake of natural disasters.

Short Term Advisory Service (STAS)

Provides a regional source for small, quick response consultancies to assist Forum Island Countries meet priority economic development needs.

Small Island States Development Fund (SISDF)

Provides funds for SIS countries to address critical bottlenecks in development programs or projects. Funding can also be used for short-term consultancies to assist in economic management, development planning and aid coordination and delivery.

Taiwan/Republic of China – Pacific Islands Forum Scholarship Scheme

Provides funding assistance for higher (tertiary) education to members of the Forum Island Countries to improve human resource development in the FICs. Application forms are on the Forum Secretariat website: www.forumsec.org.fj or from the Development and Economic Policy Division, Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji or email: Taiwanrcsc@forumsec.org.fj

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The Division provides policy advice and technical assistance on multilateral trade, regional integration and trade facilitation, business development, export and investment promotion and import management; and, through the work of the Forum’s Trade Offices, to help members improve their trade and investment performance.

I. Multilateral Trade, Regional Integration and Trade Facilitation

The key trade instruments for promoting regional integration include the trade and economic cooperation agreements—the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER). PICTA came into force on 13 April 2003 after the sixth ratification was received, while PACER entered into force on 3 October 2002, after receipt of the required seventh ratification [Table 1].

Trade facilitation is another important strategy for regional integration. As required under PACER, the Division developed a Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP), covering Customs, Quarantine and Standards and Conformance. The draft RTFP was endorsed by Forum Trade Ministers in July 2003 with funding to be discussed with members and donors before the end of the year.

Efforts to make the multilateral trade regime more enabling for the FICs and other small economies include effective participation in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) process, for which the Secretariat has been providing assistance in accession and in developing and advocating FIC positions in the WTO Small Economies Work Program (SEWP). Part of this strategy is to develop alliances with like-minded or similar small economies with the CARICOM, the IJC and the Commonwealth Secretariats. Training was also provided to members on WTO and negotiation skills. This helped to develop FIC positions in the WTO negotiations and a common strategy for the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003.

To help enhance FIC participation at WTO, the EU will fund a joint representation office in Geneva for the FICs and the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS). Six-month attachments to the Office for FIC Trade Officials on a rotational basis will be provided to help build capacity. The office is expected to be operational by end 2003.

Through the Secretariat’s participation at APEC, the FICs have been kept abreast with the liberalisation initiatives within APEC while APEC member economies are kept informed on major initiatives within the Forum. The Secretary General represented the Forum at the 14th APEC Ministerial Meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico in October 2002, and provided an update on regional developments in the areas of trade and investment.

Under the Cotonou Agreement, the Pacific ACP countries have agreed to negotiate Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU that are WTO-compatible. The Secretariat has been supporting the preparations for EPA negotiations through policy research and advice, the conduct of workshops and policy meetings, and the provision of technical assistance. Major studies were carried out in the areas of advantage and interest of the FICs including fisheries, tourism, sugar and investment in programmes for regional specific negotiations. The findings of these studies and those that will be undertaken later this year will assist the region in formulating regional positions for the EPA negotiations.

The two-phase approach towards EPA negotiation adopted by the ACP and the EU started in September 2002 with Phase
covering discussions on non-market access issues, mainly dealing with supply side constraints and trade facilitation issues. Negotiations under Phase I have been slow and many issues of divergence between the ACP and EU are yet to be resolved. Phase II is supposed to start in September this year but it is now not likely that the issues outstanding under Phase I will be resolved in time for the beginning of the second Phase.

Under the EU 9th European Development Fund (EDF), a new project is being developed to support regional economic integration of the Pacific ACP States.

The Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) in 2001 agreed that an effective system of intellectual property rights (IPR) is one element that contributes to a confident and secure business environment leading to increased investment. The work of the Secretariat here includes the implementation of the Regionally Focused Action Plan (RFAP) on core IPR issues as well as Traditional Knowledge protection. Work on Traditional Knowledge is divided into the Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture (with SPC) and the Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Innovations and Practices (with SPREP). Good progress has been made on the RFAP with the assistance of the World Property Organization and Intellectual Property Australia. The Regional Framework (including the Model Law) for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture was endorsed by the Culture Ministers in September 2002 and is now ready for implementation.

II. Business Development, Export and Investment Promotion and Import Management

The achievement of sustainable development in the FICs requires the mobilisation of the private sector. While FIC Governments have a crucial role to play in establishing favourable and conducive environment for private sector development, it is important that the private sector be in a position to respond to the incentives and opportunities available. The Secretariat has been assisting FIC governments with the development of their private sector policies and public-private sector mechanisms for consultation.

The Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies Meeting (HIPAM) is one mechanism through which FICs are assisted with their private sector and investment policy development work. The 2003 HIPAM held in Beijing, China on 12-13 September focused on addressing administrative barriers to investment, investment perceptions, and collaboration with Trade Office amongst others.

At the practical level two projects were launched in September 2002 under the Canadian-South Pacific Ocean Development Programme (C-SPOD II) to support the development of finfish exports and capacity building within the fisheries sector. Seven FICs have so far benefited from the two schemes.

The four major kava exporting FICs, namely, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, continued to suffer considerable losses in export earnings as a direct result of restrictions put in place by European countries in late 2001 and followed by USA and Canada on the importation of kava and kava-based products. A recent study, commissioned by the Secretariat, confirmed that there was no basis for the recall of kava and kava-based products. However, the Committee, including key stakeholders from the EU and the FICs, was established to organise and provide a lobbying campaign, to apply pressure on European health authorities to reconsider their decisions. Further actions are being planned.

Funding support was provided to nearly 30 enterprises from various sectors and industries under the Marketing Support Fund (MSF) and niche Product Development Fund (NPDF). This resulted in improved quality of export products and better understanding of market requirements. The MSF also covered FIC participation at the Pacific Islands Trade Exhibition held in Tokyo, Japan on 15-20 May 2003. The Exhibition, co-organised by the Pacific Islands Centre (PIC), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Secretariat, coincided with the Third Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting (PALM 2003).

