



Pacific Centre

Directory of Organisations Working with Pacific Parliaments

Compiled for the UNDP Pacific Parliamentary Assistance Roundtable
by the UNDP Pacific Centre
September 2007

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Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures’ mission is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands.

APIL recognizes the need for policy makers of the Pacific nations, states, and territories, to meet periodically on a regular basis to consider matters of mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance would help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action. These issues may include those arising in the areas of Resources and Economic Development, Commerce, Legislation, Energy, Regional Security and Defense, Communications, Cultural Appreciation, Health and Social Services, Education, Agriculture, Air and Sea Transportation, Aquaculture, Sports and Recreation, Youth and Senior Citizens, Tourism, Finance, Political Status, External Relations, and Development Banking.

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL)

APIL handles regional issues through five committees.

I. Committee on Economic Development

Chairman: Representative Martin B. Ada (CNMI)

II. Committee on Governmental & Cultural Affairs

Chair: Senator Ale Dr. Paul Stevenson (American Samoa)

III. Committee on Health & Environment

Chairman: Sen. Fernando Scaliem (FSM State of Pohnpei)

IV. Committee on Trade and Commerce

Chairman: Delegate Okada Techitong, (Republic of Palau)

V. Committee on Education

Chair: Sen. Judith T. WonPat Ed.D. (Island of Guam)

The committees work on issues identified by APIL members and then prepare resolutions that are voted on at meetings.

APIL meets twice annually:

- General Assembly Conference (May/June)
- Board of Directors Meeting (November /December)

The following organizations were formed by initiatives of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures:

- Pacific Islands Development Bank www.pacificidb.com
- AYUDA Foundation: Micronesia Medical Missions
www.ayudafoundation.org
- Reach Out Pacific (REPAC)

Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The 2006 Australian Government White Paper, *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*, recognizes that the effective functioning of state institutions is central to achieving sustained improvements in economic and social development. The White Paper identifies the strengthening of political governance as one of the main areas in AusAID's work on governance, contributing to the fostering of functioning and effective states. AusAID is working with partner countries to strengthen both formal and informal institutions of democratic governance, including parliaments, accountability institutions (such as auditors-general and ombudsmen), electoral commissions, and civil society actors.

Parliaments are at the heart of representative government, lawmaking and executive oversight, and a well-functioning parliament plays a central role in ensuring government accountability and responsiveness. In recognition of the central role of Parliaments, Australia is supporting capacity development, training, and research activities in several of our partner countries in the Pacific region.

The following provides a summary of Australia's commitments to parliamentary strengthening in the Pacific region. In addition to our support to programs in the Pacific, Australia is supporting parliamentary strengthening programs in East Timor (implemented by UNDP) and Indonesia (with support from the Australian Parliament).

Pacific bilateral parliamentary strengthening initiatives:

- **Papua New Guinea:** Parliamentary Support Program: The Program, implemented by UNDP in partnership with AusAID, supports the PNG Parliamentary Service and key parliamentary committees. Activities in 2007 are focused on an induction program for new Members of Parliament, continued support to the Public Accounts Committee and strengthening parliamentary services.
- **Solomon Islands:** Parliamentary Support Program: The Program, implemented by UNDP in partnership with AusAID, is directed towards strengthening the Solomon Islands Parliament's representative and oversight functions, in particular through improved committee processes and support to members in the performance of their role.
- **Nauru:** Support for Parliamentary Select Committees: Provision of the services of an independent QC to examine evidence gathered by various Select Committees and to provide recommendations as to the feasibility of achieving a successful prosecution for fraudulent activities.
- **Vanuatu:** Women in Leadership Program: Working with the Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs, this project aims to increase the number of women in Parliament after the 2008 General Elections through adoption of voluntary quota models by political parties, voter awareness and candidate/leadership training.

Other relevant regional/global initiatives:

- **Centre for Democratic Institutions:** CDI is based at the Australian National University and receives core funding from AusAID. CDI's goal is to support its focus countries to strengthen parliamentary governance and the role of political parties. Through the delivery of short-term intensive training and an applied research program, CDI contributes to: Improving the operation and understanding of parliamentary machinery by members of parliament and parliamentary staff in partner countries; Strengthening political parties in key countries in the region through improving the knowledge and skills of members and officials of political parties; Extending networks in the region between Australian political party officials, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and their counterparts from partner countries.

- **United Nations Democracy Fund:** UNDEF was established by the UN Secretary-General in 2005 as a global mechanism to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and promote participation and accountability. The Australian Government has contributed \$10 million to UNDEF and has been an active member of the Inaugural Advisory Board. UNDEF has completed one round of project funding which resulted in approximately US\$36 million being allocated to 123 projects around the world, working in the areas such as civil society, constitutional processes, elections and civic education, human rights, accountability and access to information.
- **Pacific Leadership Program:** The Pacific Leadership Program is a new White Paper initiative which aims to strengthen political governance in partner countries through working with the pool of current and emerging leaders in the Pacific region. The program has four main areas of work which will be taken forward in partnership with a range of regional, national and local stakeholders: Enhanced policy engagement amongst key stakeholders; Building momentum for reform of leadership practice at national and local level; Improved academic and policy discourse on regional leadership, culture and governance issues; Supporting regional partner organizations (such as UNIFEM Pacific) whose work is stimulating reform.
- **State, Society and Governance in Melanesia:** This research facility, located within the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University and funded by AusAID, examines an array of current governance challenges and issues associated with state-society relations in the countries of Melanesia. The facility seeks to bridge the research-policy divide by generating active dialogue on these issues both in Australia and throughout the region.
- **Advancing Gender Equality in Pacific Governance:** Still in design stage, this proposed 5-year program would see partnership between AusAID and UNIFEM Pacific taking a comprehensive approach to increasing gender equality in decision-making at all levels. The program encompasses research, training and project-based components working closely with existing women's groups, including national women's machinery and building on the lessons of the UNIFEM Women in Politics program.

Parliament of Australia and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Australian Region)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Australian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association undertakes a range of activities in conjunction with Pacific Island Parliaments. The Australian Region comprises the Commonwealth of Australia Branch and State and Territory Branches (Australian Capital Territory; Queensland, New South Wales; Norfolk Island; Northern Territory; South Australia; Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia). The Australian Parliament provides the regional secretariat for the CPA Australian Region.

Presiding Officers and Clerks from Australian and Pacific Parliaments hold an annual conference (hosted one year by an Australian Branch and one year by a Pacific Branch). The main focus of the conference is discussion of procedural and administrative developments in the region's parliaments.

A joint conference and joint seminar are also held on a bi-annual basis bringing together Australian and Pacific parliamentarians to discuss developments in the region and to exchange views and information on parliamentary issues. Under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Education Trust Fund (see below for more), a regional seminar on a specific parliamentary issue of broad interest in the region is being planned for 2008.

The Australian Region is currently considering a proposal for Australian CPA Branches to twin with Pacific Branches (to have a form of 'sister parliament' relationship).

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Education Trust Fund

The Australian Region also operates the Commonwealth CPA Education Trust Fund. The CPA Education Trust Fund was established in mid 1993 to provide parliamentary training and equipment to Pacific Island Parliaments which are members of the CPA. The Trust Fund is administered by the Commonwealth, state and territory branches of the Australian Region of the CPA through the regional secretariat (located in the Parliamentary Relations Office of the Australian Parliament).

The 11 Pacific Island CPA Branches (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) apply for assistance by the end of April each year. The upper limit for assistance, both training and equipment in total, is \$20,000 per country in any one year.

