Excelling together for the people of the Pacific

Motto - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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At a Special Leaders' Retreat in Auckland, New Zealand on 6 April 2004, Forum Leaders agreed to the Pacific Plan, intended to create stronger and deeper links between the countries of the region. The Plan should:

- Assess options and provide a strategy for deeper and broader regional cooperation, taking into account the broader international environment and agreements in which Forum members participate.
- Identify the sectors and issues in which the region can gain the most from sharing resources of governance and aligning policies.
- Provide clear recommendations to Leaders on the sequence and priorities for intensified regional cooperation.
- Be used as a springboard for stimulating debate on how to shape the region's longer-term future.
- Be carried out by a Task Force of people from within the region, managed by the Secretary General.
- Be overseen in the first instance by a core group of Leaders (comprising the immediate past, current and incoming chairs and a representative of the Smaller Island States), this composition to be reviewed after each Forum.
- Be started as soon as possible. The Forum Secretariat to complete an assessment of existing mechanisms and processes for regional cooperation in time for the 2004 Apia Forum, along with draft terms of reference and recommendations from the Secretary General for membership of the Task Force.
A generation ago, seven Pacific Leaders acted on their vision for a more secure future for the people of the Pacific, by establishing the Pacific Islands Forum in August 1971. Their aim was to cooperate regionally on common concerns, thereby making the most of what was often very little in terms of resources. This year, we joined you in mourning the last of the original Forum co-founders, the late Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who left us in April.

A great leader of the region, Ratu Mara was a strong advocate of the Pacific Way, a philosophy that guided the region’s approach to political, economic and social issues.

Days before Ratu Mara died, a new generation of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders met in a Special Leaders retreat in Auckland, New Zealand to give the Forum a refreshed mandate and a new vision. The Leaders focused on four key areas - economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security - and called for structured measures to address them.

In effect, the Pacific Way has found new expression in a Pacific Plan. There is much work to be done to justify the faith placed in us by our founders and the citizens of the Forum.

This is, of course, a very exciting time to be working with the Forum family, and it is, for me, a very welcome coincidence that I began my term as Secretary General just as the Forum was examining its sense of mission. Leaders have clearly placed a continuing high value on the Forum and on its relevance to their national and regional interests, and much effort has been invested in seeing that the Pacific Plan, however it evolves, becomes a positive force in their lives.

For this to happen, it is essential that we justify the support shown to us by our members and strategic partners. There is a very simple issue that must guide our work — are we making a positive difference in the lives of our communities? Regardless of the policies and programmes we come up with, if we do not act in the best interests of our own people, then we are wasting your time and your money.

In my first Report to Leaders, I wish to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Noel Levi of Papua New Guinea, who did much to maintain the Forum’s focus on the core issues of national and regional development. During his stewardship, the Forum pushed through a wide range of regional initiatives, among them, the PACER economic cooperation and PICTA free trade agreements. Leaders also adopted the landmark Biketawa Declaration that, for the first time, gave Forum members a number of guiding principles and measures to take in the event of a crisis affecting the region. These initiatives underscore the level of cooperation and consultation that is required as we face up to new challenges.

Forum Leaders envisage that the development of the Pacific Plan will be a dynamic process, extending over an as yet unspecified number of years. The work will initially seek to increase cooperation at sectoral levels and encourage more effective working relationships among regional organisations. A framework for the development of the Plan will be presented to the Leaders at their meeting in Apla in August 2004.

The Eminent Persons Group Report, on which the Leaders decisions are based, noted that there is considerable scope for enhanced cooperation and a more comprehensive regional approach to shared security interests and suggested a number of areas for greater shared effort and the pooling of resources.

Some of this already exists, such as is evident in the work of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), of which the Forum Secretariat is a member. Other opportunities for pooling of resources will require innovative approaches, and a great deal of thinking outside the box.

Regional cooperation will be as strong and vibrant as members want it to be. Apart from the opportunities before us, there are clearly a number of daunting challenges, quite a few of them not of our making. And the most complex challenges, whether they are in governance or economic reform, are the ones we need to seriously tackle before the situation, as can sometimes happen, gets out of hand.

The temptation to change nothing does not mean that nothing will change. Internally, factors such as population growth will guarantee more pressure on our schools, roads and hospitals. Externally, the process we know as globalisation is here to stay and none of us are immune from its impacts. Trying to make the best use of it, in a way that converts the process into a positive force for the benefit of the people of the region is, the only way to go.

For reasons which will be known to all of you the region has come under particular scrutiny of late and, whether we agree or not, it has done so, for many of the wrong reasons. There has been scrutiny of the Forum itself and of its ability
to respond effectively to challenges facing the region and, beyond that, its ability to ensure, as best it may, that the proper groundwork is laid for sustained prosperity and stability in the region.

Leaders have also recognised that their Vision for the Pacific cannot be achieved by Governments alone, but can only be attained on a platform of broader partnerships. This principle invites wider consultation on Forum issues, including working with non-member stakeholders such as our development partners, the media and civil society. We saw examples of wider engagement at this year’s Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Rotorua, New Zealand, where representatives from the private sector provided useful insights into the links between policy on paper, and practice on the ground. At the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting in Nadi, Fiji, invited speakers provided a fresh perspective on the issue of governance in developing countries. This approach to our work will, I hope, give our work a much broader relevance to the community. It is essential that other major partners - non-state actors, community groups and other policymakers - share our sense of the intimate connection between key issues such as governance, economic development, and security, and our stated aim of achieving sustainable development.

Forum Island Countries are faced with a wide variety of security threats, ranging from natural disasters, environmental degradation, to food shortages and, in broad terms, the challenges of globalisation. Economic reform strategies which involve, for example, downsizing the public sector and privatisation will, if not properly managed and implemented, have social impacts - unemployment and increasing urban poverty for example - that can in turn become a source of security threats. Clearly, the Pacific concept of security threats has a much broader base than the traditional view of an external military threat or the impacts of transnational organised crime.

Having said that, the Forum will play a full and active role in combating the threats posed by transnational organised crime and terrorism. It is essential that our members make it less attractive for organised crime to use our countries as transit points or source markets for their illegal activities. There are, unfortunately, too many examples today where criminal elements have taken advantage of loopholes in our laws and weaknesses in our law enforcement capacity. The only way to counter criminal elements operating across our borders is to work more closely together on law enforcement capacity and to modernise our laws.

Especially since the adoption of the Biketawa Declaration at the 2000 Forum, the Forum has also shown itself willing to act on the precept that the security of one is the security of all. The most important work undertaken so far in the context of Biketawa has been the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), a major achievement for the region, and a comprehensive expression of its willingness to assist a fellow member in crisis. There remains much to do in Solomon Islands and we look forward to playing an ongoing role in this important work.

At annual Forums since the mid-1990s, Forum member states have committed themselves to more effective governance. Specific undertakings have been made to ensure that the management of member countries’ resources is more open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to people’s needs.

The 1997 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) Principles of Accountability provided guidelines for the proper management of public funds. The Biketawa Declaration highlights the “Commitment to good governance which is the exercise of authority (leadership) and interactions in a manner that is open, transparent, accountable, participatory, consultative and decisive but fair and equitable.” Last year, Forum Leaders adopted Principles of Good Leadership, which take into account both traditional Pacific values and the Forum Leaders’ commitment to the principles contained in the Biketawa Declaration. The Secretariat is also supporting legislative reform in member countries through the annual Forum Presiding Officers Conference.

In working to support good governance in the region, we need to make every effort to define what good governance is in a Pacific context. In other words, what is the ideal mix between good, internationally accepted best practice, on the one hand, and local circumstances on the other.

If our Leaders have committed to governance as a core issue, then part of our duty is to ensure that governance is not something that is left to Leaders or even to governments. Governance is something that should be promoted across the board, and includes key partners such as the private sector, the media and civil society.

I would like to thank Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand for her guidance during her term as Forum Chair. I am sure that the 35th Pacific Islands Forum, meeting in Apia, Samoa will extend the same high level of support to Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi of Samoa, as the incoming Forum Chair.

I look forward to working with you all to build on our strengths, and to cooperate as a Forum family to make the Pacific a better place for our people.

Greg Urwin
Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and comprises 16 independent and self-governing Pacific states. The Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organization with Forum Leaders meeting annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The French territory of New Caledonia was admitted to the Forum in 1999 as an Observer, while the independent state of Timor Leste was admitted in 2002 as a Special Observer.

The Forum has no formal rules governing its operations or the conduct of its meetings. Part of the Leader’s agenda is based on reports from the Secretariat and related regional organisations and committees, as well as other issues that Leaders may wish to raise. Decisions by the Leaders are outlined in a Forum Communiqué, from which policies are developed and a Work Programme is prepared. The annual Forum meetings are chaired by the Head of Government of the Host Country, who remains as Forum Chair until the next meeting.

The Forum’s administrative arm, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 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 also oversees the operations of four Trade Offices in Auckland, New Zealand; Beijing, People’s Republic of China; Sydney, Australia and Tokyo, Japan. The Secretariat is funded by contributions from member governments and donors with a 2004 budget of FJ$15 million.