The Petroleum Advisory Service (PAS) provides ongoing advice to FICs in support of fuel price negotiations and other petroleum issues. Services provided to the FICs under the PAS are highlighted in Table 4.

The Pacific Fuel Price Monitor has also been introduced, which tracks and reports on a bi-monthly basis the pre-tax cost and after-tax wholesale and retail price of petroleum fuels across the region. This highlighted a number of systematic fuel cost discrepancies that led some FICs to initiate investigations as to their source and validity.

In FICs with independently owned fuel terminals, competition was achieved through the periodic offer of multi-year supply tenders. In other countries, pressure was being put on suppliers, through annual negotiations, to achieve greater efficiencies while maintaining a reasonable level of service. Increasingly, PAS was being asked to work towards reducing costs and in some cases, countries pooling their demand on a sub-regional basis, thereby increasing their purchasing power.
Forum Secretariat Trade Policy Officer Ms Veniana Qalo (left), briefs a seminar in Tuvalu on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA). Teams from the Secretariat held a series of national consultations in the lead-up to the two regional agreements, and followed up with briefings after the PACER and PICTA entered into force. A regional trade facilitation programme is part of on-going efforts to help Forum Island Countries prepare for regional trade integration.

III. Forum Trade Offices' support to FICs

The Forum Trade Offices in Auckland, Beijing, Sydney and Tokyo provide direct and practical support to the FIC trade and investment contacts and the private sectors in developing and facilitating their exports to the respective markets. They also promote FICs as ideal location for investment and as a tourism destination. The Beijing Trade Office is the newest office, which commenced its operation in January 2002 and was officially opened by the Secretary General on 11 September 2002.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE (PIC), TOKYO

The PIC promoted trade, investment and tourism between Forum Island Countries and Japan, mainly through seminars, workshops, trade fairs and promotional materials.

New publications included a statistical handbook on Japan’s trade with FICs from 1990 to 2001; a catalogue of PIC product samples; an updated Japanese version of the latest “Foreign Investment Climate in Forum Island Countries” compiled by the Forum Secretariat; and travel guidebooks on Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

Other activities included the organization of FIC participation at various trade fairs including FOODEX 2003 in March; Marine Dive Fair in April; the Pacific Islands Trade Exhibition in Tokyo and in Okinawa, in May 2003; special attachments, seminars and business meetings and investment opportunities. PIC staff visited a number of FICs including Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa, to offer advice how to develop and market their products for the Japanese market.
The activities organised by PIFTO included visits by business delegations from a number of FICs to China to meet with manufacturers and exporters; participation by China's five largest travel companies at the Bula Fiji Tourism Exchange in June 2003; and trade and investment seminars for potential investors in China interested in contacts with Pacific Islands business people.

Other promotional events include the popular Pacific Club Cocktail event, held regularly at the Hilton Hotel in Beijing, each time featuring one of the Forum Island Countries. Selected Pacific Island products can compete on quality at the Chinese trade fairs in China, but face very strong competition from South East Asia on pricing.

The PIFTO has expanded a database of key industry contacts and updated information is provided on new trade rules and requirements in China. Background checks are also provided on request to ensure the bona fides of potential business partners.

Efforts continue with the China National Tourism Administration to have a Pacific Islands stopover listed as an approved tourism destination. A second tourism promotion DVD has been completed featuring FICs.

The work programme of the office in the first half of 2003 suffered due to SARS but the activities have been rescheduled for implementation for the second half of 2003.

Above: (L-R) Pacific Island trade & investment officials Ms Aida Faumai, Samoa; Mr Taufilo Pungame, Tuvalu; and PIFTO Marketing Officer Ms Ping Yang at a trade fair in Xiamen. Below: A Chinese dragon dance, and items by Pacific Island students in Beijing, were part of the opening ceremonies of the PIFTO in September 2002.

GENEVA FORUM OFFICE

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is to establish an office in Geneva in late 2003, funded by the European Union, to represent the Forum Island Countries at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The Pacific ACP states are currently negotiating with the European Union for a WTO-compatible trade arrangement that will replace the trade preferences granted under the LOME Convention from 1 January 2008.

Under the Cotonou Agreement signed in Benin in June 2000 the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU are required to negotiate a new trade arrangement between 2002 and 2007. It was important for the FICs to ensure that their trade interests are accommodated in such a new trade arrangement and in the WTO rules.

The meeting identified strategies to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue in the area of trade. The symposium agreed that trade must also contribute to the improvement of human development (including eradication of poverty), gender equality, social justice and environmental sustainability.
PACIFIC ISLANDS TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION (PITIC), AUCKLAND

PITIC Auckland provided support in New Zealand for Forum countries in export marketing, investment promotion, tourism promotion and industry development. The other main focus was information dissemination, trade facilitation and investment promotion.

The Commission upgraded its IT capabilities and data base, broadened its coverage on produce price reporting, introduced a monthly newsletter ‘Pacific Plant Focus’ and liaised closely with relevant New Zealand ministries, counterpart trade offices and FIC trade and industry contacts.

Trade facilitation work covered areas such as bio-security, standards and conformance and trade promotion. This included a project assisted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Alliance (SPC) to intercept the Rhizoglyphus minus pest on imported taro. Submissions were made to Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) on kava and cassava and facilitated an interim arrangement for resumption of corned beef exports from Fiji into New Zealand pending categorisation and compliance.

Quarterly Roundtable Meetings with importers of products from the Pacific Islands helped to resolve some of the obstacles to trade and created a better working relationship with interested parties. The Commission also took part in a number of trade fairs. On investment promotion, in-country seminars were organised along with presentations to industry groups.

PITIC is also taking the lead in organising “Trade Showcase” coinciding with the 2003 Forum Meeting in Auckland.

PACIFIC ISLANDS TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION (PITIC), SYDNEY

PITIC Sydney reviewed its 5-Year Strategic Plan (2001–2005) and refocused three programs: the Business Export Australia Programme (BEAP), the Pacific Investment Programme (PIP) and the Public Affairs & Information Programme (PAIP).