Examples of the types of training and equipment proposals which may be assisted under the terms of the Trust Fund include:

- the conduct of in country training seminars for parliamentary staff, by officers from parliaments in the Australian Region;
- the conduct of training for parliamentarians, such as new members seminars, led by officers from the Commonwealth or state and territory parliaments;
- secondments or attachments of parliamentary officers, such as librarians, committee research and hansard officers, to parliaments in the Australian Region;
- assistance with the development of a parliamentary website and training for the staff who will oversee and maintain the site; and
- provision of library books, computers, scanners, copiers and other office equipment, and sound system and hansard recording equipment to the requesting parliament.

In 2005-06, the following assistance was provided under the Trust Fund:

- Training
 - 5 parliamentary officers from Pacific Island parliaments were provided with an attachment to an Australian parliament for training.
 - 1 parliamentary officer from the Commonwealth Parliament travelled to the Cook Islands to conduct training.

- Equipment
 - 1 mobile sound system and recording unit
 - 4 printer/scanner/fax/copier combination machines
 - 5 laptop computers with software
 - 7 desktop computers with software, network cabling and switches
 - 2 printers, 2 scanners, 1 fax machine
 - 2 cassette players with headphones, 2 mini recorders with cassettes
 - 4 microphones and stands
 - 1 guillotine, 2 electric staplers with staples
 - 1 video camera and tripod
 - library storage cabinets for outsized items
 - French and English library books

For further information regarding the Education Trust Fund, contact the Regional Secretary, Australian Region, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, c/- Parliamentary Relations Office, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Australia or email pro@aph.gov.au or phone +61 2 6277 4340.



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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) was established by the Australian Government in 1998 to support the efforts of new democracies in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen their political systems. CDI's core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia's Agency for International Development, and it is located at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

CDI's mandate is to strengthen two key institutions of representative democracy -- parliamentary governance and political parties -- in the emerging democracies of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. A fundamental focus is the link between parliamentary and party structures and the broader development process. CDI aims to improve governance and political practice in partner countries via intensive, targeted programs on parliamentary practice and leadership, the operation of political parties, the reform of democratic institutions, the representation of women, and other issues relating directly to improving the effectiveness and quality of national parliaments, parties, and parliamentarians themselves.

In order to do this, CDI conducts high-level training courses, acts as a networking hub, provides direct technical assistance and undertakes applied research on parliamentary and political party development. All of this is aimed squarely at emerging leaders in target countries -- Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Parliamentary Strengthening

CDI's Responsible Parliamentary Government Course, and our annual Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue, form the cornerstone of CDI's parliamentary strengthening projects. Research and publications focusing on parliamentary strengthening issues are also a prominent part of CDI's work program.

Every year, CDI sponsors the flagship Responsible Parliamentary Government (RPG) course in Canberra. The course is designed primarily for mid-level parliamentary officials and examines the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary government. Using the Australian Commonwealth Parliament as the principal example, the course covers the constitutional foundations and main activities of parliament, and related structures for accountability and scrutiny of administration.

RPG aims to deliver outcomes which strengthen political governance and political practice in partner country legislatures, including improved skills and knowledge for the participating parliamentary officials, which underpins a well-functioning parliamentary democracy.

The annual Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue is another core element of CDI's parliamentary programme. Each year, Pacific parliamentarians gather to discuss key challenges facing the region. The 8th Dialogue, held in Samoa in late 2006, focused on the representation of women and the tension between the pursuit of the national interest and the demands of constituency relations. The 2007 Dialogue will once again draw together MPs from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Niue and the Cook Islands to deliberate on key aspects of parliamentary strengthening.

Research on parliamentary governance is also important. Recent areas of focus include the functioning of Indonesia's representative assembly, and the role of parliaments in the South Pacific.

2007- 08 Proposed Parliamentary Strengthening projects include:

- Papua New Guinea – MP Induction Program
Port Moresby | Completed 17 August 2007
- Melanesia – Participation at the Australasian Study of Parliament Group Annual Conference, including parliamentary staff intensive 2 week secondment – SA & Federal Parliaments.
Adelaide & Canberra | August 2007
- Asia Pacific – Responsible Parliamentary Government Course
Canberra | 3 – 21 September 2007
- Timor-Leste – MP Induction Project
Dili | September 2007
- Solomon Islands - Parliamentary Strengthening Workshop
Honiara | November 2007
- 9th CDI Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue
Goroka, PNG | December 2007
- Melanesia - Strengthening Parliament – Parliamentary Financial Scrutiny
Melbourne, Beechworth, Canberra, Sydney | February 2008
- Papua New Guinea - Parliamentary Strengthening Workshop
Port Moresby | March 2008
- Australia – Indonesia – Timor-Leste: Tripartite Parliamentary Dialogue
2008 Australia | June 2008

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) consists of the national, provincial, state and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures of the countries of the Commonwealth. Members of the CPA share the Association's mission to promote knowledge and understanding about parliamentary democracy and respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms. Below are the main areas of work carried out by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, instances of all of which have been carried out in the Pacific region in recent years. For fuller details, please consult CPA's website (www.cpahq.org).

- Capacity-building and technical assistance to Parliaments, MPs and parliamentary staff;
- Pacific countries representation at annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (and also Small Countries Conference);
- Post-election seminars;
- Regional and national workshops on:
 - Parliamentary practice and procedure,
 - Parliamentary scrutiny and oversight (especially financial),
 - Administration and financing of Parliament,
 - The role of Parliament in oversight of trade policies,
 - Gender-representation and capacity-building for women Parliamentarians,
 - Government-opposition relationship,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

- Parliament and the media,
- Freedom of information,
- HIV/AIDS, and
- Environment
- Technical assistance programmes. In the Pacific, CPA has ongoing programmes in Solomon Islands 2005-07 and Bougainville 2006-08;
- Facilitating study tours and attachments;
- Publications, reference and information services (pirc@cpahq.org).

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Associate Professor Ken Coghill is a retired Speaker (Victoria, Australia) and member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. As Speaker, he visited a number of Pacific Parliaments and met many Pacific parliamentarians at parliamentary conferences, seminars and other forums.

He is now the leader of the team conducting research and development of induction and capacity building programs for elected members (in partnership with the Inter Parliamentary Union). This research commenced within Australia but is now extending to all affiliates of the IPU. The findings from the research are being applied to induction and capacity building programs, providing advice to parliaments in a wide range of countries e.g. Australia, Vietnam.

The team has prepared a capacity building programme for Vanuatu MPs on parliamentary committees (to be delivered via the Centre for Democratic Institutions; the programme is pending). Most recently, the team has contributed to the capacity building programme for MPs newly elected to the PNG Parliament (delivered by Honorary Research Fellow Hon Kevin Rozzoli, former NSW Speaker, via the Centre for Democratic Institutions).

House of Representatives New Zealand and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Pacific Region)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Pacific Region)

The Pacific Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association undertakes a range of activities in conjunction with Pacific Parliaments. The Pacific Region comprises of 13 Pacific Island CPA Branches (Bougainville, Cook Islands, Fiji (suspended), Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). The New Zealand Parliament provides the regional secretariat for the CPA Pacific Region.

Presiding Officers and Clerks from Pacific and Australian Parliaments hold an annual conference (hosted one year by a Pacific Branch and one year by an Australian Branch). The main focus of the conference is discussion of procedural and administrative developments in the region's parliaments.

A joint conference and joint seminar are also held on a bi-annual basis bringing together Pacific and Australian parliamentarians to discuss developments in the region and to exchange views and information on parliamentary issues.

New Zealand Parliament

The Office of the Clerk of the New Zealand House of Representatives has an Inter-parliamentary Relations Secretariat which has, as its outcome, the role "to strengthen and promote parliamentary democracy in New Zealand and Overseas."