The Forum Secretary General 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 permanent Chair of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) made up of ten main regional organisations in the Pacific region:

- Fiji School of Medicine (FSchM)
- South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)
- Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC)
- South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA)
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)

Since 1989, the Forum has held Post Forum Dialogues with key Dialogue Partners at Ministerial level. There are currently twelve partners – Canada, People’s Republic of China, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, United Kingdom and the United States. The Dialogue is the main avenue for consultations on multilateral assistance to the region.
Pacific Islands Forum Special Leaders’ Retreat
Auckland, New Zealand • 6 April 2004 • The Auckland Declaration

Leaders of Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand (Chair), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu met in Auckland, New Zealand on 6 April 2004 to consider the Forum Eminent Persons’ Group review of the Pacific Islands Forum. Recalling their decision at the 34th Pacific Islands Forum in Auckland to task an Eminent Persons Group to carry out a review of the Forum and its Secretariat, and their direction that the review propose a refreshed mandate and vision for the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as an improved capacity allowing the Forum to provide leadership on regional cooperation and integration; recalling their agreement that the serious challenges facing countries of the region warranted serious and careful examination of the pooling of scarce regional resources to strengthen national capabilities; noting that the peoples of the Pacific are the custodians of the largest, most peaceful and abundant ocean, its many islands and its rich diversity of cultures; believing that the strengthening of Pacific cultures and languages in the face of external pressures should be a central concern for Forum Leaders; paying tribute to and reaffirming the wisdom of the Forum founders in recognition the advantages to all Pacific people of close cooperation and shared purpose; recognizing the substantial and many achievements of the Forum and its associated agencies over the last 33 years since it first met in Wellington in 1971, its contribution to the development of a Pacific regional consciousness and endeavour, and consolidating its position as the pre-eminent political grouping in the region; recognizing that in a fast changing, complex and unpredictable global environment, it is timely to refresh the Forum to preserve relevance and allow it to continue to provide leadership to the region.

Leaders adopted the following vision
Leaders believe the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all its people can lead free and worthwhile lives. We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed.

We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values, and for its defence and promotion of human rights. We seek partnerships with our neighbours and beyond to develop our knowledge, to improve our communications and to ensure a sustainable economic existence for all.

Leaders agreed to give effect to this vision through:

i. development of the Pacific Plan. This would create stronger and deeper links between the sovereign countries of the region and identify the sectors where the region could gain the most from sharing resources of governance and aligning policies. It would provide a strategy for implementation;

ii. agreement that the key goals of the Forum are economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security and that these goals should form the principal focus of the Forum and its Secretariat;

iii. recognition that a fundamental role of the Forum is to support the particular needs of Small Islands States and to advocate their interests, especially in regard to their limited capacity and protecting their fragile environment, including from climate change;

iv. recognition that the Forum has to exist for the practical benefit of Pacific peoples, and of the importance of cultural identity, regional inclusiveness, sub-regional representation, human rights, men and gender, youth, and civil society and invited the Secretary General, in preparing the Pacific Plan, to consult, assess and make proposals on how cultural identity could be best strengthened through the work of the Forum and CROP agencies, in particular the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC);

v. Improvement of the way the Forum communicates its work to member countries and the wider world;

vi. reform of the Forum’s procedures, its meetings, and the role of Leaders, the Chair, Ministers and officials.

Leaders recognized that the work required on taking forward these commitments to achieve the Pacific vision will form the heart of Forum work over the next decade.

Leaders agreed that it would be appropriate from time to time for the Forum Leaders’ Meeting to revisit the vision and assess progress towards its achievement.

Special Leaders’ Retreat
Auckland, New Zealand

NZME photo
Forum Leaders meet annually to discuss common concerns and to agree on a Forum Communique outlining the region's positions on key issues. (L-R front): Mr Noel Levi, CBE, Secretary General; HE Tommy E Remengesau, President, Palau; Hon Dr Robert Woonton, Prime Minister, Cook Islands; Hon Sir Allan Kemakeza, Prime Minister, Solomon Islands; Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister, New Zealand; Hon John Howard, Prime Minister, Australia; Rt Hon Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea; HE Rene Harris, President, Nauru. (L-R back): HE Kessai H Note, President, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Hon Edward N Natapétès, Prime Minister, Vanuatu; HE Joseph J Urusenal, President, Federated States of Micronesia; Hon Falaeapa Salefe Malielegaoi, Prime Minister, Samoa; Hon Laisenia Qarase, Prime Minister, Fiji; HRH Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister, Tonga; Hon Sopo'aga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu; HE Mr Anote Tong, Beretitenti, Kiribati; Hon Mitilangi Young Vivian, Premier, Niue.

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM • Meetings and Venues

1971 New Zealand - Wellington
1972 Australia - Canberra
1973 Fiji - Suva
1974 Western Samoa - Apia
1975 Tonga - Nuku’alofa
1976 New Zealand - Rotorua
1977 Papua New Guinea - Port Moresby
1978 Niue - Alofi
1979 Solomon Islands - Honiara

1980 Kiribati - Tarawa
1981 Vanuatu - Port Vila
1982 New Zealand - Rotorua
1983 Australia - Canberra
1984 Tuvalu - Funafuti
1985 Cook Islands - Rarotonga
1986 Fiji - Suva
1987 Western Samoa - Apia
1988 Tonga - Nuku’alofa
1989 Kiribati - Tarawa
1990 Vanuatu - Port Vila
1991 Federated States of Micronesia - Pohnpei
1992 Solomon Islands - Honiara
1993 Nauru - Aiwo
1994 Australia - Brisbane
1995 Papua New Guinea - Madang
1996 Republic of Marshall Islands - Majuro
1997 Cook Islands - Rarotonga
1998 Federated States of Micronesia - Pohnpei
1999 Palau - Koror
2000 Kiribati - Tarawa
2001 Nauru - Aiwo
2002 Fiji - Suva
2003 New Zealand - Auckland
2004 Samoa - Apia
2005 To be confirmed at Forum in Samoa

To be confirmed at Forum in Samoa
Forum Leaders held their 2003 Retreat at the New Zealand Governor General’s Residence in Auckland, New Zealand.

Forum Members:
Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Observer: New Caledonia.
Special Observer: Timor Leste.

Heads of the Forum Secretariat
- 1972 - 1979 Mahe Tupouniua, Director
  Tonga
- 1979 - 1982 Gabriel Gris, Director
  Papua New Guinea
- 1982 John Sheppard, Director a.i.
  Australia
- 1983 - 1986 Mahe Tupouniua, Director
  Tonga
- 1986 - 1992 Henry Naisali, Secretary General
  Tuvalu
- 1992 - 1998 Jeremia Tabai, Secretary General
  Kiribati
- 1998 - 2004 Noel Levi, Secretary General
  Papua New Guinea
- 2004 Greg Urwin, Secretary General
  Australia

The administrative arm of the Pacific Islands Forum (previously known as the South Pacific Forum until 2000) began as a trade bureau. It was formally set up in 1972 as the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation, later the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, and now the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The Forum Officials Committee (FOC) is the governing body for the Forum Secretariat and comprises senior officials from the 16 member states. The FOC meets prior to the Forum to help set the agenda and again late in the year to approve the Secretariat's Budget and Work Programme. The Forum Secretariat Budget is about FJD$15 million annually. This is made up of a Regular Budget from member contributions to run the Secretariat, and an Extra Budget from donors to cover activities in the Work Programme. Photo: FOC Budget Committee, November 2003.

The first Director of the South Pacific Bureau of Economic Cooperation, Mr Mahe Tupouniua (left) met with Forum Secretary General, Greg Urwin, during a courtesy visit to the Forum Secretariat in April 2004.
Promoting Economic Governance

Good economic governance ensures the sound management of a country's resources. In the Pacific, where human, financial and natural resources form limiting constraints on development, their efficient use is vital to promote sustained economic growth and to alleviate poverty.

The Development and Economic Policy Division (DEPD) provides advice on economic and economic infrastructure policy and development with a view to incorporating the principles of sound economic governance into everyday practices in member countries.

Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)

The FEMM supports the pursuit of good governance and sustainable development by providing an annual opportunity for member countries and observer organisations (there are now over fifteen of these involved in the FEMM process) to develop appropriate economic policy frameworks and share country experiences.

The 8th annual meeting of Forum Economic Ministers, held in Rotorua, New Zealand on 9-10 June, agreed that a closer partnership must be built with Pacific communities and their institutions to promote governance and accountability. This includes the role of a strong and responsible media; an independent judiciary and well-resourced independent monitoring agencies. Ministers called for wider participation by the public in discussions on economic reforms and governance, as these issues are central to the well being of Pacific communities.

Considerable discussion focussed around the governance and management of public enterprises. In the Pacific, the large size of public enterprises in relation to the economy, and undeveloped nature of the private sector, required the public sector to be particularly efficient in its use of resources. Ministers noted the need for continued national effort, to be supported by the Secretariat and other members where requested, to adopt codes of governance, service agreements and performance audits for fully government owned public enterprises.
FEMM was preceded by a Private Sector dialogue which allowed national representatives of the private sector to consider key issues before FEMM. These views were presented to Ministers through the FEMM Officials Preparatory Meeting and also through private sector participation in the FEMM Ministerial Discussion Session on Public Enterprise Governance and Management.

2004 Biennial FEMM Stocktake

Monitoring the implementation of decisions aids in promoting good governance. Annual Forum Economic Action Plans have been developed through the Forum Economic Ministers meetings, but these are only fully effective when implemented at the regional and national level.

The 2004 Biennial FEMM Stocktake provided a status report on each FICs’ implementation of four key areas of the FEMM Action Plans: good governance; economic reforms; financial reforms; and trade and investment. The stocktake report also highlighted barriers to implementation of FEMM decisions and efforts to overcome these barriers.

The 2004 Stocktake indicated a strong commitment by Forum island countries to implementation of the Forum Eight Principles of Accountability, but some divergence in the extent of compliance and enforcement of the principles. This is particularly so in the distinction between intention to implement and actual implementation. Nonetheless, ongoing improvements in implementation over the past two years indicated that the region was making a concerted effort to move in the direction of improved transparency and accountability. The basic lessons of the need for sound design and sequencing, public consultation and strong statistical underpinning of economic reform were also seen to be widely accepted amongst FICs.