The Business Export Australia Programme (BEAP) assisted FIC governments and businesses seeking access to the Australian import market. Country visits helped to identify companies able to start, or increase, their exports to Australia. Support included funding for primary research as well as MOUs with FICs. Product flyers were produced for FIC businesses as well as an Industry Guide on the Australian seafood market.

The Pacific Investment Programme (PIP) assisted FIC companies and/or individuals with skills to prepare business plans and investment project profiles. Business development initiatives focused on FIC products and companies, while business training involved mixed groups of public/private sector representatives in several countries. FICs to help develop basic business skills. PIP produced a “Tourism Investment Guide in the Pacific Islands” on the current investment climate and giving an overview of the tourism industry in each FIC.

The Public Affairs & Information Programme (PAIP) modified the PITIC website and improved the information storage and dissemination systems. Major publications included “A Guide to Exporting Cocoa from the Pacific Islands”, “A Packaging and Labelling Guide to the Australian Market”, and “Exporting Timber from the Pacific Islands”. PITIC’s two bi-monthly newsletters; Pacific Online and Pacific Outlook were redesigned to reflect the changing Pacific trade and investment environment. A comprehensive report on FIC trade performance with Australia was produced showing exports, imports & trade balances on a regional, sub-regional and individual country basis.

In-country visits, training attachments and business development training workshops were organised in several FICs. PITIC continued to work closely with the Australia/Pacific Islands, Australia/Fiji and Australia/PNG Business Councils plus key Australian policy and regulatory bodies in NSW, Canberra and Queensland.
FORUM TRADE MINISTERIAL

Forum Trade Ministers met in Nadi Fiji, on 3 July 2003, to discuss progress in the implementation of agreements to establish a free trade area and promote closer economic cooperation and to address intellectual property rights issues in the region.

Both the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) had entered into force since their last meeting in 2001. Under the PACER, a Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP) is being established, covering, at a minimum, Customs, Quarantine, and Standards and Conformance activities.

Ministers considered three studies they had commissioned that covered the possible inclusion of alcohol and tobacco products in the PICTA, the possible extension of the PICTA to the Pacific French and US Territories, and options for FIC trade and investment arrangements with the United States.

Subject to endorsement by Forum Leaders, Ministers agreed that membership of PICTA and PACER could be offered to the Pacific French and US Territories. The Ministers noted that under PICTA, the possible incorporation of alcohol and tobacco into the Agreement would need to be considered by FIC parties by April 2005.

The Ministers noted the draft regional framework for the protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture, as well as the need to expedite the development of a Traditional Ecological Knowledge regional framework. There was good progress made in the implementation of the Regionally Focused Action Plan (RFAP) activities and Ministers endorsed options on the regional mechanism for industrial property management.

PACIFIC ACP TRADE MINISTERIAL

Pacific ACP Trade Ministers met in Nadi Fiji, on 4 July 2003, to discuss the current state of negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and the European Union (EU) on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) under the Cotonou Agreement and the preparations for future regional EPA negotiations.

The Trade Ministers noted key concerns to the ACP States such as agriculture, fisheries and services, and not only issues relating to market access. The main aim of the Cotonou Agreement was poverty eradication, sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP into the global economy. The unity of the ACP Group was vital as developments unfolded during the EPA negotiation process.

The Ministers directed the Trade Experts Advisory Group, through the Forum Secretariat, to develop a strategy paper on regional positions, taking into consideration the findings of all studies, national consultations and conclusion of the Phase I ACP-wide negotiations.

The Ministers agreed that FICs would seek meaningful political recognition for the special trade-related problems of small, vulnerable economies and the need for appropriate responses to these problems in the current WTO negotiations.

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FORUM TRADE OFFICES

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Studies Undertaken and its Benefits to the Forum Island Countries
July 2002 - June 2003

PICTA RELATED
   This study provides direction to the extension of PICTA to French and US Territories. The Trade Ministers have decided to pursue this further with the Territories.

2. Study on Options for Trade and Investment Arrangements with the USA by Professor Robert Scollay.
   This study was undertaken based on Leaders decision to study FIC's trade and investment relations with the US with the view to making improvements. The study found that there was scope as well as some significant barriers in advancing this issue with the US.

WTO RELATED
3. Study on Modalities for the Integration of Alcohol and Tobacco in the PICTA by Dr. Waddan Narsey.
   The study found benefits as well as some concerns in including alcohol and tobacco in PICTA. The Trade Ministers have agreed to look at this more carefully before a decision is taken.

   The study recommended, and the Trade Ministers agreed, to seek reduction of trade-distorting measures on edible oils, while maintaining flexibility for the FICs in line with the Special and Differential Treatment principle to subsidise their coconut and palm oil industries.

TRADE FACILITATION
5. Study to Develop Priority Project Proposals for the Customs Component of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP).
   The findings of the study assisted FICs to agree on priority programmes and activities on customs issues that will enhance and facilitate trade. The RTFP is to be funded primarily by Australia and New Zealand under the PACER.

6. Study to Develop a Framework and Priority proposals for the Standards and Conformance Component of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme.
   The findings of the study assisted FICs to agree on priority programmes and activities on Standards and Conformance issues that will enhance and facilitate trade. The RTFP is to be funded primarily by Australia and New Zealand under the PACER.

PACIFIC ACP STUDIES
   The study examined various impact scenarios under the EPAs which helped inform the Pacific ACP Countries of the implications of negotiating with the EU. The finding of the study was used as part of the consultation process with the member states.

8. Trade Policy Assessment Study for PACP countries by Professor David Forsyth.
   The study reviewed the trade policies of the Pacific ACP Countries which helped informed them of the likely implications of the EPA negotiations on such policies. The study was used as part of the consultation process with the member states.

9. EPA Investment Study by Professor David Forsyth.
   Investment issues are of major importance to the Pacific region in their preparation for EPA negotiation with the EU in Phase II. The study will assist the member states and the region to formulate regional and country positions on investment issues.

10. EPA Tourism Study by Robert Cleverdon.
    Tourism development is of major importance to the Pacific region in their preparation for EPA negotiation with the EU in Phase II. The study will assist the member states and the region to formulate regional and country positions on tourism issues.