The IPR Secretariat contributes to this outcome through supporting engagement with other parliaments and inter-parliamentary organisations, which is consistent with our interests in the Pacific and also takes into account New Zealand's wider foreign policy, and provides a mechanism to aid the professional development of New Zealand Members of Parliament.

In particular the IPR Secretariat has, as one of its core outputs "to Support capacity building in Pacific Island parliaments".

Our engagement can be viewed as assisting the development of:

- parliamentary democracy in the Pacific;
- the accountability role within Parliament;
- public participation in parliament;
- understanding the role of being an MP - integrity/dealing with corruption;
- Stable government/ and party development;
- meaningful role of non-ministerial members;
- facilitating discussion of Westminster model in societies without strong parties, but with strong tribal/clan models;
- role of Council of Chiefs;
- Assisting in the development of Committee systems, including : Committee skills - asking the right questions for accountability, getting good advice from officials, public participation;
- Presiding Officer roles/business committees/select committees.

We engage from various parts of the NZ Parliament, both directly from the Secretariat, but also from other parts of the Office of the Clerk, be it the Select Committee Office, Hansard and the House Office or members, Select Committees, the Parliamentary Library and Parliamentary Service in delivering this assistance.

We do this through a number of avenues:

- Visits hosted by the New Zealand Parliament, including:
 - Guest of Parliament visits (a) Presiding Officer led delegations which are multi-party/cross party parliament and (b) Committee visits;
 - Attachments from other parliaments for Officers of Parliament and seminars for parliamentary staff

In particular, the NZ Parliament provides a professional development opportunity for key members of a Pacific parliament each year. A study tour provides an opportunity both for a Presiding Officer and for their main officials to develop their understanding of parliamentary procedure, governance and management issues.

The IPR Secretariat have also been able to support requests from various Pacific parliaments to assist in the development of their parliaments, select committees and the personal development of members and officers and officials of parliament.

- Visits to the Region by New Zealand MPs

As part of the outward inter-parliamentary travel programme each year, members participate at regional meetings and also undertake as part of wider delegations, visits to the Pacific.

New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

PIFS is responsible for implementing Strategic Objective 12.6 of the Pacific Plan on strengthening participative democracy. Particular focus has been on advancing women's representation in Pacific parliaments, including the convening of a regional ministerial meeting in Rarotonga in 2006 and recent publication on barriers to women's electoral representation. Follow-up work on developing communication materials for Pacific parliamentarians on gender equality is being supported by the Australian Office for Women. NZD5 million per year - overall NZAID funding to PIFS.

UNDP Pacific Centre

Support for democratic governance programme. NZD1.2 million per year - overall funding to the Centre.

Asia Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development (APLF)

APLF aims to engender political leadership by enabling decision-makers and leaders in the region to share their experiences in fighting HIV/AIDS. The Forum provides a network for information sharing among political leaders and parliamentarians, and training activities among political advisors, to enhance regional coordination in responding to the epidemic. NZAID has provided funding for APLF since 2005. NZD250,00 per year.

Pacific Centre for Public Integrity

Rights to Information and Participatory Democracy in Melanesia and Nauru Project. Training workshop for Fiji Parliamentarian on Leadership and FOI held 14-15 August 2006 (in collaboration with Fiji Parliamentary Secretariat, RRRT and TI Fiji). Other consultations with MPs planned for Nauru and Vanuatu. NZD470,000 over 2 years.

Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI): Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue

The annual Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue is a core element of the parliamentary strengthening programme run by the Australian National University's Centre for Democratic Institutions. The 8th Dialogue (held in late 2006) focused on the representation of women and the tension between the pursuit of national interest and the demands of constituency relations. CDI also runs a Responsible Parliamentary Government course in Canberra each year which is designed for mid-level parliamentary officials and examines the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary government. NZAID provided funding for the Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

PIC Participation: Parliamentary Library (NZ) - APLAP

The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) 9th Biennial Conference was held at Parliament House in Wellington during 27 November – 1 December 2006. It was implemented by the Parliamentary Library New Zealand. NZAID provided funding to the Parliamentary Library (NZ) via the NZAID PIC Participation Fund to meet the travel costs of 3 PIC participants (2 from Tonga and one from Fiji) to attend this conference.

Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development

The 2nd PPAPD conference on Safeguarding Pacific Youth - Accelerating Actions Through Partnerships with Pacific Parliamentarians was held 21 to 25 May 2007 in Samoa. The meeting was youth development focused, including discussions on progress towards regional Pacific plans relating to sexual and reproductive health, the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 and the Pacific-related youth unemployment. It was organised by the Fiji Parliamentary Secretariat, UNFPA, UNICEF and SPC (through which NZAID provided funding).

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

The New Zealand Parliament hosts the Regional Secretariat of the CPA and is responsible for linking Pacific parliaments (incl New Zealand) to CPA HQ, other CPA regions, regional organisations and donor agencies. As host, New Zealand assists Pacific parliaments to identify their parliamentary needs and to have them addressed by the appropriate body.

The New Zealand Branch of the CPA is the delivery partner for a programme of technical assistance to the recently-formed legislature in the Autonomous region of Bougainville in PNG. The programme is designed to enable the legislature to function effectively through sound procedures, capable Members and trained staff. Assistance to date has entailed the drafting of Standing Orders to regulate the operation of the House and professional training for the Speaker of the House and two key staff members, one of whom is the Clerk.

NZAID has funded various CPA workshops, for example, to increase awareness of the value of the right to information and best practice law-making standards amongst MPs, Attorneys General, Law Ministers and senior civil servants. A similar CPA workshop focused on media regulation and freedom of information will be held for parliamentarians, media representatives and civil society in Tonga later this year.

The CPA joined with UNIFEM Pacific in 2005 and 2006 to organise a parliamentary programme to accelerate the elimination of laws which discriminate against women. National workshops for MPs were convened in Papua New Guinea, Tonga and the Solomon Islands and a regional workshop for Pacific female parliamentarians was hosted by New Zealand in Wellington in October 2006. Workshop outcomes stressed that gender equality contributes to good governance and political and economic stability, and raised the awareness of parliamentarians on their role in contributing to the implementation of international conventions and obligations such as CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. The CPA hosts a Women's Parliamentarians Network, the Pacific chapter of which is currently chaired by Samoa.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has very recently established its field presence in the Pacific. The regional office's mandate includes:

- The promotion of ratification of UN human rights treaties, and support for reporting and implementation of treaty obligations, including participation by civil society;
- Assistance for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and national human rights protection systems, regionally and nationally;
- Awareness raising activities, dissemination of information and training on human rights to contribute to increased use and understanding of human rights norms and procedures, including of UN treaty and Special Procedures by State and non-State actors.
- Support for the capacity development of UN Country Teams (based in Fiji, Samoa and Papua New Guinea) by advice and training on the mainstreaming of human rights, including in programmes on development and humanitarian issues.

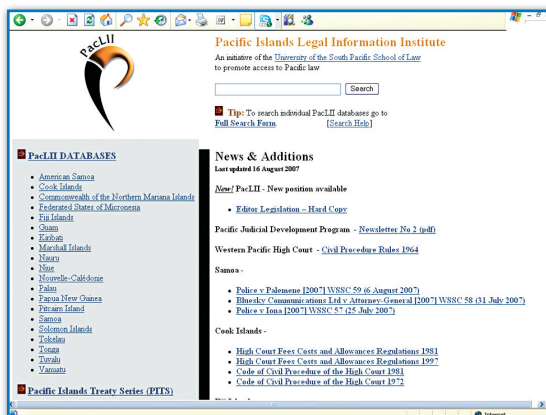
In accordance with the objectives above, the UN Regional Human Rights Office for the Pacific will work with Parliaments in the region on the above-mentioned areas.