FICs indicated satisfaction with the progress and outcomes of their financial sector reforms and noted the useful supportive role played by FEMM discussion of related issues and principles. This progress of financial sector reforms is slightly weaker and less advanced in the smaller island state members.

The Stocktake noted a strong commitment to implementation of improvements to the trade and investment environment. At the regional level this is now being progressed through the Forum Trade Ministers meeting. Forum island countries highlighted the availability of financial and human resources and technical skills as the most common constraints to the implementation of FEMM commitments.

Decision Making in ICT

The Eminent Persons’ Group Review of the Pacific Islands Forum (April 2004) highlighted Information & Communications Technologies (ICTs) as a priority area given the existing barriers to the implementation of better digital communications. In April 2004, Forum Leaders agreed to endorse and lead the development of a Pacific Plan, intended to create stronger and deeper links between the countries of the region. The Plan will include the development of a digital strategy for the region, based on the 1999 Communications Action Plan.

In February 2004, EU Commissioner for Development, Mr Poul Nielson (right) and Acting Forum Secretary General, Josefa Matava, signed financing agreements for European Development Fund regional projects. The EU has run regional projects in the Pacific since 1975, with the first of four Lome Conventions. Between 1975-2002, European Development Fund resources allocated to Pacific projects totaled Euro 165 million (FJ$363 million). Under the new Cotonou Agreement, new funding under the 9th EDF will raise the total allocation since 1975 to Euro 194 million (FJ$427 million) by 2007. This does not include the EU’s extensive assistance for national projects.
The 1999 Forum Communications Policy Ministerial Meeting had agreed on a comprehensive Action Plan, along with a vision for the Pacific Information Economy. This was reaffirmed in 2002, although Ministers noted that progress had depended on domestic capacities and national priorities. At the second Forum Communications Ministers’ Meeting (Suva 2002), Ministers recognised the importance of continually monitoring implementation of the Forum Communications Action Plan and agreed that the stocktake process initiated in preparation for their meeting provides an effective means of monitoring the Action Plan.

Ministers tasked the Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association to undertake a comprehensive data collection exercise. The current stocktake round will improve general telecommunications policy formulation through a more detailed understanding of existing implementation, by monitoring national actions as outlined in the Communications Action Plans 2002. An update on the Pacific ICT Survey 2002 is intended to obtain accurate, complete and updated data to improve understanding of ICT developments in the region and to enhance decision-making in areas of policy and programme development.

The stocktake and survey update questionnaire is to be completed by the relevant national and regional organisations, and analysis of the outcome will be presented at the Pacific Islands Telecommunications and Asia Pacific Telecommunity ICT Meeting, to be held in August 2004, in Nadi, Fiji.

Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA)

The aviation sector is liberalising worldwide and within the Pacific region. Global regimes of regularly negotiated bilateral air service agreements are being superseded by an environment featuring “open skies” and multilateral agreements that represent the vast majority of markets for tourism and trade.

The Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA) was presented for signature at the 2003 Forum Leaders Meeting, held in Auckland, New Zealand. To date, four countries – the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu – have signed the PIASA. The PIASA will be open for signing by Forum Leaders at the 2004 Forum, in Apia, Samoa.

The PIASA is based on sound economic principles which promote transparency and accountability in air service operations. The PIASA will support expansion and efficiency improvements for airlines and lead to cost savings for airlines which can be shared with users. It is designed to support the airlines of the Pacific region in adapting to coming changes and to proactively take hold of the opportunities offered, rather than to rapidly react to changes forced upon them. The PIASA sets out rules for fair competition and pricing, and allowances for transparent subsidies to ensure maintenance of social services.

PIASA continues the evolution of Pacific regional integration that is exemplified by the regional trade initiative of PACER (Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations) and PICTA (Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement). Work has been undertaken to propose a modality for a legal framework on a Regional Trade in Services Agreement as an extension to the PICTA. There is potential for Air Services to be one of these areas targeted for liberalisation – however the services sector is much more complex, due its comprehensive coverage, the four modes in which services are traded, and that barriers to trade in services are not as transparent as trade in goods.

Pacific Transport Study

Further recognition of the need to continue to improve governance and management of transport links in the region was given by the decision of Forum Leaders at their 2003 Meeting for Australia to fund and undertake aviation and shipping scoping studies.

The Pacific Regional Transport Study will look at the challenges facing the region in aviation and shipping. It is expected to examine potential for the pooling of scarce regional resources to strengthen national capabilities. A transport symposium was held on 30-31 March 2004 in Suva, Fiji, attended by shipping and aviation officials to discuss the issues presented by the study team. It was also an opportunity to discuss outstanding transport issues in the context of trends both regionally and globally and to explore means by which the region can cooperate to meet the challenges in aviation and maritime services. A final report on the study outcomes will be presented to Leaders at the 2004 Forum for their considerations.

Regional Cooperation

The Pacific is a diverse region, however it has demonstrated the advantages which can be reaped through close cooperation. Cooperation strengthens the voice of the Pacific on the world stage, allows a coordinated effort to tackle shared problems and concerns, and makes the most efficient use of the region’s resources through achieving economies of scale. The Development and Economic Policy Division works to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation at all levels.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Poverty in all its forms is considered to be the greatest challenge to the international community. While the Pacific island
people have been largely spared the grinding poverty found in other parts of the world, there is growing concern about the issue in many of the countries in this region. The MDGs complement the region’s own development targets set at Forum Leaders meetings and other related meetings and conferences. They provide goals and targets that directly measure the effectiveness of development strategies. The MDGs are a means for creating a better understanding of the linkages between development problems, especially cross cutting issues such as gender, youth, HIV/AIDS etc. by measuring development beyond basic economic growth.

The MDGs also promote good governance by monitoring equity, cultural, environmental and other dimensions of development.

The Forum Secretariat is committed to assisting its members to use the Millennium Development Goals as a framework, by providing goals and targets that directly measure the effectiveness of development strategies, brought about through improved governance, to address poverty and improved human development. DFPD has established a CROP/UN MDGs working group whose main tasks are to provide ongoing assistance the region and member countries, individually, with the mainstreaming of MDGs into national development planning frameworks and use of MDGs through tailored targets and indicators as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of national development strategies.

Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education (PRIDE)

The Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of (Basic) Education project - known as PRIDE - aims is to improve the quality of basic education in the Pacific through a regional approach. The focus of PRIDE is on strengthening the education sector planning and implementation in the region. In addition, the project will provide assistance to member countries by supporting the implementation of some areas of the education plans, according to the priority needs determined by the countries. The project will also develop an on-line resource centre that will encourage sharing of best practices and experiences among member countries. PRIDE is co-funded by the European Union’s 9th EDF Pacific Regional Indicative Programme and NZAID and is being implemented by the University of the South Pacific.

HIV/AIDS

The 2003 Forum Communiqué directed that a regional strategy be developed for the 2004 Forum. Through a process of widespread consultation and close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, this has been achieved. The Strategy takes a comprehensive approach to tackling the issue of HIV/AIDS and incorporates prevention and awareness; care of those living with and affected by the virus; increasing partnership and coordination, within the context of cultural values of the Pacific peoples.

Disability in the Pacific

Building on the 2003 Forum Communiqué that called on regional and international organisations to undertake research in the field of disability, the Forum Secretariat commissioned a regional review of legislation and policy into disability utilising funding from the DFID supported Social Research Fund. This area of research was identified after consultation with the sub-regional office of Disabled Peoples International
The vision of the Forum Leaders, as embodied in the Policy, is a “healthy ocean that sustains the livelihoods and aspirations of Pacific Island communities”. The Policy’s goal is to ensure the future sustainable use of the ocean and its resources by both Pacific Island communities and their external partners.

The challenge for the region is to realise the Policy’s Vision through implementation of the Policy. To this end a Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum (PIROF) was convened from 2-6 February 2004. The primary objective of the Regional...
Forum was to develop a Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action. This is a framework for implementation of the Policy. The framework is based on the five guiding principles contained in the policy that are central to the overarching aim of improving ocean governance in order to achieve the goal of sustainable use of ocean resources. These principles call for improving the understanding of the ocean; sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources; maintaining the health of the ocean; promoting the peaceful use of the ocean; and, creating partnerships and promoting cooperation.

Sexual Harassment Policy
The Forum Secretariat adopted a sexual harassment policy in August 2003. The aim of the policy is to promote and enhance safe and supportive work practices that are conducive to creating a respectful and productive environment. This policy applies not only to the Forum Secretariat, but extends to all PIFS organised meetings, workshops and events. It acts as a guideline to prevent sexual harassment occurring and to sanction it in the event of it occurrence. Other CROP agencies are encouraged to develop sexual harassment policies using the PIFS policy as a guide.

Partnerships for Development
Forum Island Countries are still developing and there needs to be close involvement of partners in this development process, both to bring forward financial resources but also technical capacity and know-how. The Division works to strengthen partnerships and promote the effective use of development assistance.

A multi-pronged approach is taken to strengthening development partnerships – undertaking analysis and supporting technical assistance for regional development programmes, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Three small grants schemes – the Short-term Technical Advisory Scheme, the Forum Secretariat Fellowship Scheme and the SIS Development Fund – are also managed.