11. EPA Sugar Study by Professor Robert Scollay.
    Sugar is crucial to the economies of Fiji (and also PNG). The study will assist Fiji and PNG with the formulation of their positions on the handling of sugar in the context of EPA negotiations.

12. EPA Fisheries Study by Ian Cartwright.
    Fishery resources are of major importance to the Pacific region in their preparation for EPA negotiations with the EU in Phase II. The study will assist the member states and the region to formulate regional and country positions on fisheries matters.

Benefits of Petroleum Advisory Service to Forum Island Countries
2002 - 2003

All Forum Island Countries

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of petroleum market regional pricing, demand and other relevant petroleum data
- Regular publication of Pacific Fuel Price Monitor
- Advised on TALI (utility) fuel tender
- Ongoing advice on regulated fuel issues including recent enquiry on outer Island fuel cost and pricing
- In-country training of government and utility staff regarding fuel pricing issues

FSM

Fiji Islands
- Periodic advice to FII on fuel price regulation issues.
- Major review of Fiji Islands fuel industry being undertaken from June 2003.
- FEA fuel cost monitoring and verification.
- Detailed study on Outer Island fuel economics pending.

Kiribati
- In-country training workshop planned for August 2003.
- Following up on previous extensive work on contract re-negotiation with monopoly supplier Mobil Oil and independent inspection and valuation of Tarawa fuel terminal.

**Marshall Islands**

**Nauru**
- Developing a proposed implementation strategy for previously reported proposal to convert Nauru into a Central Pacific fuel entrepot.
- Delegates were invited to Sub-regional Fuel Pricing Workshops in Suva, Fiji in June 2001 and Pohnpei, FSM in July 2002 but did not attend either venue.

**Niue**
- Developing options to deal with the pending expiration of the Niue fuel supply contract, which may involve international tender for supply.
- Advised on Aviation contract options.

**PNG**
- Identified questionable claims by oil industry worth in excess of 100 million Kina.
- Identified serious systematic problems with fuel pricing policy proposed for implementation post-refinery production in mid 2004.

**Solomon Islands**
- Annual review of Fuel and LPG Pricing Templates
- Reviewed and advised on proposed conditions for withdrawal of Mobil Oil from Solomon Islands.

**Vanuatu**
- Review of the fuel industry identified a significant opportunity to convert Port Vila and Espiritu Santo into MR ports and significantly reducing fuel cost.
- Highlighted the need to consider either price regulation or a price monitoring system to ensure the availability of reasonably affordable fuel supplies for retail, government and utilities.

### Benefits of Marketing Support Fund (MSF)

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<tr>
<td>Cook Is.</td>
<td>Premium Noni Ltd</td>
<td>Exploration Visit-PRC, Australia, NZ</td>
<td>- Secured buyers &amp; distributors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Rotomould</td>
<td>Exploration Visit to Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu</td>
<td>- Secured buyers for water tanks in all 3 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Received orders in excess of $300,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Produced corporate video for international clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Niusam</td>
<td>Exploration Visit-Tonga Samoa, A.Samoa</td>
<td>- Increase in visitors to Savusavu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Niue Dept. of Trade</td>
<td>Exhibition Participation-Tonga Trade Fair USA</td>
<td>- Made contact with 20 possible distributors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>Chuuk Visitors Bureau</td>
<td>Exhibition Participation - DEMA, USA</td>
<td>- Made contact with new buyers &amp; learned techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>Pohnpei Visitors Bureau</td>
<td>Promotion material</td>
<td>- Able to learn new techniques in food preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Secured distributors for Asian markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Able to sign agreements with number of soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Signed MOU with Taiwanese company to distribute kava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- New image of country leading to increased exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased exposure to Chuik’s diving industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Exposure of marine products at Trade Show, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased enquiries of agriculture &amp; fish products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in potential buyers of handicrafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased exposure and membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Secured buyers for agricultural products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased interest in Tongan-grown Sato Iro (Japanese taro)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Enhanced image of product leading to increased exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased interest in fish products leading to sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Distribution of printed material leading to increased sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Targeted new Caledia result in increased sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Able to display &amp; promote products at trade fairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increased sales &amp; awareness in new market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Created awareness of products &amp; secured potential buyers</td>
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</tbody>
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*PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT 2002 • 2003 Annual Report*
Political, International & Legal Affairs Division

The Division promotes Forum interests and positions in international fora and provides policy advice and technical assistance to members on international relations, law enforcement cooperation, political, legal and security issues.

The main focus of the Division during the past year included:
- combating transnational crimes and law enforcement legislative responses to such crimes;
- development of a model leadership code;
- legal matters, especially the implementation of the legislative priorities of the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation and the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security;
- climate change, with increasing emphasis on adaptation mechanisms and strategies;
- shipments of radioactive materials through the region and in particular discussions on a liability and compensation regime in relation to those shipments; and
- monitoring of regional political developments in member countries.

With regard to International Issues, in May 2003, the 3rd PALM summit between the Leaders of Japan and the Forum was held in Okinawa and adopted the Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a more Prosperous and Safer Pacific.

The global response to terrorism continued to be a major issue confronting member states as they faced the demands of the Security Council. A report was compiled, on behalf of the Forum members, and issued at the Special Meeting of the UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) on the progress in implementing the UNSC resolutions on counter-terrorism measures.

At the 57th UNGA, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued his first report on "Cooperation between the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations" which was debated by the Assembly, and which resolved to follow up the recommendations of the report.

The UN High-Level Framework for Cooperation between the UN and Regional Organisations in Peace-building, adopted a year ago, required more proactive implementation. For example, the Secretariat shared information with the UN Department of Political Affairs on ways to address the post-conflict situation in the Solomon Islands.

Diplomatic and political ties with the South East Asian countries continued to strengthen. At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, the Secretary General visited Jakarta and met with select Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister responsible for developments in Eastern Indonesia.