Pacific Legal Information Institute (PacLII)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

- On line Publication of :
 - Constitutions
 - National Legislation
 - Subsidiary Legislation such as Standing Orders
 - Project to publish Constitutions in languages of member jurisdictions
 - Historical constitutional materials
 - Pacific Islands Treaty Series – multilateral and bilateral Treaties
- PacLII could also publish:
 - Bills
 - Guidelines / codes of conduct for members of parliament
 - Regional / Provincial legislation
 - Gazette Legal Notices



Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

- Monitoring Legislative Developments across the Pacific Region
- Pacific Islands Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference (FPOCC)

By the year 2000, there had been a decline in the capacity of Forum members to uphold the principles of good governance. Legislative needs assessments conducted in eight PICs had highlighted that PIC legislatures did not play a substantial role in promoting good governance practices. Forum Speakers during the Regional Conference on Governance for Parliamentarians held in Nadi in April 2000, agreed to establish the Pacific Islands Speakers Forum to discuss ways in which PIC Legislatures could improve the quality of governance in the region within the framework of Parliamentary democracy. The inaugural Pacific Islands Speakers Forum was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in April 2001 and has usually been held every year since.

- Advancing women's representation in Parliament

Advancing women's representation in Parliament is a major activity of the PIFS governance and gender program. National consultations with selected PICs continue, to determine progress on the Outcomes from the 2006 Pacific Regional Workshop on Advancing Women's Representation in Parliament. Other areas of PIFS works which impact on Parliament include the Forum Principles of Good Leadership and Accountability.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

PIFS is planning to produce communications materials to support gender equality in Pacific Governments and legislatures (and complementing a larger project being implemented by UNIFEM). Materials will comprise posters, a database and 2 simple booklets:

- Booklet 1 will focus on Gender Equality for Pacific Parliamentarians. It will familiarise Pacific parliamentarians with regional gender issues and gender commitments to which Pacific governments are party. It will outline how legislators can use their role to promote gender equality and implementation of gender commitments.
- Booklet 2 will be for Aspiring Women Politicians and Women Standing for Elections. The Booklet will be used by women standing for elections. It will include the use of real life experiences, and provide practical tips about how the electoral system works, how to use the media, how to influence and impact upon political parties, how to engage with civil society organisations, building confidence, campaign planning, fundraising and maintaining a budget.

UNDP Pacific Centre, UNIFEM and PIFS are also currently working together on a publication on quotas and reserved seats. This work follows up on regional recommendations to look into the introduction of reserved seats to fast-track women's representation in Parliament and/or the adoption of voluntary party quotas or quotas established by legislation.

- **Developing Sustainable Legislative Drafting Capacity for Forum Island Countries**

Initial in-country visits made by the Forum Secretariat's two legislative drafters in the first half of 2007 confirmed the urgent need to build and maintain sustainable legislative drafting capacity in all 14 Forum Island Countries. An Action Plan for Sustainable Legislative Drafting Capacity Building for the Pacific region ("the Action Plan") was endorsed by the Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored first meeting of the Pacific Working Group on Legislative Drafting in November 2006. The Action Plan is a collaborative effort between development partners, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Forum Secretariat, USP Law School and national Legislative Drafting Offices to implement a 14 part Action Plan for recruiting, training, supporting and retaining Pacific Islands law drafters. The Action Plan is endorsed by the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network.

A key component of the Action Plan is the establishment of an Advanced Diploma in Legislative Drafting to be provided by USP Law School. The first pilot 12 week residential Advanced Diploma course is planned for December 2007–February 2008 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. It will supplement other components of the Action Plan which include:

- The development of a Pacific Islands Law Drafters Network;
- The provision of PIFS scholarships for the Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PDLP) course;
- Access for Pacific Islands government law drafters to the New Zealand Office of Parliamentary Counsel database of drafting precedents;
- The provision of modern computer hardware and software to Pacific Islands Government Law Drafting Offices;
- The development of an electronic “help desk” for networking and drafting projects assistance for Pacific Islands law drafters;
- The development of drafting manuals for Government Drafting Offices;
- The holding of an annual Pacific Law Drafters Technical Forum (the first Technical Forum was held in Port Vila in June 2007);
- The development of pairing and twinning arrangements between Pacific Islands Drafting Offices and Australian and New Zealand Drafting Offices;
- The provision of further training opportunities through short term placements and staff secondments with New Zealand and Australian Offices of Parliamentary Counsel.

The ability of legislatures (that is Parliaments and Assemblies, including relevant Parliamentary committees) and other key decision makers (such as Cabinets) for the effective oversight and preparation and approval of new and amended laws is crucial. The foundation legislative drafting course currently offered by the University of the South Pacific Law School namely the PDLD course presents an opportunity for parliamentarians to learn about the fundamentals of the law making processes and the intricacies of drafting “good laws”.

Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (Joint UNFPA and SPC Programme)

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Summary Of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) was formed in 1997 with assistance from UNFPA. The aim of PPAPD is to promote population and development issues in the context of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals, and integrate these issues in national development plans and policies. The PPAPD operates through a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and a Secretariat, whose functions are detailed in its Constitution. The members of PPAPD comprise Pacific forum countries, and include Australia and New Zealand.

In October 2002, the PPAPD convened its first meeting which adopted its constitution and appointed an executive committee. In May 2004, a UNFPA approved a four-year regional project on “Increasing Political Support for Population and Development Programmes”. The project aims to support the PPAPD Secretariat and its work in the region.

A key activity of the project was convening the first regional Parliamentary Conference on “The Role of Parliamentarians in the Fight against HIV/AIDS in the Pacific”. Held in October 2004, the conference brought together parliamentarians, stakeholders, donors and people living with HIV, to understand better the issues

of HIV and to agree that accelerated action, political will and greater partnership was needed to fight HIV. The outcome document of that meeting was referred to as the “Suva Declaration on HIV/AIDS”, which sealed the commitment of Pacific Parliamentarians on HIV prevention care.

The PPAPD thematic conference focused on youth in 2007 because of the many issues and challenges facing young people which have a significant contribution to population and development issues.

Some of the key outputs

- Establishment of the PPAPD Secretariat – now with SPC Nabua
- Development of a Population Advocacy and Information exchange network for parliamentarians – via website and will soon do e-magazine/newsletter
- Support for in-country activities on Population and Development in collaboration with parliamentarians – via community awareness and advocacy programmes at country level
- Suva Declaration on HIV/AIDS – outcome document of 1st thematic conference in 2004
- PPAPD Framework of Action for Safeguarding Pacific Youth – outcome of Samoa PPAPD 2nd thematic conference in 2007
- Launch of the Briefing Notes on ICPD and the MDGs for Pacific Parliamentarians at the Samoa Meeting

Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre, Latrobe University

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre was established at La Trobe University in 2004 at the instigation of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC), an ‘umbrella’ organisation representing the Public Accounts Committees of all of the parliaments of Australia and New Zealand. Adjunct Professor Peter Loney, a former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and Chairman of ACPAC is Executive Director of the Centre. Its Advisory Board is composed of an international group of distinguished academics and former parliamentarians.

The principal aim of the Centre is to enhance the effectiveness of Parliamentary accountability mechanisms, particularly Public Accounts Committees (PACs). It does this through research and by conducting training courses for their members and staff with an emphasis on peer-to-peer training.

The Centre’s work can also extend into accountability and Parliamentary scrutiny training generally for MPs, and programs in making Parliamentary Committees more effective. In the past two years it has conducted, in association with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the World Bank Institute, residential courses for parliamentarians and Public Accounts Committees and Audit Office staffs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific (in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands). In addition, the Executive Director has presented papers at conferences and

training sessions for parliamentarians in Bangladesh, South Africa and the Pacific (eg. a presentation on Parliament and Accountability to the Pacific Islands Presiding Officers and Clerks Forum in Samoa). The Centre was also recently involved with the Centre for Democratic Institutions Parliamentary Committees training for the new Autonomous Bougainville Parliament.

