

2018 Regional Civil Society Organizations Dialogue with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders

4th September, Aiwo, Nauru

*Partnerships for Building a Strong Pacific – harnessing the contribution and will of Civil
Society*

PROFILES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY PANELISTS

Tuala Mathew Vaea: Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Association of Sports National Olympic Committee (SASNOC). Samoa.



Tuala Mathew Vaea is the Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Association of Sports National Olympic Committee. He specialises in Sports Education, particularly in capacity building. Vaea is a qualified regional master educator under the Oceania Sport Education Program. A qualified World Rugby Coach Educator with previous international experience as an international coach for Italy in the RBS 6 Nations as well as with Manu Samoa.

Earlier this year in April, Mathew represented Pacific CSOs at the CSO dialogue with Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Palau, where he delivered the CSO statement to FEMM and resulted a very positive and constructive outcome. In 2016, Mathew was nominated as a representative of Pacific CSOs at the CSO dialogue with Forum Troika in FSM. At that event he was instrumental in influencing the Forum Troika to expand the CSO dialogue to the full 18 Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, which was for the first time convened in Samoa in 2017. He is a member of the PIFS NSA Capacity Building Alumni after completing a 12 month capacity building on policy development.

Vaea has participated in three (3) Rugby World Cups as a player in RWC 1991, a coach in RWC 2007 and as a campaign leader in RWC 2011. Vaea has vast experience in high performance management with his recent role as General Manager of the Samoa Rugby Union-International Rugby Board high performance unit. He is a passionate educator in sports with international rugby coaching experience in New Zealand, Italy and Samoa, since 1995.

Applied Knowledge Summary: Training & Development Coordinator SASNOC | OSEP Regional Master Educator | World Rugby Coach Educator | General Manager SRU IRB High Performance Unit | Head Coach SRU IRB License Training Centre | National Assistant Coach Federation Italian Rugby | Executive Certificate High Performance Management University of Sydney-University of Technology Sydney Australia | NZRU Coach Certification Level 1-4 | RWC 1991 Samoa | Rugby World XV | Principal Stellaris Consult | 1st Pacific Island International Rugby Coach in Europe RBS Six Nations

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VIVIAN KOSTER: Executive Board Member: Pacific Youth Council



Ms. Vivian Koster is an independent consultant specialising in youth in development work. She has worked in the area for 20 years on issues such as youth work education, transformational leadership, governance and anti-corruption advocacy. She has also contributed to strategic planning processes of youth groups and networks.

In April this year, Vivian was part of the Pacific CSOs at the dialogue with Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Palau. She was instrumental in drafting the CSO statement and also provided support to the CSO speaker.

She coordinated the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Diploma in Youth in Development Work at the University of the South Pacific from 2003 to 2010. She has also worked extensively with the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) since its re-establishment in 2009, and is a member of the PYC Technical Advisory Group (PYC TAG). As a result of her work with both regional organisations, she has had the opportunity to garner insights into national and regional concerns of youth across the Pacific Islands.

She is currently a board member of Ola Fou Fiji which is the national arm of a regional youth work and community work education programme that seeks to upskill youth and community workers with particular emphasis on 'tough communities' – areas with low socio-economic profiles including high underemployment and high rates of crime. Ola Fou Fiji also works extensively in the area of disaster risk reduction and risk management.

Ms. Koster is also a sports administrator. She is the Vice President (Administration) of the Fiji Netball Association and is the deputy chair of the Fiji Women in Sports Commission.

She is currently undertaking doctoral studies at the University of the South Pacific.

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Mr MAINA TALIA: Coordinator Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO). Tuvalu.



Mr. Maina Talia is the Coordinator for Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO) and national liaison member of the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO). In this role, he successfully coordinated the engagement of CSOs at the Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) meeting in June 2018 in Tuvalu. Earlier this year in April, Talia represented Pacific CSOs at the CSO dialogue with Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Palau. He also participated at the CSO dialogue with Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017, and was an advisor to the CSO group on Climate change.

Talia is a theological trained person and continues to work for Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT) as a climate change adviser since 2011 until June 2017. In his tenure of work, he coordinated the construction of the EKT theological statement “Dancing with God in the rainbow” which addresses various social issues confronted by Tuvaluans.

However, apart from his paid job, Talia committed most of his time to Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN) where he served as the Secretary for many years. Hence, in 2011 he was appointed the National Focal point in Tuvalu for the Pacific Indigenous Network (PIN). He also serves as a Board of Directors for the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN). In his capacity as the climate change officer during his time with the EKT and currently for TuCAN, his work specifically focuses on climate Justice and Theology.

He has attended several United Nations trainings in New York on Indigenous Rights including a one-month Fellowship program organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on Indigenous/ Human Rights. He was also part of the Tuvalu Government delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 18 in Doha, COP21 in Paris and will also be attending COP23 in Bonn this coming November. He has published few articles in “Theologies and Cultures” an academic Journal published by the Formosa Christianity and Culture Research Centre in Taiwan. Talia is a down to earth, and simple Islander from Tuvalu, and is married with two children.

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Mr. Mori M Mori – Chuuk Youth Council (CYC), FSM.



Mr. Mori Mori is the President of Chuuk Youth Council an umbrella youth NGO in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Alongside his role as a youth volunteer, he previously worked as an English and social studies teacher at a high school in Chuuk. He is currently a staff of the International Organization for Migration mission in Micronesia since 2014. Mori attended the College of Micronesia and proceeded to Ritsumeikan University in Japan prior to his return to his home state.

In 2016, Mori was nominated as a representative of Pacific CSOs at the CSO dialogue with Forum Troika in FSM. He also represented Pacific CSOs and delivered part of the CSO statement at the CSO dialogue with Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017. He is a member of the PIFS NSA Capacity Building Alumni after completing a 12 month capacity building on policy development.

His drive has been and is always in youth development. Activities such as organizing and hosting youth leadership conferences, community awareness, youth health, women empowerment campaigns and partnerships have also been his work in his role as a youth leader in Chuuk. His dream is to develop strength in his youth coalition and establishing partnerships with local, national and regional NGO's to empower youth in the Pacific.



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