The meetings discussed the Forum’s concerns on West Papua: the terrorist bombings in Bali, and the meeting between Indonesia and Forum Ministers at the Post Forum Dialogue in August 2002 in Nadi, Fiji. The Secretary General also met the Deputy Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the ASEAN headquarters and exchanged views on strengthening institutional links at the political level.

In close cooperation with the other regional organisations (SPREP and SOPAC), the Secretariat raised Forum views on climate change, climate variability and sea level rise at regional and international fora. The Secretariat attended the Pacific High-Level Adaptation meeting in Fiji, followed by the Roundtable on Climate Change, to coordinate activities aimed at promoting the region’s interests and funding requirements.

The importance of the Kyoto Protocol being ratified and entering into Force in a timely manner was emphasised by the Secretariat at various fora, including the recent PALM summit in May 2003 between the Leaders of Japan and the Pacific Islands Forum.

The Secretariat also promoted close cooperation with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and...
Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) on a range of regional issues.

The Post Forum Dialogue process remained an important mechanism for engaging with development partners, and the Group to monitor and advise on developments in Solomon Islands. The Secretariat was mandated to mobilise regional action and funds to support Solomon Islands economically, politically and socially. A national workshop was held in the Solomon Islands in 2003 on post-conflict peace building.

Peace building programmes have been incorporated into the Secretariat’s 2003-2005 Work Programme. The 2002 FOC Budget and Work Programme endorsed the establishment of the Regional Security Fund and directed the Secretariat to source funding for the RSF.

There was close collaboration on security issues with key institutions including the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Council for Asia Pacific Security Cooperation (CSCAP).

The Secretariat continued to monitor regional issues of concern to its members, including developments in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and West Papua. In July 2003, Forum Leaders met with President Jacques Chirac of French Polynesia for an informal meeting. The Forum Officials Committee Sub-Committee on French Polynesia is scheduled to visit Papeete in late 2003 or early 2004.

The Secretariat commissioned further national security studies in 2003 covering Cook Islands, Niue and Tuvalu. The reports were tabled at the June meeting of the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting.

The development of a regional model leadership code was tabled at the Forum Regional Security Committee and was to be presented to the 2003 Pacific Islands Forum as a useful document for those countries willing to explore the comprehensive processes it outlined.

National Security Studies

The Forum Secretariat commissioned further national security studies to help focus attention on regional security issues. Professor Ron Crocombe and Mr Siliga Kofe conducted the 2003 studies which covered Cook Islands, Niue and Tuvalu. The reports were tabled at the June meeting of the Forum Regional Security Committee.

Earlier security studies were conducted in 2001 (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) and 2002 (Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and Tonga) with the reports also going before the FRSC. The 2004 studies will cover the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands.
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The law enforcement unit within

the Secretariat expanded from one to four

with the addition of an Anti-Money

Laundering Consultant (AMLC); a Law

Enforcement Statistics Officer (LESO) and

a Law Enforcement Training Coordinator

(LETC) to work with the Law Enforcement

Adviser. This expansion highlights the

Secretariat's commitment to combating

transnational crime.

The final draft of the Regional

Weapons Control Bill was presented to the

2003 FRSC.

The working relationship between the

regional specialist law enforcement

agencies such as the Oceania Customs

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Secretariat continued to strengthen.

The focus has been on cooperation,
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Secretariat and the law enforcement

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Nasonini Declaration on Regional

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The law enforcement unit within the Secretariat expanded from one to four with the addition of an Anti-Money Laundering Consultant (AMLC); a Law Enforcement Statistics Officer (LESO) and a Law Enforcement Training Coordinator (LETC) to work with the Law Enforcement Adviser. This expansion highlights the Secretariat's commitment to combating transnational crime.

The final draft of the Regional Weapons Control Bill was presented to the 2003 FRSC.

The working relationship between the regional specialist law enforcement agencies such as the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC), the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCCP) and the Forum Secretariat continued to strengthen.

The focus has been on cooperation, intelligence sharing and examining the training, exchange of information and legislative requirements of UNSCR 1373 and the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The Secretariat and the law enforcement agencies have produced Frameworks for compliance with UNSCR 1373 and ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime.

Enacting the legislative priorities of the Honiara Declaration would be a positive step towards addressing UNSCR 1373 and would assist in the ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. Enactment would also meet the obligations outlined by Forum Leaders in the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security, which supports the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation.

The Secretariat assisted Members to build capacity in legal and drafting matters and provided advice on relevant regional and international legal issues.

**Expert Working Group**

At the 33rd Pacific Islands Forum in August last year in Fiji, Forum Leaders adopted the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security and urged members to take a coordinated approach to combat terrorism and transnational organised crime.

An Expert Working Group met twice in 2003 and developed a regional framework to address terrorism and trans-national organised crime. The framework includes model legislation that can be adapted by countries to suit their national circumstances.

The EWG reviewed model Honiara Declaration legislation to ensure it met the requirements of UNSCR 1373 and the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime. In-country visits by legal drafters are planned to help to adapt the model legislation to fit existing legislative frameworks.

The EWG submitted their outcomes to the Forum Regional Security Committee which reports to Forum Leaders.
Legal drafting assistance to help members implement the commitments made under the 1992 Honiara Declaration was provided in accordance with the 1998 Forum Regional Security Committee Action Plan. At their 2002 meeting, Leaders recommitted to full implementation of the relevant legislation under the Honiara Declaration by the end of 2003.

The Secretariat acts as depository for several regional agreements such as the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols, the Waigani Convention, the Rarotonga Treaty, SPARTECA, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER), and the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA).

The Secretariat also promotes the views and activities of the Pacific Islands Forum through print and broadcast media, the Secretariat's website, media briefings, public addresses and a variety of promotional materials.

Small Arms in the Pacific

A special report based on a 14-month study of Small Arms in the Pacific was launched in April 2003 at the Forum Secretariat. The report by Philip Alpers and Conor Twyford was commissioned by the Small Arms Survey and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva, and funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. The 20-nation study reveals new information about the scale and origins of small arms proliferation in the Pacific. It provides the first comparison of the number of firearms in each Pacific country, both legal and illegal, state-owned and civilian.