The Centre is equipped to work with Parliaments to design and present courses and training sessions Parliament's scrutiny role and the responsibilities of members with an emphasis on PACs. These can be conducted either at La Trobe University or 'in country'.

Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the UNDP Pacific Centre is a technical advisory and training group which has over a decade of experience in working in partnership with governments and civil society ranging from Ministers of Parliament to rural village community groups on issues such as; access to justice, rule of law, good governance, human rights and democracy. RRRT is one of a few development projects in the region that uses a multi-level approach to development to address inequality and social injustice.

Examples of RRRT's work related to parliamentary activities:

- **Training:** Provision of training in human rights law and gender to MPs in Vanuatu regarding the Family Protection Bill (Vanuatu Ad Hoc Committee on the Family Protection Bill); training Fiji MPs on the importance of a Bill of Rights and the Constitution.
- **Technical Advice:** Working with the Solomon Islands Government on the development and inclusion of a Bill of Rights into the proposed Solomon Islands Constitution; providing legislative analysis of domestic law with international conventions; analysis of CEDAW and Tongan domestic law for the Government of Tonga.
- **Consultations:** Meeting with Vanuatu MPs on the Family Protection Bill; meeting with Tongan MPs on the benefits of ratification of CEDAW for Tonga.

RRRT currently has funding to work in partnership with Members of Parliament in implementing Strategic Objective 12.5 of the Pacific Plan. A regional consultation will be held in Auckland from 29 October until 3 November 2007 with MPs to examine how best PICs can meet the challenges of implementing "Objective 12.5".

State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) is a small academic unit within the ANU's Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. SSGM's central objectives are to develop policy-relevant scholarship and publications, to facilitate dialogue and understanding of governance-related issues within policy agencies and regional education institutions, and to strengthen the network of scholars engaged in interdisciplinary research on state, society and governance in contemporary Melanesia and the wider Pacific.

Since its inception in 1996, when the ANU and the Australian Government recognised the need to bolster research on Melanesia, SSGM has enjoyed a sound relationship with AusAID, DFAT and other policy agencies, including the Australian Federal Police. AusAID has provided generous financial support to SSGM since its establishment.

SSGM activities include a regular publication and seminar series; conducting conferences, workshops and short courses in Australia and throughout the region; encouraging collaborative research with regional institutions; and supporting practical measures for building good governance and the prevention of conflict into development assistance strategies. It also offers an SSGM associates scheme and a visitors program for regional scholars and policy-makers, and maintains a database of regional specialists.

Parliamentary Strengthening Activities

In the area of parliamentary support, SSGM will be organising a conference on “Executive Power and the Battle for Parliamentary Confidence in the Pacific Islands, in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 21-23 September 2007. SSGM has also hosted newly elected PNG Parliamentarians to ANU, with visits to key government offices and the Australian Parliament and had a Papua New Guinea-Australia Younger Generation Dialogue in October 2003.

SSGM has also contributed to parliamentary work in the region through the following activities:

- Pacific Regional Conference on ‘Governance for Parliamentarians’ (2000).
- The ‘Legislative Needs Assessments’ for Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati (2001/2002).
- The Report on ‘Regional Overview of Parliaments’ (2003).
- Elections and electoral systems analysis – Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands.

UNDP Democratic Governance Group (New York)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Scott Hubli manages UNDP Democratic Governance Group Parliamentary team. The DGG parliamentary team manages UNDP's global and cross-regional programmes, which are currently implemented under the Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening (GPPS). GPPS was launched in May 1999 and made possible through the generous support of the Government of Belgium. The Programme carries the overall objective of strengthening the capacity of parliaments and improving the ability of elected officials to represent and be accountable to the will of the people.

GPPS is implemented at a country-level, a regional-level and a global-level. At the global level, the team implements GPPS by studying the key political variables that are critical to improving our understanding of how parliamentary democracy can be strengthened and impacted in developing countries. For example, one aspect of the team's study was an investigation of parliament's role as a venue for conflict mediation and resolution. From this project, UNDP developed the Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments and Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

In the first phase (1999-2003), the GPPS activities involved training for members of parliament in budgetary processes, as well as in 'gender budgeting' (a process in which national budgets are analyzed from the perspective of their impact on women and men, girls and boys). Handbooks for MPs on the MDGs and poverty reduction strategies were developed, as were legislative drafting manuals in several languages. The programme supported national parliaments across regionally and politically diverse countries, such as Benin, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Niger, Uganda

and Uruguay. In its second phase (2004-2007) the programme focused on support to the Arab region and West Africa, in particular five pilot countries – Algeria, Benin, Lebanon, Morocco and Niger.

At the regional level, the programme activities worked to promote knowledge sharing on thematic issues related to parliamentary strengthening. In the Arab region, GPPS is working with the UNDP Programme on *Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR)* to create and support thematic networks focused on improving parliamentary oversight and promoting transparency and accountability.

UNDP worked in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) to design and launch iKNOW Politics (or the International Knowledge Network on Women in Politics). The online workspace, the www.iknowpolitics.org, launched in 2007, provides women parliamentarians with access to online resources and also a forum for sharing experiences.

The team has also worked with other to produce materials that advocate for elements of the parliamentary development agenda. For example, the team has recently supported the development of *CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures*, which seeks to strengthen international consensus on the normative framework underlying parliamentary development. Recently, the UNDP co-hosted a meeting (with the World Bank Institute and the UK Department for International Development) on *Parliamentary Development and Financial Accountability*. This meeting brought donors together to discuss approaches to developing financial accountability in parliament, including the budget process.

UNDP Fiji Parliament Institutional Strengthening Project

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Fiji Parliament Institutional Strengthening Project has been in existence since May 2006 after the recruitment of the Project Manager. The project was initially tasked with three major activity areas following a TPR meeting held in March 2006 – Induction Programme for MPs as its signature activity, the recruitment of the graduate trainees and the organizational restructure of the Secretariat. Apart from these, the project was able to carry out other activities under the four main output areas of the project's work plan.

1. Parliament Secretariat Strengthened

- Recruitment and training of seven Graduate Trainees who were deployed to the Research Section, Sector Committee Office, Procedural and Senate Office;
- All established staff of the Secretariat have access to a computer with internet/e-mail;
- Corporate Plan, Business Plans for each Section and Individual Work Plans compiled in readiness for the organizational review;
- Staff Leadership programme (6 weeks) – University of the South Pacific (USP);
- Attendance at the Australasian Study of Parliament Group Conference & 1 day attachment with NZ Parliament attended by Project Manager and 7 graduates (28 - 30/9/2006);
- Attendance at APLAP Conference and 1 week attachment with New Zealand Parliament Library by Acting Librarian (27/11 – 8/12/2006);
- Records and Information Management Seminar – Library and Registry staff (31/11 – 1/12/2006);
- International Women's Day Celebration Workshop (8/3/2007).

UNDP Fiji Parliament Institutional Strengthening Project

** Also under this activity, the Project Office is embarking on the organisational restructure of the Secretariat starting with the recruitment of a Consultant to carry out the review with a view to submitting a report to the relevant stakeholders before the end of 2007.*

2. Efficacy of Sector and Legislative Committees Improved

- Committee reports submitted on time and Committees able to sit simultaneously with addition of two graduate trainees.

