

PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL VOICE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: October - December 2008

PYC SECRETARIAT, SPC CETC, NARERE, SUVA, FIJI

Revival of the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) Secretariat

'The revival of the PYC Secretariat has been very timely', says PYC President, 23 year old Ms Jacque Koroï (pictured) of Fiji. 'After humble beginnings in 1996 and supported by a hardworking Executive of representatives from throughout the Pacific, the time was right to strengthen and institutionalize the Council so it could effectively serve the young people of the Region'.

In the true spirit of partnership and Regional networking, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), AusAID Pacific Leadership Program (PLP), and PYC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the initial establishment of the PYC Secretariat, including hiring of a full-time Secretariat Coordinator.

The Secretariat is being hosted by the SPC Community Education Training Centre (CETC) in Narere, 8 miles out of the city of Suva and 4 miles from Nausori Airport. The new Coordinator, Ms Tarusila Bradburgh, commenced on October 1st and hopes to strengthen the role of PYC, establish better linkages with NYCs, and build stronger partnerships with Government Ministries, Departments, Divisions of Youth and Regional Youth Organizations in the Region.

PYC MISSION:

The PYC shall nurture the promotion of unity, equity and solidarity of Pacific Youth in search of their interests, needs and development.

PYC OBJECTIVES:

The Pacific Youth Council has five (5) objectives for the period 2006-2009. They are:

1. Strengthen Youth Networks at all levels in the Pacific and thereby promote a regional identity through the exchange and dissemination of information.
2. Encourage and strengthen Territorial and National Youth Organizations in the Pacific.
3. Promote the interest and development of Pacific Youth.
4. Identify and secure available resources to support the PYC and Territorial and National Youth Bodies in the Pacific.



5. Cooperate with Governments and administrations of the Pacific to advance the development of Pacific Youth.

The Pacific Youth Council is guided by an existing Constitution and a work-plan until 2009.

Meet the PYC Executive Team

The members of the PYC Executive were elected during the 3rd Pacific Youth Council General Assembly (GA) held in Tahiti in July 2006. The PYC GA was held in parallel with the 1st Pacific Youth Festival.

This group of young, dynamic and vibrant representatives, though based in their different countries have worked tirelessly to keep the PYC afloat and alive!

The PYC Executive Team is comprised of:

President: Jacque Koroï, Fiji

1st V/President: Terry Mote, RMI

2nd V/President: Seletuta Visiesio, Samoa

3rd V/President: Reginald Kipe, Vanuatu

Treasurer: Wiseman Tearaki, Cook Islands

Deputy Treasurer: Talei Nuusa, Niue

Vice Treasurer: Talei Nuusa, Niue

Exec Member: Jasper Anisi, Solomon Islands

Exec Member: Tierata Taukaban, Kiribati

The 4th Pacific Youth Council General Assembly is being proposed to be held in Suva Fiji during the 2nd Pacific Youth Festival in July 2009. A new Leadership Team will be elected to steer PYC from July 2009-2012.

Inside this issue:

Support for PYC crucial says SPC Youth Adviser	2
AusAID PLP Strengthens Youth Leadership in the Region	2
National Youth Councils / Youth Bodies in the Region	2
Profiles of PYC Executive Members	3
Pacific Youth Festival in Suva Fiji 2009	3
Collective voice for young people is important	3
PYC Updates	4

Special points of interest:

- Did you know that there is a Pacific Youth Strategy 2010? The theme; "Youth Empowerment for a secure, prosperous and sustainable future" is a strategic regional framework to guide preparing young people in the Pacific Region to take responsibility for their overall development and well-being
- Are you connected to youth development issues in your country? Do you have a National Youth Policy in place? Are you an active citizen? "A young person once said that 'we are the generation the world has been waiting for'". If we are, what are we doing about it?
- Regional HIV / AIDS funding available - go to <http://www.spc.int/hiv/downloads/response-fund-applying-for-grants-guidelines/>

Support for PYC Crucial says SPC Youth Adviser



SPC's HDP Youth Adviser Ms Rose Maebiru. Rose brings with her a wealth of youth work experience and knowledge to advance Regional youth development work.

'With the re-activation of PYC Secretariat, members need to renew their relationship and engage with the Council to enable further cooperation and joint effort in youth development. Young people and youth agencies alike need to dialogue with PYC with the aim of taking action to support the current efforts and collectively address issues that affect young people', says SPC Youth Adviser, Ms Rose Maebiru.

As the Regional focal point for non-government and voluntary youth organizations in the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs), PYC plays a very important role at the

Regional and also at the National level. PYC provides a platform where its members can converge, share, support and raise critical issues to be addressed regionally and internationally.

Youth issues and concerns can be dealt with at national level but certain matters need collective effort and voices for greater impact and this is where PYC comes in; not on its own, but in collaboration and partnership with other regional partners and stakeholders.

Ms Maebiru issued a challenge to the young people of the region to **'step forward and talk to youth organizations / programmes in your countries and the regional**

organizations to discuss what you and your peers would like to do together with the organizations to address your issues'.