Imports and exports of small arms are tracked from one nation to another, documenting both sellers and buyers. Small arms used in crime, conflict and coups are traced to their source, revealing a single prominent pattern of origin.

The study compares each country’s gun laws and their loopholes, provides up-to-date analyses of gunrunning in the Pacific, discusses regional initiatives and evaluates current disarmament processes. Detailed case histories document the impact of small arms-related violence on the region’s worst affected communities.

Security Challenges Outlined

The Forum Regional Security Committee discussed regional security challenges, and ways to counter them, in June 2003. This included a regional framework, including model legislation, to address terrorism and organised crime. Drug trafficking remained a concern, with growing domestic use of drugs and continued use of the Pacific Islands as a transit point for the drugs trade.

The meeting discussed the need to develop expertise in combating electronic crime, such as the unlawful use of technology to penetrate government agencies, banking institutions and other services. A draft regional framework will be developed with assistance from specialist law enforcement agencies.

A working group will explore how an Identity Fraud Register project between Australia and New Zealand could be expanded to include Forum Island Countries, to combat identity crimes in the region. The Forum Regional Security Committee also discussed the regional security environment, the implementation by the Forum Secretariat of the Biketawa Declaration and the draft regional model leadership code.

Law Enforcement Adviser Mr Shaun Evans, has been joined by Law Enforcement Training Coordinator, Mr Mark Whitfield; Anti Money Laundering Consultant Mr Bruce Russell and Law Enforcement Statistics Officer, Ms Lorraine Raiwalui.

Mr. He Yifel, Director General for North America and Oceania Affairs, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, outlines a number of programmes supported by China, during a visit to the Secretariat in 2002.

China funds the Pacific Islands Forum Trade Office in Beijing and also has an extensive assistance programme in the region in areas such as agriculture and fisheries, trade and investment, culture, sports and other sectors. In 2003, China is supporting a media exchange programme and a range of technical assistance.
Media workshops

Three media workshops on governance, linked to the Pacific Islands Forum, the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting and the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, were held in 2003. Funding for the workshops were provided by New Zealand and AusAID.

These follow four previous workshops under the AusAID-funded Pacific Media Initiative linked to the Pacific Islands Forum and FEMM meetings in 2001 and 2002. The media participants were selected by the regional media organisations – the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association (PIBA) and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).

Apart from supporting a stronger presence of Pacific Islands media at key regional events, the workshops also underlined the role of the media as an essential component of good governance.

Japan-Forum PALM 2003

The Leaders of Japan and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) members met for their third Meeting in Okinawa, Japan, 16-17 May 2003 and adopted “The Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a More Prosperous and Safer Pacific”. The Leaders called on the international community to provide continuing support for the region in this regard.

The Summit set five priority policy targets in the Joint Action Plan, that Japan and Forum countries would jointly undertake. They included enhanced security in the Pacific region; a safer and more sustainable environment; improved education and human resources development; better health and more robust and sustained trade and economic growth.

A high level annual review would be held on the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy and Joint Action Plan.

Forum Foreign Ministerial on Solomon Islands

The Forum Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in Sydney, Australia on 30 June 2003 discussed a regional response to assist Solomon Islands according to the principles set out in the Biketawa Declaration.

Ministers agreed that the extent of the problems facing Solomon Islands called for a concerted regional response, as envisaged in the Biketawa Declaration.

Ministers indicated overwhelming support for the provision of assistance to Solomon Islands and noted that the majority of Forum members had indicated a willingness to assist the Solomon Islands Government.

Ministers endorsed the provision of a package of strengthened assistance to Solomon Islands, including a policing operation to restore law and order, supported, as required by armed peacekeepers, and a program of assistance to strengthen the justice system and restore the economy and basic services. They agreed also to recommend that Forum Leaders endorse the package.
The Corporate Services Division provides comprehensive and efficient management of the Secretariat's human, financial and physical resources. High quality support by the Division helped to facilitate the delivery of the Secretariat's corporate goals. Preservation of the buildings and the facilities as the "Pride of the Pacific" enabled a healthy environment to stimulate productivity, strengthen communication and support teamwork.

Our People

Setting individual goals and encouraging peak performance was furthered with the on-going refinement of the performance management system. All staff now have performance objectives with six monthly reviews and feedback to identify areas for development and skill-improvement. Staff training and attendance at appropriate professional workshops and conferences were tailored to meet the development needs of staff as well as assist in capacity building for the organisation. Exposure to best practice and responding efficiently to customers were additional benefits gained from this tailored approach to staff training and development.

Training in areas such as landscaping and horticulture; use of performance indicators; installation of remote software; logistics and note taking; and health and safety, are examples of the diverse nature of the needs of both the organisation and our staff.

The harmonisation across the CROP agencies of salaries, conditions of service and staff management practices continued during the year. Harmonisation of remuneration benefits to the appropriate market comparator would be addressed in the 2003 remuneration review. Differences in the application of taxation remained unavoidable due to the history of different agreements being put into place between the CROP agencies and the host government.

The commitment to improving staff relations resulted in more consultation with staff during the year. Management encouraged a more formal approach to consultation through a staff consultative committee that would benefit both management and staff.

The provision of training attachments for two Fiji IT students and one Library Studies student was a successful undertaking during the year and would be continued into the future. Ventures of this nature provide opportunities for the attaches by advancing their career prospects while at the same time offering an extra pair of hands for one-off projects or best practice development.

Best Practice

To attain a standard that can be described as world-class, we have continued to devote time and energy in reviewing and updating our systems and processes to enable us to efficiently provide quality support services.

In the Finance area a new chart of accounts was developed and introduced. As the quality of the reporting requirements of donors and members has risen, the new chart provides more flexibility to meet these needs and the ability to better monitor and report on our programs.

Minor revisions to the budget and work program layout continue following advice from an external consultant funded by AUS AID. The revised presentation will give members, donors and staff a clearer idea of the outcomes intended from our projects and the performance standards and outputs expected.

The new position of Donor Coordination has proven to be effective in improving our management of the administration associated with donor funding. It has facilitated the prompt and accurate delivery of reports to donors, better tracking of donor fund allocations and program planning.