Framework for Engagement with Pacific Regional Non-State Actors (NSAs)
Recognised as valuable partners in development and advocacy of issues, the Pacific Regional Non-State Actors work in collaboration with the Secretariat in pursuing similar outcomes for the Pacific. Through the Framework for Engagement with Pacific Regional Non-State Actors, the Secretariat invites the participation of the NSAs to various policy discussions and also welcomes the inclusion of the NSAs on the various Working Groups. The knowledge and expertise housed by the many regional NSAs is a resource that provides considerable input and indeed a differing perspective on issues of importance to the Pacific. The DEPD, through its partnerships strategy, takes an inclusive approach to the NSAs and continues to develop a framework for formalising relationships with NSAs.

Donor Harmonisation
Increasingly at the international level, effectiveness of overseas development assistance (ODA) has been questioned. For the Pacific, a certain degree of reliance on ODA for the implementation of various development strategies has been recognised. However, it is important that the Pacific ensures effective use of ODA to bring about development benefits for the people. Donors, with their multitude of systems and varying demands on developing nations have recognised the way in which ODA is delivered and managed needs to be refined to reduce burdens on recipient countries. The Pacific and their development partners adopted various principles of donor harmonisation that is intended to reduce aid management burdens. Inclusive in these principles are government-led and owned strategies for development; nationally identified priorities; use of national systems for disbursement and procurement; mutual trust and accountability; and clear national development frameworks linked to national budgets (both recurrent and development).

Current work aims to strengthen capacity in planning, aid management and policy setting. Promotion of the Pacific principles and advocating Pacific Islands Countries needs specific to development partner relationships form part of the annual work programme of the Division.

A select Committee of the Forum Presiding Officers Conference (FPOC) agreed in October 2003 to support an independent FPOC Secretariat, after considering a feasibility study. The Committee comprised (L-R) Hon. Atapana Siakiimotu, Speaker, Niue; Hon. Bill Skate, Speaker, Papua New Guinea, and Hon. Ruben Zachras, Deputy Speaker, Republic of the Marshall Islands.
Forging partnerships
The Division works to ensure the partnerships forged at the highest levels are translated into practical working arrangements that benefit member countries. In this respect the Division has been involved in working with other CROP Agencies and development partners in the Pacific on specific activities. An example of this is the collaborative approach that DEPD, UNDP and SPC have worked with the Government of Solomon Islands to conduct a needs assessment on capacity requirements for the Department of Reform and National Planning. This exercise enabled the Government to recognise that resource requirements and procedural aspects of the Department required strengthening.

Pacific Island Countries/ Development Partners Meeting
Within the context of donor harmonisation and forging partnerships, the annual Pacific Islands Countries and Development Partners Meeting, managed by DEPD, serves to provide a conduit for countries and development partners to share experiences and concerns specific to a donor/development partner/country relationship. Issues of particular concern to the Pacific are raised at the meeting, while the Forum Economic Ministers’ Action Plan with its implementation matrix are presented to development partners to with an intent to identify areas of possible assistance – both technical and financial that can be provided by partners.

Social Impact Assessment on Solomon Islands
As one of a range of activities to assist Solomon Islands in its restoration of peace, the Forum Secretariat commissioned a social impact assessment. The aim of the study was to look at the impact of the regional assistance mission on the lives of the people of Solomon Islands. The study established baseline data, which can be measured in further stages to assess progress. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) form the basis of the indicators, along with the Solomon Island Government’s National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan.

European Development Fund
Since 1975 European Union (EU) assistance to the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP) has totalled €194 million. These funds are programmed and administered through the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO), the Secretary General, PIFS. Project implementation is undertaken on behalf of the Pacific ACP States by several organisations, predominantly CROP.

The Forum Secretariat plays an important role in terms of coordinating regional EDF programme development with stakeholders and a crucial day-to-day administrative function ensuring that all EDF programmes are implemented to the best advantage of the region. In the last few years the RAO has improved control over the PRIP, with the result that many spent or redundant projects and commitments have been closed with funds recycled into new initiatives. At the same time, programming has been rationalised by using a sector approach through CROP/Non-State Actors working groups, and contract management procedures have been streamlined through the introduction of "Grant" and "Contribution" agreements.

In the last 12 months the rate of financial commitment has reached virtually 100% on all EDFs (6th, 7th, 8th and
9th) although these figures fluctuate depending on balances remaining as projects close. This performance compares favourably with that of other ACP regions and is a marked improvement on previous periods. The rate of fund disbursement has also improved, with the 6th and 7th EDFs reaching near exhaustion as old projects end. Over the coming years a steady rise in the rate of expenditure of the 8th EDF is expected, with full disbursement anticipated in 2007. A summary of the current financial status (cumulative total) is shown in Table 1.

The 9th EDF Pacific Regional Strategy Paper, a collaborative effort of CROP, NAOs and NSAs, was signed in October 2002 and was the first agreed among all ACP regions. To date, the 9th EDF/PRIP is 87% committed with full commitment anticipated by the third quarter of 2004.

Table 1: EDF PRIP: Allocation/commitment/ disbursements: 2004 (estimate): EURO (Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDF</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Committed</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>39.00</td>
<td>39.00</td>
<td>38.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>32.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>17.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>25.24</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OLAS/Record of Payment Orders (PIFS): Contracts

Bearing in mind the new performance rules in force, the Pacific region is in a good position to draw down supplementary funding from 9th EDF global reserves. Should this occur, the allocation of additional funds will follow the findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review, scheduled in 2005. An early indication from the EC is that a “top-up” to the 9th EDF/PRIP may be available for new or continued initiatives in Fisheries and Human Resource Development. A smaller amount may be earmarked to fund short-term advisory services to be used for the development and implementation of National Indicative Programmes and NAO capacity-building.

Taiwan/ROC Scholarship Awards

The Taiwan/ROC-PIF scholarship awards support human resources capacity building of 14 Forum island countries. Individual scholarships for formal studies are awarded to FIC applicants, and short term training awards to CROP organisations for training workshops or attachments. The countries specify their priority areas for the scholarships prior to advertising each year, while CROP justify their proposals under the organisation’s strategy for regional HRD capacity building. From the commencement of the Scheme in 2001 to December 2003, 88 scholarships have been offered. At end 2003, 16 students had successfully completed their studies. 69% of these were at postgraduate level, and 31% undergraduate. Their fields of study include Management and Public Administration, Education, Health, Tropical Fisheries, Journalism and Geographical Information Systems. The graduates are from: Cook Islands (1), Fiji (7), Papua New Guinea (1), Solomon Islands (4), Tonga (1), Tuvalu (1), and Vanuatu (1).

Forty nine students are currently enrolled (semester 1/2004) in 11 campsites, across six countries (Fiji, Guam, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu). Two have deferred to 2005. The breakdown by country of the 51 current scholarships are: Solomon Islands (12); Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu (6 each); Palau and Tonga (4 each); Tuvalu (3); Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands (2 each); Nauru and Papua New Guinea (1 each).

Taiwan/ROC has committed USD2.5million towards the Scholarship Scheme (USDS500,000 annually). CROP organisations have received a little over 15% of the total amount for implementation of thirteen short term training workshops; three were approved for 2004. The processes and management of the Scholarship Scheme are currently under review with consideration to the views expressed by FICs in a regional workshop in 2003.

Japan Funds

The Government of Japan continues to contribute effectively to the development process of the region through funding a number of programmes in the Pacific under the Pacific Islands Development Cooperation Fund and the Japan Forum Partnership Programme.

Pacific Islands Development Cooperation Fund

Established in 2001, the fund aims to promote cooperation for the development of Pacific Island Countries with preference given to projects that: a) target more than two Pacific Island Countries; b) have a significant impact on the development of Pacific Island Countries; c) involve a contribution from the Pacific Island Countries; d) cannot readily be funded from another source; and e) are around USD50,000. Multi-year projects are acceptable.

Since its establishment twelve (12) projects have been approved for funding under the programme. Of these only two projects have been successfully completed these are the Regional Training in Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability implemented by USP and PIFS and the Tourism & Trade Promotion & Investment Partnership Forum implemented by SPTO.

Participants in the two projects were selected from Forum Member countries. Students who attended the Regional
Training in Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, "...strongly felt that the course had considerably improved their understanding and appreciation of climate change issues in the Pacific". Similarly exhibitors who attended the Tourism and Trade Promotion and Investment Partnership Forum spoke highly of the event as it gave them the opportunity to establish new marketing contacts. They noted that they were grateful to have been part of the team to promote the region at such a high level event.

**Japan Forum Partnership Programme**

Another Programme funded by the Japan government contributes to the implementation of projects that; a) Promote intellectual and cultural exchanges between Japan and Forum Island Countries; b) Promote dialogue between Japan and the Secretariat on issues pertaining to regional co-operation and organizations; and c) Promote exchanges at all levels, including grassroots levels between Japan and Forum Island Countries.

Examples of activities funded by the Partnership Fund include the Forum Relations Project, implemented by PIFS which has helped to strengthen the relations between the Government of Japan and Forum Member Governments through: annual visits by the Forum Chair to Japan; consultation visits by the Secretariat to Japan; and consultations with Japan on arrangements, agenda setting and briefings for the annual Post Forum Dialogue meetings to discuss future assistance by Japan to the region.

Furthermore, a fund-sponsored CROP World Summit on Sustainable Development Cultural Night, implemented by SPTO, created an internationally lasting impression of the uniqueness of the Pacific island culture and also successfully exposed the Pacific as a cultural and eco-tourism destination. The project also helped to create a positive platform for high level negotiations between international partners to further the development and support of the Pacific island countries in their strive for sustainable development and economic stability.

DEPD coordinates and manages both programme funds and their implementation under its development cooperation strategy.