SPC sees PYC as a key partner in implementing youth priorities identified by its members.

At country level, the Human Development Programme (HDP) (Youth) of SPC works with the government youth departments and in many countries, the national youth departments work in collaboration with PYC members (National Youth Councils).

SPC through the HDP will continue to support PYC and its members and will work closely with them to provide services for and with young people.

AusAID PLP Strengthens Youth Leadership in the Region

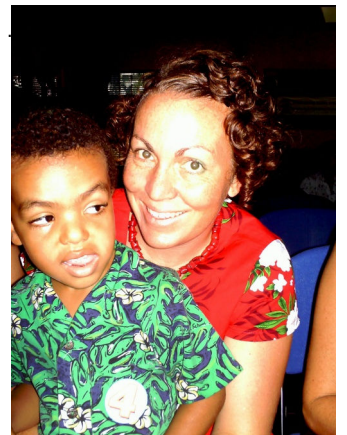
The AusAID-funded Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) is actively supporting the re-establishment of the PYC Secretariat. PLP commenced in early 2008 in Suva, and works in partnership with existing Pacific organizations that are strategically placed to address leadership issues in the region. PLP supports partner organizations to work on their core business, and to grow stronger as organizations, so they can contribute to the development of future models of leadership for Pacific Islanders. It provides funding and technical support to the PYC Secretariat in Suva.

For the PLP, a partnership with the PYC seemed like a perfect fit. As Regional Program Manager Yeshe Smith confirms, 'we are thrilled to be working with PYC. As the only representative peak body for youth in the Pacific, it has a critical coordination, information sharing and advocacy role to play. With a strong, effective PYC, there is enormous potential to achieve great things for youth leadership in the region'.

PLP is also developing national programs in six initial focus countries - SI, PNG, Vanuatu, Samoa,

Tonga & East Timor. This has allowed PLP to meet national and local youth reps, and to learn more about the particular challenges confronting young people in those countries. It is hoped that PLP may soon build partnerships with some youth bodies at the national level; to help young people access leadership roles in their countries, whilst recognizing that a regional body such as PYC is only as strong as its national members.

Ms Yeshe Smith (with her son, Aviela), Regional Program Manager of PLP.



National Youth Councils / Youth Bodies in the Region



Samoa PYC Rep & PYC Vice President, Ms Seletuta Visesio

Let us take a look at existing & revived NYCs or Youth Bodies in the Region:

- Tonga National Youth Congress
- Tuvalu National Youth Council
- Niue National Youth Council
- Nauru National Youth Council
- Union Polynesian pour la Jeunesse, Tahiti
- Cook Islands NYC
- Solomon Islands National Youth Congress

- Fiji National Youth Advisory Board

There are ongoing revival efforts in Samoa and Vanuatu and PYC looks forward to their set up soon. One of the outcomes of the 2007 Cook Islands Regional Youth Stakeholders Consultation was the need to strengthen and revive NYCs across the Region.

Young people's voices and collective efforts needed to be institutionalize and NYCs are the way to go!

PYC acknowledges the support and commitment by respective island Governments through their Youth Focal points to set up these important alternative youth bodies.

Support from Development & Donor Partners is also commended. Ongoing collaboration is needed to sustain these NYCs / Youth Bodies so that they continue to be the platform for young people's participation.

Profiles of PYC Executive Members



Mr. Reginald Kipe (above) is a 29 year old Senior Youth & Sports Development Officer and is the Vanuatu PYC representative. Reginald loves playing sports, listening to music and adventure.

Q: Reginald, how do you see your role on PYC?

A: A voice representative for youth on issues affecting them and a co-facilitator in providing an operational and effective regional mechanism that would work for the betterment of Pacific youth.

Reginald's Vision for PYC: A fully operational organization that is responsible for all youth affairs at the regional level and who keep solidarity between Pacific youth to addressing issues of concern.

Mr. Jasper Highwood Anisi (right) is a 29 year old Para Legal Officer and is the Solomon Islands PYC representative. Jasper loves working with young people, soccer reading and internet surfing.



Q: Jasper, how do you see your role on PYC?

A: My role in PYC is to build networks amongst youth stake holders on a national, regional and international level. Making sure young people's voices are heard at all levels of decision making.

Jasper's Vision for PYC: PYC is going to be the youth organization run by young people themselves for the good of young people in the 22 member countries.

Pacific Youth Festival in Fiji Planned for July 2009

Fiji will host the 2nd Pacific Youth Festival (PYF) next year at which 1400 participants from 30 Pacific island countries are expected to attend.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Mr. Filipe Bole launched the theme 'Actioning the Youth Agenda' and the Logo competition for the 2009 Pacific Youth Festival.

Mr. Bole said that the honour to host this event was entrusted to Fiji during the Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community that was held in Port Moresby in 2005.

The 'Actioning the Youth Agenda' theme will be used as a basis for discussions and speeches (delivered by known advocates and academics of the region) during the week-long event, with the aim to help contribute to building a better Pacific.