3. Improved member education and support services

- Development of a Manual for both the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- Computers with internet and e-mail access for members own research installed;
- Series of workshops/training for MPs:
 - Induction programme for MPs (26 – 30 June, 2006)
 - Workshop on Leadership and Governance (17 – 18 August, 2006)
 - Leadership Training programme for Senators Time Management/Critical Thinking/Financial Management (29 August 2006)
 - Leadership Training for members of the House of Representatives on Time Management/Critical Thinking/Financial Management (12 September 2006)
 - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)/World Trade Organization (WTO) Regional Workshop for Pacific Parliamentarians (23 -26 October, 2006)
 - Senate Workshop on Trade and its Implications on Communities in Fiji (2 November, 2006)
 - Pacific Leadership Development Network: Consultative Planning Meeting and Roundtable Discussion of the Status of Leadership in Education and Health Sectors of the Pacific Region
 - Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) (21 - 25 May 2007)

** The Project Office is currently compiling the Official Journal of Parliament which has not been carried out since 1992. This involves the retyping of minutes*

UNDP Fiji Parliament Institutional Strengthening Project

of both Houses dating back to 1992 to be bound with all reports that were tabled in the House, with proper indexing for easy retrieval during research. This work needs to be completed by December 2007.

The Project Office has also deployed one of the graduates to assist the Library with the automation of Library records to be completed by December 2007 in readiness for the next Parliament.

4. Improved Constituency Service/Relations

- Public education materials/resources ready for publication

UNDP Marshall Islands Support to Parliament Project

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Since October 2005, the RMI Support to Parliament Project has focused on and strengthened four major areas within the RMI Nitijela:

1. Strengthening the role of the Nitijela Standing Committees:

- Series of workshops/training highlighting the roles and functions of standing committees;
- Six-month legislative programme;
- Series of MPs roundtables with CSO and government departments/agencies and public;
- Establishment of special committees;
- Regular/weekly meetings of leadership committee;

2. Enhancing and Refining the Legislative Output of the Nitijela:

- Recruitment and Training of Research Assistants;
- Course on Legislative Drafting for Nitijela and A-G's staff;
- Establishment of Parliamentary Library;
- Establishment of Resource Center (with internet capacity) for Senators;
- Creation of Local Area Network (LAN);
- The backlog of the journal of the House has been completed;

3. Improving the Nitijela Information Dissemination and Outreach and

- Nitijela Website established;
- Quarterly Newsletter established;
- Nitijela brochure & formalization of Tour Program established;

4. Developing an Effective and Efficient Parliamentary Support Services:

- Nitijela organizational chart re-designed;
- Job descriptions created for all posts;
- Clear delineation between legislative and administrative has been established. The Nitijela Assistant Clerk is responsible for administrative activities while the Clerk is responsible for legislative matters;
- Training for Journal Clerks;
- Development of a Manual for Support Staff;
- Nitijela staff have identification cards;
- Workshops conducted for Clerk, fiscal officer & administrative officer on budget planning;
- Nitijela has signs to direct visitors and officials of various offices;
- Workshops held for Clerk, Assistant Clerk and other staff for parliamentary requirements and improve communication.

UNDP Pacific Centre

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

UNDP opened the Pacific Centre in Fiji in 2005 as its first knowledge centre focused on small island developing states in the Pacific. The Centre was established to maximize management efficiency in the delivering of a number of regional projects as well as provide technical and policy support to the national activities of the UNDP Country Offices in Suva, Samoa and Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Centre's Regional Legislative Strengthening Expert, Ms Charmaine Rodrigues, sits within the Centre's Governance Unit (GovPac). Additionally, the Centre houses a Millennium Development Goals Unit and Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit.

The Pacific Centre's activities in support of Pacific legislatures build on previous regional UNDP activities, including:

- 1996-2000: The Sustainable Human Development in the Pacific Programme (GSHDP) whose main objective was to support an increased focus on accountability through seeking greater commitment among PICs to the Eight Forum Principles of Accountability
- 2001-2005: The Governance for Livelihoods Development Programme (GOLD) which had four core objectives, including increasing: (i) the effectiveness of national parliaments to perform their legislative and oversight functions; (ii) the accountability and transparency of national institutions by promoting the Eight Principles of Accountability adopted by FEMM; and (iii) countries' commitment to human rights Treaties and their awareness of rights-based development.

Under the current Governance in the Pacific (GovPac) project, the Centre is:

- Providing technical support to UNDP Country Offices, for example, in designing new legislative support projects and coordinating legislative needs analyses;
- Organising/supporting regional activities to promote the integration of development issues, such as MDGs, gender budgeting, human rights and the like, into the work of Pacific legislatures;
- Collaborating on activities in support of increasing women's representation in legislatures;
- Maintaining a Pacific regional webpage collecting legislative development resources;
- Supporting the consolidation of regional legislative networks, including through activities such as the Pacific Parliamentary Assistance Roundtable.

UNDP Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Support Project

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Partner Agency: PNG Parliamentary Services

Planned: US\$3.302 million over three years 2006-2008 (with preparatory phase in 2005)

Actual: Total US\$1.269 million (AusAID Funding US\$0.865 million, UNDP funding US\$.404 million) from October 2005 to October 2007 (likely to be extended)

Management: Managed by UNDP and co-funded by AusAID.

The primary focus of the PNG Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) is to strengthen the capacity of the Parliamentary Services Unit (PS) to increase the capacity of Members of Parliament to carry out their oversight, legislative and representative functions. The project's longer term goal is to enhance democratic governance within PNG by strengthening the oversight and legislative functions of MPs.

The Project's primary objectives are:

- Improved delivery of PS in the areas of Information Technology Communication, donor coordination, transparency and accountability to better serve the Parliamentarians in fulfilling their roles.
- Reinforced democratic procedures through improved national-provincial linkages.
- Strengthened accountability and transparency in the National Parliament's collaboration with external bodies.

- Strengthened capacity of the Parliamentary Committees to contribute to Parliament exercising its legislative and oversight roles.
- Reinforced Members of Parliament capacities to execute their legislative, oversight and representational roles.

Since January 2006, the UNDP Support to Parliament Project has focused its attention on activities under four (4) of its five (5) major Project Components:

1. Strengthen Parliamentary Service to Provide Improved Services to Members of Parliament:

- Supplied 80 computers and accessories to the staff of the Parliamentary Service;
- Facilitated and conducted training on accountability/transparent procedures and processes as well as indicators in recruitment, training, & exit orientation within the Parliamentary Service;
- Series of in-country and overseas training/workshops attended by selected PS staff;
- Conducted gender related workshops/training sessions involving civil society and the Parliamentary Service;
- Technical advice in reviewing and designing PS Corporate Plan;

2. Strengthen Capacity of MPs to effectively perform their representational, legislative, and oversight roles:

- Substantial support to PS in conducting Induction Program for MPs of the 8th National Parliament in August 2007;
- Arranged Training of Party Political Officials in Canberra in conjunction with Centre for Democratic Institutions;
- Established linkages with national oversight/accountability institutions for ongoing Induction of MPs;

3. Strengthen Parliamentary Committees:

- Workshop conducted for Chairpersons and Committee Staff to improve performance of the Committee system;
- Produced Administrative/Committee Staff Manuals;

- Recruitment of highly specialized advisers to Public Accounts Committee;
- Full-time technical , legal and research assistance to Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman; Commission;

4. Strengthen Provincial Linkages:

- Conducted Workshops for Members of the House of Representatives of Bougainville and provided TORs for each House Committee;
- Gender Preparatory Workshop and Human Rights discussions in two other Provinces;
- Enhance legislative linkages between National Parliament and Provincial Assemblies;
- Donated computer equipment/materials to the Library and Hansard to the Bougainville House of Representatives;

UNDP Regional Centre (Bangkok)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Ensuring Democratic Participation by Strengthening Parliaments as Institutions of Governance

ARGP provides support to parliaments in the region to ensure that they have the capacity, resources and necessary independence to carry out their core functions effectively.