A review of our purchase ordering resulted in the introduction of electronic purchase orders. This provides electronic links from the purchasing team to finance and eliminates duplication in data entry. The volume of paper work is still considerable across the organisation's internal processes and electronic systems will be introduced in the future to address this.

There are still many opportunities for improvements to our systems and processes that will be progressed as time and resources permit.

The People's Republic of China donated US$100,000 in March 2003 to upgrade the computer network at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Benefits from the upgrade include more efficient archival of data, and faster retrieval and sharing of information. Future plans include new links to speed the information flow between the Secretariat and forum members, via the Internet.

China's Ambassador HE Zhang Junsai.
Communication

As in all organisations, communication, both internally and externally, is a key factor in our ability to be successful. Regular meetings have become a feature of the way the Division communicates. These provide opportunities for group discussion on issues, and team-based approaches to problem solving.

The introduction of new management reports has also enhanced communication and will continue to do so into the future. Monitoring and reporting is evolving into a system that, at maturity, will provide stakeholders with meaningful and comprehensive information.

On-going improvements to the information systems included the purchase of 15 new computers to upgrade less modern equipment. New anti-virus software and a new firewall were installed during the year, to improve the security of our electronic environment. The organisation has become reliant on computer systems, with the use of e-mail and the internet continuing to rise, both for communication within the organisation and with our members, donors and other stakeholders. The cost of Internet and e-mail in Fiji is still high and limits our ability to progress more quickly with Internet-based communication systems.

The intellectual property held by the organisation is safeguarded effectively by the Registry function but space is becoming a limiting factor. Investment in the future in electronic document management systems will be inevitable. On-line access to some of our library collection was introduced and will be a major development. Regular update of the website was also a feature although the quality of the technology has limited the reliability of this medium. Another limiting factor on IT initiatives is the age of some of the infrastructure which is becoming less reliable and will also need upgrading in the future.

HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICY

The Secretariat has adopted a workplace policy on HIV/AIDS to guide its response to the medical, legal and ethical questions posed by HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

The guiding principles are recognition of HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue; non-discrimination; confidentiality; gender equality; a safe and healthy work environment; communication, advocacy and dialogue, and prevention.

The full HIV/AIDS workplace policy is posted on: www.forumsec.org.fj

NB: At the Pacific Islands Forum last August, Leaders expressed their deep concern at the threat posed by HIV/AIDS and called for additional measures at the national and regional levels to address this.

Leaders directed the Secretariat to encourage, through other regional and international organisations and stakeholders, the development of a Pacific Regional Plan of Action against HIV/AIDS, including an effective resource mechanism.

The policy covers contractual and temporary staff, meeting participants, trades people, caterers, official and informal visitors to the Forum Secretariat and staff family members.

Facilities and Assets

The complex on Ratu Sukuna Road is a well-recognised landmark in Suva, and the Division has continued to preserve both the grounds and the buildings. A professionally supervised asset management program was introduced and provides for a systematic maintenance plan. This program will lead to an improvement in the physical appearance of the buildings and also to their life expectancy.

Extensions to the Malolo Bure were completed during the year - providing an informal venue for staff meetings and social interaction and visitor entertainment. Improvements to the Ryochi Jinnai Conference Centre included further landscaping, improvements to the décor in the main conference room and one of the committee rooms, increased car parking and a new flagpole display at the front entrance of the Centre. The Conference Centre continued to be used for conferences and workshops and remained a very valuable resource for the community and the Forum Secretariat.

With the on-going commitment to maximising returns on assets, the houses and surplus office space in the complex were leased, and the Conference Center was actively promoted as an excellent facility for hire by the community.

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NB: At the Pacific Islands Forum last August, Leaders expressed their deep concern at the threat posed by HIV/AIDS and called for additional measures at the national and regional levels to address this.

Leaders directed the Secretariat to encourage, through other regional and international organisations and stakeholders, the development of a Pacific Regional Plan of Action against HIV/AIDS, including an effective resource mechanism.

The policy covers contractual and temporary staff, meeting participants, trades people, caterers, official and informal visitors to the Forum Secretariat and staff family members.

Facilities and Assets

The complex on Ratu Sukuna Road is a well-recognised landmark in Suva, and the Division has continued to preserve both the grounds and the buildings. A professionally supervised asset management program was introduced and provides for a systematic maintenance plan. This program will lead to an improvement in the physical appearance of the buildings and also to their life expectancy.

Extensions to the Malolo Bure were completed during the year - providing an informal venue for staff meetings and social interaction and visitor entertainment. Improvements to the Ryochi Jinnai Conference Centre included further landscaping, improvements to the décor in the main conference room and one of the committee rooms, increased car parking and a new flagpole display at the front entrance of the Centre. The Conference Centre continued to be used for conferences and workshops and remained a very valuable resource for the community and the Forum Secretariat.

With the on-going commitment to maximising returns on assets, the houses and surplus office space in the complex were leased, and the Conference Center was actively promoted as an excellent facility for hire by the community.

HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICY

The Secretariat has adopted a workplace policy on HIV/AIDS to guide its response to the medical, legal and ethical questions posed by HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

The guiding principles are recognition of HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue; non-discrimination; confidentiality; gender equality; a safe and healthy work environment; communication, advocacy and dialogue, and prevention.

The full HIV/AIDS workplace policy is posted on: www.forumsec.org.fj

NB: At the Pacific Islands Forum last August, Leaders expressed their deep concern at the threat posed by HIV/AIDS and called for additional measures at the national and regional levels to address this.