'More importantly, the symposium component of the Festival aims to monitor and report on the progress of implementation of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 since the last Festival in Tahiti', Mr. Bole said.

He said that the theme for the event is important for delegates, who on returning to their homeland are obligated to adopt resolutions at the Conference into the programs and initiatives of their relevant Ministry and Youth Organizations.

Source: Fiji Government Dept of Information Media Release, 17/11/08



Fiji's Minister for Youth & Sports, Mr. Filipe Bole speaking at the PYF launch with PYC President, Jacque Koroi (seated).

Collective Voice for Young People is Important



Vibrant 28 year old and Cook Islands NYC President, Ms Nukutau Pokura (source: CYP Pacific website)

The new Cook Islands National Youth Council (CINYC) President Ms Nukutau Pokura believes that it is **absolutely important** to have a collective voice for young people.

'Nuks', as she loves to be called, sees the Council playing a valuable role in advocacy, as a networking coordinating mechanism, and a conduit of change for positive youth development and a promoter of youth mainstreaming and decision-making. There

are times when young people are disillusioned when it comes to decision making processes, due to their inexperience or lack of opportunities to become knowledgeable or skilled in these areas.

A body such as the CINYC gives young people the control and opportunity to decide, reason, research, implement and report from their perspectives; allowing them to recognize their skills and limitations in what they

own interests and determine what they can and cannot do to make life easier for themselves, their peers and also for generations to come.

First and foremost Nuks wants to build a rapport amongst her Council members so that team work is evident and equity is practiced within. In partnership with relevant stakeholders in the Cooks Islands finally establish the CINYC Secretariat and launch the Council in 2009.

PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Pacific Youth Council Secretariat
SPC CETC
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands

Phone: 679 3391033 / 3391714
Fax: 679 3391324
E-mail: tarusilab@spc.int /
pacificyouthcouncil@gmail.com

Meet Our Partners



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community



Australian Government
AusAID

through the AusAID-funded Pacific Leadership Program

Gentle Reminders:

1. Ministries/Departments/Divisions of Youth are kindly requested to please fill in the survey forms and return by 31st December to the PYC Secretariat.
2. NYCs & Youth Bodies are also requested to please send your filled survey forms to the Secretariat no later than the 31st.

Upcoming Youth Events:

1. PYC wishes all the best to the youth participants from Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji & New Zealand as they participate in the Japanese 21st Ship of the World Youth Programme from January- March 2009. Bon voyage & have a great time of learning & adventure young people!

Staying Connected:

1. Email PYC Secretariat for newsworthy youth stories & events.
2. Join Youth Forums and discuss youth matters-ysfuture2005@yahoo.com, www.un.org/youth, TakingIT-Global.org, World Bank Young People for Change Face book, www.youthink.worldbank.org, www.spc.int/youth. There are many others, stay connected and continue to advocate on youth issues.
3. Be involved in your community /country and stay informed!
4. Begin preparations towards the PYF & PYC 4th GA next year in Fiji. Consult your various Ministries/Depts./Divisions of Youth & Youth Councils in your countries. It is important to prepare well & have time to fund-raise also - Get going young people!

The Face of Your Pacific Youth Council Secretariat



**Ms Tarusila Bradburgh, Coordinator
of the Pacific Youth Council Secretariat**

This will be the **'youthful and smiling face'** of the PYC Secretariat in the next coming months. For 32-year old and mother of one, Taru as she is widely called finds working with young people most rewarding. She has been seconded by the Ministry of Youth & Sports to this position since October 1st for the

next 6 months. Taru has had 10 years of work experience with young people, women and communities. She began what she loves doing with Fiji YWCA in 1998 as a Volunteer Young Women's Coordinator before joining the UNDP SMILE Project in 2002 as a Research Intern. Taru joined the Ministry of Youth & Sports in 2003 as a Youth Officer based in the Research Training & Development Unit with her core functions to strengthen networking and partnerships with the Ministry's stakeholders particularly Civil Society and Development partners.

With her CYP Diploma in Youth & Development Work Training she hopes to contribute as much within the 6 months & help strengthen PYC's roles & functions.

A brief snapshot of activities in the last 3 months:

- Ongoing networking & partnerships (new & strengthened) with relevant youth development partners & SPC Programmes, to name a few; UNESCO, World Bank, ILO, UNFPA, ONOC, PYEN, CYP Pacific, SPC HDP, AHD, HIV & STI Section, PPAPD & FPOC SPC, Nabua, FSPI, PIANGO, CLGF, Youth Visioning Team, YSF, YPTDF, Regional DEAP, Ministries/ Dept / Divisions of Youth, European Youth Forum.
- PYC participated & contributed in the AHD Regional Planning & Review Meeting in Nadi - 17 - 21 November 2009
- Ongoing meetings, discussions and training with the AusAID PLP; Basic Financial & Project Management Training, M & E Group & Individual Organization Consultation
- Proposal submission to US Embassy Suva for Capacity Building of NYCs
- Ongoing consultation and collaboration with NYCs / Youth Bodies in the Region.