Parliamentary Development has become a large part of UNDP's democratic governance programming portfolio. It is estimated that one out of three parliaments worldwide are supported in some form by UNDP. Parliaments in Asia have expressed an interest in receiving capacity development, technical and policy support to fulfil their mandates. UNDP and other development partners are going beyond traditional institution building to engage in issue-based advocacy and training. In this respect, the ARGP is focusing on the following areas:

- Integrity Systems and Codes of Conduct for Parliaments;
- Parliamentary Oversight and the Achievement of the MDGs;
- Parliaments Role in Conflict Prevention and Post Conflict Recovery; and
- Political Party Dialogue and Capacity Development.

UNDP Solomon Islands Parliamentary Support Project

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Ministry/ Department: National Parliament Office (NPO)

Budget: AUD1.5 million (joint UNDP/ RAMSI funded)

Timeframe: August 2004 to December 2007

The Solomon Islands Parliamentary Strengthening Project was established following the recommendations of the Legislative Needs Assessment conducted in 2001, the resolutions of the Consultative Forum of Solomon Islands Parliamentarians in 2002 and the deliberations and recommendations of the House Committee in 2003. The project is co-funded by AusAID and UNDP.

The Project was designed to achieve outcomes across five (5) major areas of activity:

1. Effective and efficient parliamentary services, management and administration established to better meet the needs of the Solomon Islands parliament and the public

- Graduate Trainee Program established including recruitment of eight graduate trainees including 3 law graduates who have provided procedural advice and support to the Speaker and the Clerk of Parliament, committee secretariat support service to the Chair and members of the 5 Standing Committees and research and information services to Members as part of the library and research service.

- Recruitment of ICT specialist and completion of the MP's lounge with full ICT and research capacity; email and internet access; Local Area Network; and information retrieval and document management system (ISYS)
- Development and launch of the Parliamentary website
- Reestablishment of Library services including undertaking and upgrading of the library and developing and implementing a service delivery plan.
- Staff Training and attachments:
 - Attendance to various conferences, workshops and seminars including the CPA/World Bank/ La Trobe University seminar on Parliamentary Financial Oversight and scrutiny; CPA's 5-week legislative drafting course in London, ICT Canberra training; CDI's 'Responsible Parliamentary Government' training in Canberra; APLAP's '9th Biennial Conference of Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Asia and Pacific'; Solomon Islands Government's workshops on public service productivity and machinery of government.
 - Staff members also underwent attachments at the New South Wales Parliamentary Library; New Zealand House of Representatives; House of Lords in England; Australian Federal Parliament; Parliament of South Australia and Australian Study of Parliamentary Group with support from CPA, CDI and the project.
- Development of successful business cases and budget submissions
- Corporate Planning and strategic planning retreat and secretariat workshops.
- Program of institutional change management
- High level of national government support and ownership of project

2. Representative role of the Solomon Islands Parliamentarians strengthened and facilitated for better representation of the constituencies and the constituents

- Induction and training for Members of Parliament was held for the first time following the 2006 general election. Project staff were also heavily involved in a similar training program for Members of Parliament in Fiji.
- Facilitation of a visits program for Provincial Speakers and Clerks.
- Parliamentary visits and civic education programs.
- Provision of procedural, research and information services to members.
- Parliamentary publications and fact sheets developed.
- Currently involved in the design and planning of a proposed National Youth Parliament program.

- Live broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings including 15 minutes special parliamentary feature in the local TV Channel following each sitting of the House or a Committee and live coverage of whole sitting day during the 4th Meeting of Parliament.
- Provincial Government Strengthening Seminars.

3. Law making procedures of Solomon Islands Parliament strengthened

- The five standing committees of the National Parliament were reconstituted after the 2006 general elections. These are the Public Accounts Committee, House Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, Bills and Legislation Committee, and the Constitution Review Committee. Each Committee has been allocated three secretariat staff who can move across committees as the need arises.
- Review of the Standing Orders.
- Completion of draft code of conduct for MPs and background paper on issues and options for a code of ethical conduct for MPs.
- Procedure office functioning including the development of a Bills Register, a Gazettes Register, a tabled papers register and a register or declaration of pecuniary interests for MPs.
- High level procedural advice is now provided to Clerk and Speaker and an independent legal advisor retained.

4. Capacity of the Solomon Islands Parliament to exercise its oversight role strengthened

- Design and planning for new office space for Members of Parliament was completed through the assistance of the Project following the completion of a report on options to provide office space for Members of Parliament. The study was undertaken by an architectural firm in accordance to a Terms of Reference that was prepared by the Project Manager. A funding proposal is now being submitted as part of the 2008 budget cycle.
- Direct involvement of project staff in the proceedings of the House including acting as a Clerk-at-the-Table when Parliament is in session.
- Increased committee's activity including an extensive non sitting program.
- Enhanced role of the Public Account Committee to scrutinize government

budget estimates and expenditure. The committee sat for the first time in many years in 2006 and met for 8 consecutive days to consider the 2007 budget.

- Live broadcasting of Public Accounts Committee sittings

5. Increased representation of women and gender perspective in governance

- A major theme of the induction program was the issue of gender in governance.
- The project is working closely with the RAMSI Machinery of Government Program including the diagnostic study carried out by Machinery of Government into obstacles facing women in accessing leadership roles in the Solomon Islands, including in the National Parliament.
- Establishment of strong links with Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs to address gender and youth issues
- Staff Training:
 - One graduate trainee attended a regional parliamentary conference which addressed the issue of equality and gender representation in regional parliaments.
 - Two graduate trainees were involved in a workshop with women candidates from the last Solomon Islands national general elections. Report on gender neutral/ sensitive legislation.
- Publications: Background Paper on options for improving women's access and election to Parliament.

UNAIDS Asia Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Asia Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development (APLF) was established in 2002 stemming from the first Asia Pacific Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Australian government in Melbourne, Australia in October 2001. APLF responds to the commitment for strong leadership on HIV/AIDS agreed at the first United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS in New York in July 2001.

APLF supports and strengthens political and civil society leadership at country, sub-regional and regional levels to take action to reduce the spread and impact of the AIDS epidemic in the Asia Pacific region.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team for Asia and Pacific (RST/AP) is tasked to manage APLF. A Steering Committee of Asia-Pacific leaders provides strategic guidance to the APLF team, comprising the APLF manager, three sub-regional coordinators (South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific), and a programme assistant.

The coverage of APLF is divided into three sub-regions covering the geographical areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. APLF supported countries in the Pacific are: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In addition to the APLF, UNAIDS:

- Has organised speaking engagements for former Chair of the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) and Speaker for the Fiji Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2005 – 2006
- Is a member of the Organising Committee for the PPAPD
- Advocates for a Youth Parliament

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

Advancing gender equality in democratic governance is one of the three global goals of UNIFEM's global Strategic Plan 2008-11. The GEPG Program is a major new program of UNIFEM Pacific that aims to strengthen Pacific women's political participation and representation, in national and local level governance. It is based on Pacific Governments' national, regional and global commitments to Gender Equality (Constitutions, CEDAW, BPFA, PPFA and MDGs) UNIFEM will work with government and NGO partners and will target and involve all relevant organisations, including parliaments, electoral commissions, political parties and local level governments.

The Pacific region, has the world's lowest levels of women's political participation, with little improvement over the past 5-10 years. Twelve years (1994-2006) of 'Women in Politics' project work by UNIFEM Pacific has provided substantial support to Pacific women's aspirations to be represented in parliament. However, the focus has been on cycles of election related activity rather than sustained strategic integration with parliamentary, electoral and political party projects. The vital long-term task of gender sensitizing male leaders and making the machinery of government inclusive and truly democratic, remains. UNIFEM's new GEPG will sensitise and educate the community and the key organisations and individuals to support the required shift away from male-centric perceptions and ways of doing business in governance, towards gender equality in political leadership, and provision of more women friendly political spaces, organisations and processes.