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Facilities and Assets

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With the on-going commitment to maximising returns on assets, the houses and surplus office space in the complex were leased, and the Conference Center was actively promoted as an excellent facility for hire by the community.
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**1 January - 31 December 2002**

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<tr>
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<th>Actual 2002</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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# Forum Secretariat Staff List

(as at 31 June 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noel Levi</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josefa Maiava</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Vete</td>
<td>Executive Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iona Mitchell</td>
<td>Secretary to SG</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edweena Sautu</td>
<td>Personal Assistant to DSG</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iciji Bola</td>
<td>Driver/Messenger</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantyn (Stan) Vandersyp</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Robert Guild</td>
<td>Economic Infrastructure Adviser</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Low</td>
<td>Resources Adviser</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Ferguson</td>
<td>Economic Adviser</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Sachs-Cornish</td>
<td>Development Cooperation Adviser</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Helen Tavola</td>
<td>Social Policy Adviser</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Leniston</td>
<td>Gender Issues Adviser</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toakase Ratu</td>
<td>Programme Implementation Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisi Tuga</td>
<td>Research Assistant (Infrastructure)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Naviti</td>
<td>Programme Development Officer</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viliame Caniago</td>
<td>Fiscal Reform Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luisa Tora</td>
<td>Research Assistant (Social &amp; Gender Issues)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Kenneth Mackay</td>
<td>Field Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Ponton</td>
<td>Senior Technical Assistant</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Beck</td>
<td>Technical Assistant</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Betz</td>
<td>Media Officer</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Wong</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Secretarial)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talvel Kwan</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (EC)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumita Masitabua</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (EC)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andie Fong Toy</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Delaney</td>
<td>International Issues Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulafala Aiavao</td>
<td>Media Adviser</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Bai'anisia</td>
<td>Political Issues Adviser</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Evans</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Adviser</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Russell</td>
<td>Anti-Money Laundering Consultant</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loraini Ravalulu</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Statistics Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Whitfeld</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Training Coordinator</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mose Saitala</td>
<td>Legislative Governance Adviser</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Transform Aqorau</td>
<td>Legal Adviser</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth-Ann Peterson</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Secretarial)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Tigarea</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant/ (Administration)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Nationality</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaindra Kumar</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Bartmanovich</td>
<td>Petroleum Adviser</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mere Falemaka</td>
<td>Trade Policy Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Sanday</td>
<td>Investment Policy Office</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey Block</td>
<td>ODI Fellow/Economist</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Olsson</td>
<td>Research Assistant (Trade Policy)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore Yasause</td>
<td>Trade Policy Adviser</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumbue Antas</td>
<td>Trade Facilitation Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Mael</td>
<td>Private Sector Officer</td>
<td>ni-Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Asif Chida</td>
<td>Private Sector Advisor</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glynis Miller</td>
<td>Trade Commission Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veniona Qalo</td>
<td>Trade Policy Officer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alise Faulalo-Stunnenberg</td>
<td>Marketing Officer</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nileshwan Prasad</td>
<td>Research Assistant - Petroleum</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adi Tikomaimaleya</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Secretarial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lillian Mitchell</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Administration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alesi Toroca</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Temp)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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Pacific Islands Trade & Investment Commission, Auckland, New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parmesh Chand</td>
<td>Trade Commissioner</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisa Sifakula</td>
<td>Marketing Officer</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Findlay</td>
<td>Marketing Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Wilson</td>
<td>Assistant Marketing Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Murphy</td>
<td>Secretary/Administrative Assistant</td>
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Pacific Islands Trade & Investment Commission, Sydney, Australia

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aivu Tauvasa</td>
<td>Trade Commissioner</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Gibson</td>
<td>Coordinator/Public Affairs &amp; Information Program</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart Pemberton</td>
<td>Coordinator/Pacific Investment Program</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Ekstrom</td>
<td>Coordinator/Business Export Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Choulai</td>
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Pacific Island Center, Tokyo, Japan

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<tr>
<td>Akira Ouchi</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasuhiro Tashiro</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryoichi Miyazaki</td>
<td>Senior Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eiko Otsuka</td>
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Pacific Islands Forum Trade Office, Beijing, China

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<tr>
<td>Rohan Ellis</td>
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<td>Gang Yang</td>
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<td>Ping Yang</td>
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# Corporate Services Division

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rave Tua'toko</td>
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**Finance Services**

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<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Keevil</td>
<td>Manager, Finance/IT Services</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daphney Stone</td>
<td>Finance Services Officer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sasi Prasad</td>
<td>Finance Clerk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangeeta Lal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navin Singh</td>
<td>Temp, Assistant Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malma Koro</td>
<td>Donor Cooperation Coordinator</td>
<td>Samoa/Tokelau</td>
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**Office Services**

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<tr>
<td>Filipe Tuisawau</td>
<td>Manager, Officer Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lusi Tuivanuavou</td>
<td>Personnel Services Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>May Fong</td>
<td>Pay Clerk</td>
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<tr>
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**Conference and Protocol**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mele Utoikamanu</td>
<td>Conference &amp; Protocol Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasiti Saqusaqu</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant/CPA</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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**Property**

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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manoa Kaiyanuyanu</td>
<td>Property Services Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davendra Kumar</td>
<td>Property Services Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eferemo Elder</td>
<td>Maintenance Assistance</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Ratumanaceva</td>
<td>Maintenance Assistance</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josefo Vulaca</td>
<td>Maintenance Assistance</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin Sami</td>
<td>Maintenance Assistance</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pailato Ratuqalovi</td>
<td>Driver/Messenger</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laisa Lutu</td>
<td>Cleaner/Tea Lady</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lusi Young</td>
<td>Cleaner/Tea Lady</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Information Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tale Maimanuku</td>
<td>Computer Services Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelesh Madhavan</td>
<td>Computer Services Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semitti Ravatu</td>
<td>Library Services Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuela Nakalevu</td>
<td>Library Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Fisher</td>
<td>Records Management Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanise Tagieverata</td>
<td>Receptionist/Office Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ateca Tora</td>
<td>Temporary Registry Assistant</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FORUM SECRETARIAT STAFF 2003
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

CONTACT ADDRESS

Correspondence should be addressed to:
The Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji

Telephone: +679 331 2600
Facsimile

Executive: +679 330 1102
Corporate Services Division: +679 330 5573
Development & Economic Policy Division: +679 330 0192
Political & International Affairs Division: +679 330 5554
Trade & Investment Division: +679 331 2226

Email: info@forumsec.org.fj • Internet: www.forumsec.org.fj

Location for Deliveries and Visits:
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Muanikau, Suva, Fiji.