**Canada Funds**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program (C-SPOD), Phase II offers a unique example of partnerships. PIFS and a Canadian environmental research company, LGL Limited, jointly coordinate the project. The project in turn funds four CROP agencies (FFA, PIFS, SPREP and USP) to carry out projects related to sustainable ocean development. The priorities and projects were selected by a management committee composed of the CROP agencies and CIDA.

In some cases funding to one agency is used to fund activities in other agencies while in other cases there are parallel projects. Perhaps the best example of partnerships has been the development of tuna management plans in six island countries. The project is funded through and coordinated by FFA but has involved substantial input from SPC and PIFS. This addresses a broad range of issues covering social and gender, investment and private sector involvement, fisheries development options, fisheries assessment, legal and policy issues. The resulting Country Tuna Management Plans have assisted the countries to increase revenues and more sustainably manage their fisheries. The Fiji Tuna Management Plan for example has substantially increased the revenues from the fishery and a portion (60%) of this revenue has been used to increase the capacity of the Department of Fisheries to manage the tuna fishery. The Fiji Plan has recently won a Canadian Development prize for Environmentally Sustainable Development.
Trade & Investment

During the reporting period, the Trade and Investment Division continued to help Members to improve their trade and investment performance. The need to support private sector development, especially in the Forum Island Countries (FICs) and Forum members to integrate their economies into external trade markets remained a major focus of the Work Programme.

Regional Integration, Multilateral Trade and Trade Facilitation

Regional Integration
The framework for regional economic integration expanded over the review period following the ratification by Papua New Guinea (PNG) of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER). PNG thus joined Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga in ratifying PICTA. The same group of FICs, together with Australia and New Zealand, has also ratified PACER. A Rules of Origin Manual was completed to assist with the implementation of PICTA, whilst Members also benefited from region-wide outreach programmes organised to disseminate information on the Agreements to stakeholder representatives. Box 1 shows the status of the signing and ratification of PICTA and PACER.

Trade Facilitation
Still under regional integration, the 4th Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) in Port Moresby, PNG on 8 April 2004 discussed the outcomes of PICTA- and PACER-related studies and, preparations relating to the formalisation of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP) under PACER. The RTFP outlines the region's priorities in the areas of Customs, Quarantine and, Standards and Conformance and will assist Members in their integration initiatives. The FTMM also considered a progress report on the possible participation of the American and French Pacific Territories in both PICTA and PACER. As a result, consultations with the administrations in Washington and Paris have been initiated.

Multilateral Trade Policy
At the multilateral trade front, progress on the development of the WTO Small Economies Work Programme continued through collaboration with the Caribbean Community and Indian Ocean Commission. Further support for that work could be expected following the appointment in January 2004 of the Forum Representative to the WTO, Mrs Ana Kessie of Tonga. An immediate benefit realised through this new office was the nomination in April 2004 of a Senior Trade Official from Samoa to take up a six-month attachment in Geneva as part of regional technical capacity building for FIC WTO members and observers. To further assist the region on multilateral trade policy, information on APEC's Trade and Investment Facilitation and Liberalisation agenda was also disseminated to Members. APEC members were also informed of developments in the region through statements issued by FIC representatives to the 2003 APEC Ministerial Meetings held in Thailand.

Cotonou Trade Issues/Economic Partnership Agreements
The Pacific region has followed a structured approach in preparing itself for the EPA negotiations with the EU. Technical studies, national consultations, support to member states and regional seminars were the major activities undertaken to facilitate preparations for the negotiations. The Trade Experts
Advisory Group (TEAG), Senior Trade Officials and Trade Ministers also met to discuss and endorse the work done so far in relation to the negotiations.

For example, the Pacific ACP Trade Ministers Meeting held in Port Moresby, PNG on 7 April 2004 endorsed the Pacific ACP Regional Action Plan, Pacific Road Map, Pacific Regional Negotiating Guidelines and the draft Regional Negotiating Strategy. This was made possible through the conduct of a number of technical studies of interest to the region and consultations that were undertaken at the national level. Box 2 has a summary of the completed trade-related studies. The TEAG, coordinated by the Secretariat, provided technical support to the Regional Negotiating Machinery, Trade Officials and Ministers on a regular basis.

An important aspect of the Road Map is the Outreach Programme, designed to provide not only the Pacific ACP Trade Officials but also Non State Actors (NSAs) and others with information on developments relating to the EPA negotiations and the region’s positions on key issues. This Outreach Programme will continue to be undertaken through annual National and Regional Consultations.

The EPA negotiations between the Pacific ACP region and the EU are expected to be launched on 10 September 2004. A special booklet entitled “The Pacific ACP-EU Partnership” explaining the case of the Pacific ACP region has been prepared and this was launched at the Pacific’s Informal Consultation on EPAs with the EU on 29 June 2004. This booklet emphasises the unique development challenges the Pacific ACP Region is facing, its aspirations for a partnership with the EU in the true spirit of the Cotonou Agreement and, suggestions on a positive way forward in the elaboration of that partnership.

**Intellectual Property Rights**

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights policy development focused on strengthening the region’s IP regimes and laws with the aim of providing investors with a conducive and supportive environment. Legislative drafting and up-dating national IP laws, training for IP officers and public awareness raising were key activity areas under the Regionally Focussed Action Plan for strengthening the region’s IP regimes. The World Intellectual Property Organisation and the Government of Australia through IP Australia also played a vital role in supporting the implementation of the project. Frameworks to address Indigenous IP issues progressed further following the endorsement of the Regional Model Law for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture in 2002 with two countries Palau and Fiji, taking measures to adapt the model law, to their national laws. A similar regional framework to address Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Innovations and Practice is in the process of development.

**Business Development, Export and Investment Promotion and Import Management**

**Investment Policy and Promotion**

Support for the FICs via advice and technical assistance in the area of investment policy and promotion culminated with the 2003 Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies Meeting (HIPAM) in Tokyo, Japan in September 2003. The key decision of the HIPAM implemented in collaboration with the IPAs was strengthening at the national level, of the private sector environment and investment institutions so as to attract local and overseas investors.

**Status of Signing and Ratification of PICTA and PACER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>PICTA (Entered into force on 13th April, 2003)</th>
<th>PACER (Entered into force on 3rd October, 2002)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Date Signed: 18-Aug-01 Date Ratified: 28-Aug-01</td>
<td>Date Signed: 18-Aug-01 Date Ratified: 03-July-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>16-Oct-01</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>04-Jun-03</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>14-Mar-03</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>26-Feb-03</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>03-Sept-02</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>05-Aug-03</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>05-Aug-03</td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMI</td>
<td>10-Oct-01</td>
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<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td></td>
<td>18-Aug-01</td>
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In conjunction with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and Foreign Investment Advisory Service, two workshops were conducted in Suva, Fiji and Apia, Samoa on 1-5 December 2003 and 20-22 April 2004, respectively to assist the IPAs promote on-line their business opportunities. All 14 IPAs have now secured their domain names and finalised hosting arrangements and designing of their websites using a World Bank software tailored specifically for IPAs around the globe. Through their on-line presence, the IPAs have thus been assured of a worldwide reach.

**Private Sector Policy Development**

A Regional Private Sector Development (PSD) Strategy, aimed at building a strong, sustainable and competitive private sector through appropriate Government policies, actions and programmes, was adopted in January 2004. It covers various business-related measures pertaining to an enabling environment, including monetary, fiscal and trade policy, finance and credit, trade and tariff regulations, infrastructural support facilities, marketing, public sector procurement, information technology, education and training.

The Strategy is being implemented in stages following national workshops in nine FICs namely; Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Its implementation in the remaining FICs is scheduled for late 2004. The need for Public-Private Sector Partnerships, covered also in the Strategy, was addressed at the pre-FEMM Private Sector Dialogue in Rotorua, New Zealand on 7-8 June 2004. The Dialogue supported the establishment of a Regional Business Forum and a Regional Private Sector Organisation. It also supported the organisation of a Regional Entrepreneurship Teachers Training Programme for school teachers and curriculum developers in order to develop and inculcate entrepreneurial qualities amongst young people. The PSD Strategy will also assist FICs in realizing the benefits of PICTA and EPAs in the medium to long term.

**Private Sector Support**

Private sector enterprises benefited from the support provided through the Marketing Support Fund that helped improve the marketing and export capabilities of companies, the C-SPOD II Project for the fishing industry and, overall capacity building through the Industrial Development Training Project. Trade and investment enquiries received from within and outside the region were conveyed to national trade and investment agencies and private sector organisations.

To address the region's concerns on the Kava bans that have been in place in Europe since late 2001, the Kava Strategy – The Way Forward was formulated and adopted in August 2003. The Strategy, aimed primarily at the removal of bans and restrictions in Kava export markets, is being implemented through the Secretariat's collaboration with key stakeholders in both the Pacific and Europe.

**Petroleum Advisory Service**

In keeping with the overarching regional strategic imperatives as outlined in the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Plan (PIEPP), work over the past year focussed on building capacity within the FICs to enable them to champion key petroleum issues in-house. Advice to the FIC Governments covered appropriate legislation, policy matters, environment, health and safety, supply, logistics, economic analysis, regional pricing, increasing competitive pressures, contract and price regulation negotiations and training. The assistance was primarily to facilitate increased competitive petroleum supply models; encourage suppliers to maintain the quality of petroleum products in line with relevant standards; cooperate regionally to collect and disseminate information on fuel demand, regional fuel prices, and related issues; promote the collection, transportation, and environmentally responsible re-use, disposal, or removal of waste oil and other petroleum by-products; and, to promote equitable availability of petroleum products in rural and remote islands. In conjunction with SOPAC renewable energy and bio-fuel projects, assessments were also carried out on alternative fuels for their potential to help reduce petroleum product imports. The bi-monthly published Pacific Fuel Price Monitor continued to make a significant impact in assisting the FICs to keep fuel costs to a reasonable level.
Trade Office Support

The Trade Offices in Auckland, Beijing, Sydney and Tokyo provided support to the region’s private and public sectors. This focused on trade facilitation advice to assist with exports, product promotions and marketing, investment promotion, business facilitation, tourism promotion, technical capacity building, networking, image building, import procurement and the dissemination of information.