UNIFEM's new GEPG will build women's understanding of the machinery of government and the importance of good governance. It will support women's, sustained engagement with parliament and local level government and create a permanent presence for women and action towards gender equality through Gender Equality desks, facilities and activities in willing parliaments and local governments. The aim is to maintain the momentum and guarantee the visibility of actions and results towards achieving gender equality in governance, beyond elections.

The GEPG will build on and work with all complementary organisations, projects and programs. The GEPG will contribute to creating an enabling environment for the introduction of special measures to accelerate women's participation and representation, including the introduction of quotas. It will identify and enlist the ongoing support of male champions and role models in and around parliament and will engage media in a campaign to highlight women as proactive citizens and accountable leaders. The GEPG will take a systematic approach to supporting change and will support the effective collaboration and cooperation of key organisations and the institutionalization of their 'gender equality in governance' efforts.

The Program will involve substantial baseline research and ongoing monitoring of gender equality in Pacific parliaments and local level governments. Efforts towards gender equality in the Pacific governance will be documented and shared through local, regional and global websites and discussion groups. The Pacific will be monitored and encouraged to be accountable to gender equality at home and in the international arena including through CEDAW and MDG reports.

The Program will build on previous efforts by Pacific women to gain entry into national and local level politics. UNIFEM will systematise knowledge and learning gained from the past projects. Past lessons and knowledge will be packaged and published. UNIFEM's training materials and publications and video footage designed for women wanting to enter and influence parliaments will be updated and improved.

UNIFEM will also develop advocacy and training materials for engendering parliaments electoral commissions and political parties. UNIFEM's design and publication of resource, information and training materials will complement PIFS plan to develop resources and materials to support women's leadership and support women candidates. PIFS, UNDP PC and UNIFEM have already commenced work on joint publications.

The major stakeholders in this Program are parliaments, local governments, electoral commissions and political parties; individual women citizens and leaders, political and administrative institutions and organizations, national women's machinery in government and civil society; CSOs and institutions committed to advancing gender equality in democratic governance.

UNIFEM Pacific's new program is a long term partnership with AusAID. A broad education and mobilisation program for women and men at national level (across all 15 countries in the region) and at intensive engendered civics and leadership education at community level (in 3 Melanesian countries) will contribute to increasing understanding about the role of women in formal governance structures and systems. The program is scheduled to commence October 2007 and will run for 5 years. It will take a long-term, systematic and broad-based approach and will contribute new knowledge about governance, citizenship and leadership from a women's perspective. The project will roll over to a new cycle if effective.

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

2005

- Assisting RAMSI Machinery of Government in Solomon Islands to compile a booklet for use by Ministers and also a booklet for use by Permanent Secretaries

2006

- Participation in an induction program for Members of Parliament, Solomon Islands
- Participation in an induction program for Members of Parliament, Fiji Islands
- Participation in an induction program for Permanent Secretaries, Solomon Islands

2007

- Membership of a proposed induction program for Members of Parliament, Vanuatu

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance was established at the University of the South Pacific in 2003. Professor Ron Duncan was appointed foundation executive director. The Institute has established programs in Development Studies, Pacific Studies, and Governance. The Governance program includes projects on leadership development, peace and security, eGovernance, and Democracy and Electoral Systems.

The Governance program's activities include graduate degrees, training, consultancy, research, and publication. A "Pacific Islands Governance Portal" is under construction at www.governance.usp.ac.fj. Recent activities relating to the development of Pacific Island parliaments include:

- research into parliamentary websites
- research into scope of parliamentary performance
- participation in induction programs for members of parliament
- special visitors program

Parliamentary websites

Following an initial survey of the state development of Pacific Islands' parliamentary websites, governance faculty are working on a parliamentary upgrade project, initially with support from UNESCO (Samoa) and potentially with other agencies.

Parliamentary performance

Research has been conducted on numbers of sitting days, numbers of bills introduced and legislation passed, committees established and committees. This research is to be disseminated in graduate teaching, the governance portal, and publication. PIASDG's major conference for 2007 "Executive Power and the Battle for Parliamentary Confidence in the Pacific Islands" is being held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 21-23 September (see http://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/files/Institutes/piasdg/seminars/2007/Conf_jf_vt_Call4paper.pdf)

Induction programs for members of parliament

Governance faculty have participated in UNDP sponsored induction Program for Parliamentarians in Fiji and Solomon Islands, CDI sponsored workshops for Parliamentarians, and meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the FPOC (Forum Presiding Officers Conference). The "Democracy and Electoral Systems" unit conducts training on both regional and national bases for electoral administrators for PIANZEA using the certified BRIDGE training program, and has conducted election observations in Cook Islands, Fiji islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Special Visitors program

The Special Visitors program has hosted former Papua New Guinean member for Bougainville, Chief John Momis (2006), Solomon Island MP Fred Fono (2006), and three-time Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Bikeni Paeniu (2007).

World Bank Institute (WBI)

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Summary of Key Pacific Parliamentary Activities

The World Bank Institute's (WBI) Parliamentary Strengthening Program aims to enhance parliaments' capacity to effectively fulfill their responsibilities. The primary objectives of the Parliamentary Strengthening Program are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of parliaments to oversee the allocation and use of public funds;
- Assist parliamentarians to better represent the interest of citizens in the policy process, particularly in the context of the poverty reduction strategies process (PRS);
- Support parliamentary learning networks on key policy issues related to development; and
- Encourage and promote action research on the role of parliaments. Such research contributes to the better design of World Bank parliamentary support programs and helps ensure impact and sustainability.

The work of the Parliamentary Strengthening Program is premised on the notion that well functioning parliaments are fundamental to promoting good governance. Greater accountability, transparency and participation are directly related to parliament's three primary functions: legislating; overseeing the executive; and representing citizens.

WBI focus areas include:

- Parliamentary Oversight
- The Role of Parliament in Curbing Corruption
- The Role of Parliaments in Poverty Reduction
- Women and Parliament
- Parliaments in Conflict-Affected Countries
- Improving Parliamentary Administration and Finance

With the assistance of partner organizations, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, La Trobe University, the Centre for Democratic Institutions and AusAID, WBI sponsors global activities targeted at parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, which parliaments from Pacific countries participate in. For example, the annual seminar and study tour for Chairs and Members of Public Accounts Committees, Budget and Finance Committees, Committee Clerks, and Auditors-General, which has been held in Australia since 2006.

In addition, the WBI's Professional Development Program for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff will be available online later this year. By making this series of learning modules publicly available, the WBI will be able to assist a greater proportion of the world's parliamentary community in fulfilling their role in the governance process. In particular these online courses are targeted toward parliaments in small states, such as those in the Pacific region.

Each course includes an introduction to the topic, course content, relevant research papers and presentations. In addition, these online modules will include supplemental learning material to enhance participant engagement, trainers' notes, and instructions for leading the training sessions

Additional information and useful websites:

- *Parliamentary Strengthening Brochure:*

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PSGLP/Resources/ParliamentaryBrochureFinal.pdf>

- *World Bank Website for Parliamentarians:*

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/PARTNERS/EXTPARLIAMENTARIANS0,,menuPK:64165869~pagePK:64165874~piPK:64165885~theSitePK:464534,00.html>

- *Professional Development Website for Parliamentary Staff:*

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/WBI/WBIPROGRAMS/PSGLP/contentMDK:21326720~pagePK:64156158~piPK:64152884~theSitePK:461606,00.html>



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