PITIC Auckland

The Commission handled numerous enquiries and trade visitors. The range of activities included assistance from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to address the problem of the Rhizoglyphus minutus pest on imports of taro into New Zealand. Submissions were made to Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) regarding kava and cassava imports, and an interim arrangement was put into place for the resumption of corned beef exports from Fiji into New Zealand, pending BSE categorisation and compliance.

A Pacific Islands presence was maintained at a variety of trade shows, including the Pacific Islands Trade, Travel and Arts Showcase that coincided with the Pacific Islands Forum meetings held in Auckland, New Zealand in August 2003. Investment promotion seminars were convened in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The Commission upgraded its IT capabilities and database, broadened its coverage on produce price reporting, introduced a monthly newsletter entitled ‘Pacific Plant Focus’ and liaised closely with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Forum Island Country trade and industry contacts.

The quarterly Pacific Importers Roundtable meetings shared valuable information on trade concerns as well as appropriate remedies. The Commission provided resource input at a range of trade-related entities and also undertook field visits within the region.

PITIC Sydney

Companies from several Forum Island Countries were assisted under the Business Export Australia Programme (BEAP), which allowed products such as spices, essential oils, coffee, cut flowers and agricultural produce to be exported to Australia and other markets in the region. The BEAP also co-sponsored various company brochures, as well as training programmes and short work attachments for FIC officials with the Department of Primary Industries in Queensland, Australia. The Commission’s Pacific Investment Programme (PIP) promoted opportunities in the PIC region to potential Australian and other foreign investors. The Commission also collaborated with UNESCAP on an IT workshop in Sydney for FIC trade officials on Using IT for Trade Facilitation and Promotion. In April 2004, the Business Information Guide to the Pacific Islands and A Directory of Business Development Assistance Programmes and Financial Services in the Pacific Islands was published. Two-way trade between Australia and the FICs for 2003 were compiled and disseminated, using raw data purchased from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Other publications and the website helped build awareness of PITIC’s activities.

PIFTO Beijing

The Office facilitated trade of select products into the People’s Republic of China including palm oil, rosewood, mahogany, pearls, fish and related marine products mainly from Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga. Chinese investors were assisted with the establishment of fish processing and food packaging plants in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga.

The Fiji Tourism Ground Product was introduced to key Chinese Tour Operators to enable competitive holiday packages. PIFTO organised the sponsorship and participation of product managers from China’s key outbound tour operators to participate at the annual Pacific Tourism and ‘Bula Fiji Tourism Exchange’. The Office also distributed translated promotional DVDs covering Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to licensed outbound tour operators throughout China. The Pacific Islands Tourism Product was also promoted at exhibitions, including China’s largest outbound travel fair in Kunming.

Ongoing projects include assistance towards a Baby Food Production Company to set up a repackaging and distribution plant in Vanuatu; Mineral Water Plant for the Eua Islands in Tonga; Hotel Development in Fiji and Samoa; Shopping Center Development in Samoa and a Commercial Piggery and Processing Facility in Fiji. Further support was provided through business delegations from China to several FIC members, and vice versa.

PIC Tokyo

PIC expanded its promotional activities between FICs and Japan: PIC organized the Pacific Islands Exhibition and Economic Exchange Workshop, which coincided with the PALM 2003 meeting between Pacific and Japanese Leaders. It participated in FOODEX 2004 to promote FIC food exports as well as in two fairs for tourism promotion. A statistical handbook on Japan’s trade with FICs from 1998 to 2002 was also published. Travel guidebooks on Palau, Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu were issued, following the publication of guidebooks on the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2002.
### Trade Related Studies (July 2003-June 2004)

#### STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDIES</th>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PICTA RELATED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Study on a Proposed Modality for Extending PICTA to Services Trade By Professor Robert Scollay and Dr Sherry Stephenson.</td>
<td>The study was based on 1999 Forum Trade Ministers decision to undertake work on the extension of the free trade area to services trade and as a follow up to the 2001 FTMM decision to develop a modality for the integration of the services sector into the PICTA. The study proposed a modality based on the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and on a model of the Caribbean free trade agreement on services. The proposed modality was presented to Trade Officials in April 2004 and is with the FICs for further consultations and comments. A decision on the proposed modality is expected at the 2005 FTMM. The study benefits all FICs since it will assist them decide on the modality for free trade in services within the region and once agreed negotiations will proceed on the basis of the modality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Study on Modalities for the Integration of Alcohol and Tobacco in the PICTA by Dr. Wadan Narsey.</td>
<td>The study benefits all Parties to PICTA as it will assist in determining before April 2005, whether or not alcohol and tobacco are to be included in PICTA and the modality of its integration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **WTO RELATED** | |
| 3. Study on the Impact of Reducing Temperate Oil subsidies on FIC coconut and palm oil exports by McGregor | The study examines the 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** | |
| 4. 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. |
| 5. 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** | |
| 6. EPA Rules of Origin Study by KVA Samoa. | The study assisted the Pacific ACP Countries in their preparatory work before the launch of EPA negotiation in September 2002. |
| 7. EPA Trade Facilitation Study by KVA Samoa. | The study assisted the Pacific ACP Countries in their preparatory work before the launch of EPA negotiation in September 2002. |
| 8. EPA Export Capacity Study by Eco-consult Pacific | The study assisted the Pacific ACP Countries in their preparatory work before the launch of EPA negotiation in September 2002. |
| 9. Fisheries Concept Paper by Ian Cartwright | The study outlines the key provisions of a Multilateral Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Pacific ACP region and the EU. |
| 10. EPA Services Study by Robert Scollay | The study outlines a negotiating strategy for the Services negotiations under the framework of the EPA negotiations with the EU. |
| 11. EPA Negotiating Strategy by Professor TEAG through Robert Scollay | This study outlines the economic realities of the region, and suggests a range of options available for pursuing the EPA negotiations with the EU based on outcomes of the EPA studies and national consultations. |
COUNTRY AND BENEFITS FROM PETROLEUM ADVISORY SERVICE

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; A paper presented to the Pacific Power Association on the potential for regional cooperation on fuel purchasing.

Cook Islands - Advised on preparation and evaluation of TAU (utility) fuel tender. Ongoing advice on regulated fuel price issues.

Federated States of Micronesia - Periodic verification of regional fuel cost.

Fiji - Periodic advice on PIB on fuel price regulation issues. Second tri-annual review of Fiji Islands fuel industry completed. FEA fuel excise advice and evaluation of fuel tenders.

Kiribati - In-country petroleum workshop in 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.


Nauru - Proposed development of Nauru Central Pacific fuel entrepot is awaiting response from Nauru government.

Niue - International tender for fuel supply contract deferred pending rebuilding of Niue bulk fuel terminal following Cyclone Heta.

Palau - Advised on preparation of fuel tender for Palau Public Utilities Corporation.

Papua New Guinea - Advised government that oil industry claims in excess of 100 million Kina were dubious. Identified serious systematic problems with fuel pricing policy proposed for implementation post-refinery production in mid 2004.


Tuvalu - Petroleum pricing and Dangerous Goods workshop planned and deferred.

Vanuatu - Proposed initiative to convert Port Vila and Espiritu Santo into MRX ports and significantly reducing fuel costs awaiting government action. Advised on the need to introduce either price regulation or price monitoring system to ensure fair fuel prices for retail, government and utilities.

PAS Strategic Overview:
The current level of hands-on pricing verification and assistance to member countries will be maintained for the upcoming year 2004-2005. There will be an added focus on building capacity within the countries to champion these issues in-house. This is in keeping with the overarching regional strategic imperatives that are outlined in the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and plan (PIEPP).

These are primarily to:
- Facilitate increased competitive petroleum supply models i.e. independent ownership of fuel terminals where there is a sound, tangible gain for a country;
- Encourage suppliers to maintain the quality of petroleum products in line with relevant standards and to introduce cleaner and better quality petroleum products as they become available;

Other Assistance Schemes
Private sector representatives in the Forum Island Countries also benefited from a range of assistance schemes administered by the Secretariat. These included the Marketing Support Fund, Industrial Development Training Programme and related support from the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Programme.
- Assess alternative fuels and promote fuel substitution to reduce petroleum product imports in conjunction with SOPAC renewable energy and bio-fuel projects;
- Co-operate regionally to collect and disseminate information on fuel demand, regional fuel prices, and related issues.
- Promote the collection, transportation, and environmentally responsible re-use, disposal, or removal of waste oil and other petroleum by-products to minimise adverse impacts on soil, ground water, and near shore fisheries;
- Promote equitable availability of petroleum products in rural and remote islands.
Good governance, the rule of law and a secure environment for the people of the Pacific are essential to sustainable development in the region. The Political, International and Legal Affairs Division has a broad range of activities to enhance the enabling environment for sustainable development. They include policy advice and technical assistance to members on governance, international relations, law enforcement cooperation, political, legal and security issues, and advocacy of Forum positions in international fora.

Security - Law Enforcement

The Secretariat provides support in legal and law enforcement matters, particularly the enactment and implementation of the legislative priorities of the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation and the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security. These have assumed even greater prominence given the need for Forum members to comply with international requirements, including the pertinent UNSCR resolutions and conventions and the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The focus has been on the development of regional legislative provisions, cooperation, training, exchange of information and compliance.

Forum Regional Security Committee

The June 2004 meeting of the Forum Regional Security Committee discussed the major security vulnerabilities facing the region and how Forum member countries could improve their efforts to combat transnational organised crime, by stronger and deeper regional cooperation. Some of the initiatives include the establishment of the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) by the Australian Federal Police, progress of the Pacific Regional Policing Initiative, (an AusAID-NZAID project), a draft Pacific Islands Regional Security Technical Cooperation Strategy, developed in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Group On Money Laundering Secretariat (APG) the establishment of a pilot Pacific Region Identity Protection Project, the outcomes of the New Zealand hosted Pacific Roundtable on Counter-Terrorism, the new international maritime security obligations and the ongoing Pacific Financial Unit Project involving the APG, IMF Legal Department and the Secretariat.

Agency Cooperation

The region’s specialist law enforcement agencies, the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference, the Oceania Customs Organisation and the South Pacific Chiefs of Police
Conference, advised the Committee on the current and emerging threats of transnational organised crime impacting on the region including illicit drugs, electronic crime, fraud, people smuggling/trafficking, illegal trade in flora and fauna, sex crimes, small arms, terrorism and corruption, and the regional response to those threats.

In combating these challenges, the existing model legislation, including those addressing terrorism and transnational organised crime (extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, forfeiture of the proceeds of crime, anti-money laundering, and combating the financing of terrorism), illicit drugs, weapons control and transport security, should be enacted. Importantly, appropriate supporting measures to ensure implementation of the model legislation must be made available throughout the region. In-country drafting assistance is available and is coordinated through the Forum Secretariat.

The continuing close cooperation between the Secretariat, the region’s specialist agencies, regional law enforcement agencies and International partners, is a very positive development, and this partnership has been applied to a range of issues.

**Track II**

As part of a wider engagement with stakeholders, the 2004 FRSC included a seminar on governance by guest speakers. This initial effort towards developing a Track II process recognizes the knowledge, expertise, policy views and grassroots contacts that many groups beyond the security committee possess. The Track II approach is being extended to other areas of the Secretariat’s Work programme, whereby commentators engaged in academia, research, policy making, politics and the private sector are regularly brought together to discuss issues that are fundamental to the Pacific region.

**Biketawa Declaration**

In the area of regional security, the 2002 Biketawa Declaration guided the Secretariat’s work in this area. The main activity under the Biketawa Declaration was the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), endorsed by Leaders last August following an invitation by the Government of the Solomon Islands to assist with a return to normalcy. The Biketawa, and RAMSI, marked a clear shift in the Forum approach to conflict resolution within the region, and RAMSI was notable as a cooperative effort by Forum members to help one of its neighbours.

**Security Studies**

As part of the implementation of the Biketawa Declaration, in 2001 the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat began commissioning national security studies for the Forum Island Countries. The last three studies - for the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands - were completed this year. The studies this year were conducted by the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance and involved consultations with the respective Governments and key stakeholders. Implementation of the recommendations from the security studies are a matter for the national governments, although the Secretariat will be assessing the security studies to identify issues on which a regional response would be appropriate.

Follow-up national security workshops were held in Port Vila, Vanuatu and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in 2004, and in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in 2003, for representatives from government and civil society. The aim was to build more public awareness of the causes and consequences of instability, as well as strategies for addressing the causes of conflicts.

**Security - Regional and International Issues**

**Climate Change**

Climate change remains a key focus for the Secretariat, with increasing emphasis on adaptation mechanisms and strategies. The adverse impacts of climate change threaten the long-term viability of a number of the most vulnerable smaller island states, although no country is immune from the effects of largely man-made changes to the world’s climate. The Secretariat advocates Forum positions on climate change at key international fora, as well as through its on-going dialogue with development partners and other stakeholders. This includes working with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme on the climate change framework.

**Shipments**

A further meeting was held in 2004 between Forum members and the shipping states – France, Japan and the United Kingdom - on the issue of shipments of radioactive materials through the region, in particular, discussions on a liability and compensation regime in relation to those shipments.

**French Polynesia**

The Secretariat continued to monitor regional issues of concern to its members, including developments in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Papua. Preparations were begun for a Pacific Islands Forum fact-finding mission to French Polynesia, after French President Jacques Chirac signed more self-governing powers in March 2004 for the territory to operate as an overseas country within the French Republic. These include more authority in areas such as
labour, civil aviation and regional relations, while France retains control in areas such as law and order, defence and money supply.

At their Special Leader's Retreat in Auckland, New Zealand in April this year, Forum Leaders encouraged closer contacts with non-sovereign Pacific territories, through progressively granting them observer status at Leaders' meetings and associated meetings of the Forum Officials' Committee. The Leaders also asked that new criteria for participation should be developed, grounded in the region's interests.

The Forum currently has two Observers – the French territory of New Caledonia was admitted as an Observer in 1999 while the independent state of Timor-Leste was admitted as a Special Observer in 2002.

**Dialogue Partners**
The Post Forum Dialogue process is an important avenue for engaging with development partners and is the main vehicle for multilateral consultation with the region. There are currently twelve Forum Dialogue Partners – Canada, People’s Republic of China, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, United Kingdom and the United States. In addition to the suggestion by the EPG for improving the PFD process, the Secretariat will continue to propose further adjustments to make the Dialogue more manageable, efficient and useful.

**Diplomatic Training**
Japan funded a Diplomatic Training workshop for participants from Forum Island Countries last October in Tokyo, Japan. This is part of on-going activities in the Secretariat to help build capacity in the areas of diplomatic skills and representation. The exercise also improved the interaction with Japan on the development of its foreign policy in the region, given Japan's presence as a major development partner. A similar diplomatic training workshop is proposed later this year in Beijing under funding by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

**Governance**

**Pacific Governance**

In line with increasing commitment towards promoting good governance, Forum Leaders last year adopted nine key principles of good leadership. The principles include respect for the law and system of government; respect for cultural values, customs and traditions; freedom of religion; respect for people on whose behalf leaders exercise power; respect for members of the public; economy, efficiency and diligence; national peace and security, and respect for office. These complement other efforts such as the Forum Economic Principles of Accountability and the Biketawa Declaration on guiding principles and measures in response to a crisis in the region.

In promoting good governance, the Forum is mindful that Pacific governance needs to take account of both traditional and modern concepts of governance, if it is to be relevant to the people of the Pacific. An underlying principle – in both traditional and modern systems - is that those who govern, and those who are governed, should feel that they are equal participants in the decision making process.
Leadership Code
Efforts of FICs to implement the Forum Principles of Good Leadership have seen Tuvalu and Kiribati commit to the development of their national leadership code by using the Regional Model Leadership Code. A leadership code workshop for Tuvalu, involving representatives from the Attorney General’s office and civil society organisations, was held in April. A similar workshop was scheduled for July in Kiribati. Both countries are due to introduce their respective leadership code Bills into Parliament before the end of the year.

While Forum Leaders have adopted the Leadership Principles, it is also intended that these principles could also be adopted by other sectors, including the media, private sector and community groups. Accountability and transparency are qualities that should involve the entire community, rather than be something that is left to Leaders to exercise on their own.

Forum Presiding Officers Conference
The 4th FPOC was successfully held in Funafuti, Tuvalu, this year. The conference approved two major projects to enhance the capacity of Forum legislatures; i.e. securing effective relationship between the legislature and the media, and development of post-graduate course on parliamentary democracy studies to be offered by the University of the South Pacific and the University of Papua New Guinea. Samoa will host the 5th Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference in April 2005.

Communications
Forum Leaders have asked for an improvement in the way the Forum communicates with the wider world, and more resources are being directed towards this effort through a revised Communications Strategy. This extends to a broader public diplomacy effort and a range of activities involving stakeholders such as Forum members, development partners, the media and the public. 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. A media delegation from Forum Island Countries visited Beijing and Shanghai in September 2003, following an invitation from the Government of the People’s Republic of China. Forum Media Workshops were again organized under New Zealand and Australian funding, to coincide with the 2004 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in June Rotorua, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Forum in August in Apia, Samoa. The workshops are aimed at encouraging more informed public discussion of Forum and regional issues that affect the people of the Pacific.

 Depositary
The Secretariat acts as depositary 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).
Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Division (CSD) continues to provide the support, service and infrastructure necessary for the Forum Secretariat to pursue its goals, while at the same time, improve on what we do and how we do it. Although often constrained by time and resources, we are committed to developing a healthy work environment that stimulates productivity, strengthens communication and supports team-work. The Forum Review was, perhaps, the most significant event of the year, in that it impacted in many ways on the Forum Secretariat. The Review process provided opportunities for both management and staff to contribute, and the outcomes of the Leaders’ Retreat in April, opened the door for the start of the process to develop a new Corporate Plan.

The Staff Retreat, the first in several years, was an extremely positive experience for all who participated. Outcomes included the development of a new mission statement, and clear articulation of the values of the Forum Secretariat.

Our efforts to develop an open, consultative culture are reaping dividends, as demonstrated by the energy and passion with which staff have contributed over the year. An Internal Customer Focus Workshop generated a large amount of feedback for our consideration and resulted in a keener understanding of the issues facing staff, which we have been trying to address. Three key outputs from the Workshop were the instigation of two project teams - one to address internal communication issues, and one to address training needs across the organisation – and a two-day senior management team-effectiveness workshop. Training continues to be a priority. During the year, seminars raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, sexual harassment, and occupational safety and health were undertaken, some of which were presented in the Fijian language. Further training included a one day course on time management; two 2-day project management workshops (funded by Australia); and short courses on performance management and “giving and receiving feedback”. This in-house training was supported with external training such as the South Pacific Tourism Organisation-sponsored workshop on web development which was attended by two of our IT staff. With respect to developing best practice policy, systems and procedures, a number of policies and procedures are being reviewed and updated. These are now being published electronically, reducing our paper flows, and ensuring access by all staff. Lack of resources is a significant constraint to more urgent development of our best practice system. Introducing new ideas and ways of doing business to the Secretariat is key to developing best practice - training is one way of achieving this goal - other initiatives include bringing in training attachments (which also benefits young graduates seeking work experience) for the IT, Library and Finance Teams, and a four day secondment of our Registry staff to the Fiji National Archives. A review of our performance management system, in consultation with staff and managers, identified further refinements to the system and more extensive guidelines. The introduction of the revised system was supported by short course workshops to build understanding. A 360-degree feedback process was introduced for senior management, which includes not only peer review but self-reflection as well.

The 2003 triennial remuneration reviews for both the professional staff and the support staff, lead to the reconvening of the CROP Working Group on Harmonisation of Remuneration. The work of this group will be presented to the Forum Officials Committee for approval, and will pave the way for improved remuneration practices.

With a view to better utilising and maintaining the buildings, and to creating an environment more conducive to team-work, a number of initiatives have been completed - the Finance Team’s office space was refurbished; the printer room was decommissioned to accommodate the Property Services team; and the Registry was relocated to the Library.

The surplus space in the basement is being transformed to make way for a new IT office, training room, workshop and server room; and the surplus space in the old Registry office will be converted to office space which is currently in scarce supply. During the year, a new back up system for our IT system was purchased and commissioned, providing us with security and safety of our electronic files. A new library server was installed providing access to the library catalogue to all staff, from their desktops. Our IT infrastructure continues to be a concern due to constraints in funding - a key priority for the ensuing year will be to obtain funding to provide a better IT service. Initiatives in Finance were hindered by the resignation of our Accountant and the difficulties we had in recruiting a suitable replacement from the local market. However, further revisions to the monthly finance reports have been made, and developments are in progress with respect to our work-program formats. Outstanding membership contributions continue to be a concern for our on-going financial viability.
# Financial Summary

**1 January - 21 December 2004**

## General Fund

**Income and Expenditure Statement**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003 budget $</th>
<th>2003 actual $</th>
<th>2002 actual $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Member Governments</td>
<td>3,472,000</td>
<td>3,471,977</td>
<td>3,471,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>222,969</td>
<td>211,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Exchange Gain</td>
<td>264,402</td>
<td>44,710</td>
<td>344,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>149,000</td>
<td>205,436</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,871,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,164,784</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,072,426</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**       |               |               |               |
| Executive             | 1,001,000     | 879,741       | 880,377       |
| Political, International and Legal Affairs | 475,000     | 387,404       | 535,220       |
| Development and Economic Policy | 202,000    | 212,398       | 304,344       |
| Trade and Investment  | 343,000       | 384,161       | 399,512       |
| Corporate Services    | 2,051,000     | 1,705,702     | 1,501,761     |
| Depreciation          | -             | 324,048       | 348,344       |
| Bad/bad debts         | -             | 165,067       | 3,886         |
| Foreign Exchange Loss | -             | -             | 268,946       |
| Loss on Sale of Assets| -             | 3,665         |               |
| **Total Expenditure** | **4,072,000** | **4,062,186** | **4,242,390** |

**Surplus/(deficit) of Income over Expenditure**

(201,000) 102,598 (169,964)

## Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Trust Fund

**Income and Expenditure Statement**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003 budget $</th>
<th>2003 actual $</th>
<th>2002 actual $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Donors</td>
<td>13,011,000</td>
<td>10,767,415</td>
<td>8,513,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits Derived from Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>268,869</td>
<td>459,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,011,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,036,284</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,972,302</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**       |               |               |               |
| Political, International and Legal Affairs | 3,843,000     | 2,051,516     | 1,881,982     |
| Development and Economic Policy | 3,865,000    | 4,403,165     | 3,467,445     |
| Trade and Investment  | 5,303,000     | 3,176,679     | 2,363,976     |
| Corporate Services    | -             | 57,806        |               |
| Standing Funds        | -             | 40,015        | 583,810       |
| Depreciation          | -             | 268,869       | 459,421       |
| **Total Expenditure** | **13,011,000** | **9,998,050** | **8,756,634** |

**Surplus of Income over Expenditure**

- 1,038,234 215,868
### Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

#### Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>10,852,290</td>
<td>7,071,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumable Stock</td>
<td>8,807</td>
<td>13,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors – Member Countries</td>
<td>604,594</td>
<td>715,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Debtors &amp; Prepayments</td>
<td>280,965</td>
<td>165,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,746,656</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,966,381</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-current Assets</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>8,736,640</td>
<td>9,105,991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Assets</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,483,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,072,372</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade Creditors, Commitments and Accruals</td>
<td>1,223,986</td>
<td>1,423,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Liabilities</td>
<td>86,166</td>
<td>62,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Received in Advance – General Fund</td>
<td>1,290,126</td>
<td>1,290,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Received in Advance – Trust Fund</td>
<td>3,519,385</td>
<td>904,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,119,663</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,680,166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,363,633</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,392,206</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accumulated and Reserve Funds</th>
<th>2003 $</th>
<th>2002 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>1,242,637</td>
<td>1,242,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund</td>
<td>5,175,718</td>
<td>4,034,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Fund</td>
<td>241,336</td>
<td>236,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Reserve</td>
<td>7,703,942</td>
<td>7,878,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Accumulated and Reserve Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,363,633</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,392,206</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>FJD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>37.16</td>
<td>1,290,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>37.16</td>
<td>1,290,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>190,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>77,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>68,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Republic of Marshall Islands</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>35,058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Staff List (as at June 2004)

#### EXECUTIVE DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greg Urwin</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td>Australia</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>Edwenea Sautu</td>
<td>Personal Assistant to DSG</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jioji Boila</td>
<td>Driver/Messenger</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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#### DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constantyn (Stan) Vandersyp</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>New Zealand</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>Toakase Ratu</td>
<td>Programme Implementation Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisi Luqa</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>Villame Caniago</td>
<td>Fiscal Reform Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laisiara Tora</td>
<td>Economic Planning Officer</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 Adviser</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Beck</td>
<td>Technical Assistant</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Wong</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Secretarial)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwei Kwan</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (EC)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumita Masitahua</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (EC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Arthi Madhavan</td>
<td>IT Assistant (EC)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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#### POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andie Fong Toy</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulafala Aiaavo</td>
<td>Media Adviser</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Defaney</td>
<td>International Issues Adviser</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard Bata'anasia</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>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Russell</td>
<td>Anti-Money Laundering Consultant</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Allen</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Training Co-Ordination Officer</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moso Saitala</td>
<td>Legislative Governance Adviser</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Transform Agorau</td>
<td>Legal Adviser</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth-Ann Peterson</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Secretarial)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Tigarea</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant/ (Administration)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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#### TRADE & INVESTMENT DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Sanday</td>
<td>Investment Policy Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Asif Chida</td>
<td>Private Sector Adviser</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jim Gosselin</td>
<td>Multilateral Trade Policy Adviser</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore Yasause</td>
<td>Trade Policy Adviser</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Morris</td>
<td>Import Management Adviser</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbue Antas</td>
<td>Trade Facilitation Officer</td>
<td>ni-Vanuatu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Mael</td>
<td>Private Sector Officer</td>
<td>ni-Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Olsson</td>
<td>Research Assistant (Trade Policy)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glynis Miller</td>
<td>Trade Commission Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alise Vaalalo-Stunenberg</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>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian Mitchell</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Administration)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alesi Toroca</td>
<td>Divisional Assistant (Temp.)</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PACIFIC ISLANDS TRADE & INVESTMENT COMMISSION

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Jennifer Findlay Marketing Officer New Zealand
Sarah Wilson Assistant Marketing Officer New Zealand
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Rohan Ellis Trade Representative Cook Islands
Gang Yang Marketing Officer China
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Adriane Clarke Administration Officer Cook Islands
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Maina Koro Donor Cooperation Coordinator Samoa/Tokelau
Lucia Kafoa Accountant Fiji
Sangeeta Lal Finance Clerk Fiji
Navin Singh Finance Clerk Fiji
Davena Kumar Finance Clerk Fiji
Anini Lam Temp. Finance Clerk Fiji
Tiku Touakia Temp. Finance Clerk Fiji

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May Fong Pay Clerk Fiji
Melania Tukuivalau Divisional Assistant (Administration) Fiji

Conference and Protocol
Mele Utoikamanu Conference & Protocol Officer Fiji
Vasiti Saiqasaqo Divisional Assistant/CPO Fiji

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Everonna Elder Maintenance Assistance Fiji
Luke Rutuainaceva Maintenance Assistance Fiji
Josef Vulaca Maintenance Assistance Fiji
Chin Sami Maintenance Assistance Fiji
Palato Ratugalovi Driver/Messenger Fiji
Laixa Lutu Cleaner/Tea Lady Fiji
Lusi Young Cleaner/Tea Lady Fiji

Information Services
Tale Mainanuku Computer Services Officer Fiji
Shelesh Madhavan Computer Services Assistant Fiji
Semiti Rayatu Library Services Officer Fiji
Sunnylee Campbell Temp. Library Assistant Fiji
Ateca Tora Records Management Assistant Fiji
Nanise Taufa Receptionist/Office Assistant Fiji
Antonio Naivalu Temp. IT Attaché Fiji
Angeline Goundar Temp. IT Attaché Fiji
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