

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMITTEE**
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 19-20 November 2001)**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROPOSED FORMAT / STRUCTURE
OF THE CONFERENCE THEME PRESENTATION AT THE
SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of the Republic of Nauru, in preparing to host the 31st Meeting of CRGA and the 2nd Conference of the Pacific Community proposed the following theme for the Conference:

“THE PACIFIC ISLAND CHALLENGE: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (HRD)”

In developing the theme for presentation, the Secretariat believes that the thematic discussions, and outcomes, would benefit greatly from active involvement of member countries and territories, training institutions and our development partners who support HRD work in the Pacific.

Human Resources Development is a very wide topic, and it would be very difficult to do justice to the subject without taking a focus on a particular area. The path we are suggesting to take is one in which the discussions could perhaps focus more on the HRD role of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, following a series of general presentations on the theme by the speakers.

We have three distinguished people who will try to address the HRD challenges in the Pacific from three different perspectives, the country/territory perspective, the training institution perspective, and the development partner perspective. We have also invited two other people who will join the speakers in a panel during the plenary discussion on the topic. In addition, we hope very much to draw extensively upon the combined expertise of the country and territory delegates to actively participate during the plenary discussions on the theme. We stress the importance of a wide interactive and productive participation from delegates if we are to achieve some tangible outcomes.

2. PRESENTATION FORMAT

There will be four main presentations on the theme followed by brief comments from each of the two additional panelists before going into full plenary discussions.

2.1 **Presentations** **Speakers and Panelists.**

Topic: **Setting the Scene (20 Minutes)**

This topic will introduce the theme and sets the scene for the thematic discussions. It will identify key challenges that need to be discussed / addressed in HRD in the Pacific. The paper will draw from other work already done in this area such as the 'Forum Basic Education Action Plan 2001' adopted by FIC Ministers of Education Meeting in Auckland in May 2001, the 1999 UNDP Pacific Human Development Report as well as from some of the Secretariat's own work and experiences including the 1999 CRGA theme paper on the 'Guardianship of Pacific Islands Resources – Land, Sea and People' and the paper presented by Demography at FORUM meeting in Nauru in August this year addressing 'The Vital Balance between Population and Resources in the Pacific'.

Presenter ***Dr Jimmie Rodgers – DDG Secretariat of the Pacific Community***

Topic: **HRD from the Country / Territory Perspective. (15 Minutes)**

This topic will address the HRD challenge from the perspective of countries and territories. What are the issues, how are they being addressed at national level? What mix of skills are required in the work force? What are the possible future scenarios? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Policy and Resourcing Issues. From a country perspective, how could / should training institutions and development partners assist countries and territories better respond to their HRD needs? and more.

Guest Speaker ***Mr Peter Baki, Secretary for Education, Department of Education, Papua New Guinea.***

Topic: **HRD from the Tertiary Training Institutions' Perspective (15 Minutes)**

This topic will address the HRD Challenge from the tertiary training institutions' perspective. How are they coping with or positioning themselves to respond to the HRD challenge in the region? What are the issues facing regional and national tertiary training institutions in HRD? How do they ensure the appropriateness and continued relevance of their training programmes or their products to the increasingly diversified HRD needs in the region? and more.

Guest Speaker: ***Dr Ana Taufe'ulungaki, Fellow, Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific (USP).***

Topic: HRD from the Development Partner/Donor Perspective (15 Minutes)

This topic will address the HRD challenge from the Development partner / donor perspective. How do they / can they better assist HRD in the region? Where should the focus be?

Guest Speaker: *The Honourable Mathew Robson, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Official Development Assistance), New Zealand.*

Additional Panelists: (5 Minutes each)

*Ms Angie Itsimaera, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Nauru
Galumalemana Nuufou Petaia, Head of the SPC Community Education Training Centre (CETC).*

OPEN PLENARY AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS (2 HOURS)

Following the four presentations and introductory comments from the other two panelists, there will be open plenary and panel discussions on the theme. We strongly encourage all delegates to make full participation in the plenary, whether in addressing or highlighting other issues not covered by the presentations or asking the panelists for clarifications or further expositions of the subjects covered under their address.

3. CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

This is currently left open depending on the wish of the Conference.

The Secretariat however believes that theme presents the Conference with a very unique opportunity to:

- I. Add its collective voice to the need to urgently address HRD Challenges in the region, and associate itself for instance to: the DAKAR 2000 Goals for Education and the visions and actions agreed to under the Forum Basis Education Action Plan.
- II. More specifically challenge the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to work toward specific HRD targets over the next two years with the level of achievements or failures to be reported to the 3rd Conference of the Pacific Community in year 2003.

The Conference may wish to come up with a 'Communiqué ' that captures the above areas. This would provide a direct link between our national Focal Point Ministries and Departments with the respective national Ministries Departments of Education and HRD. It will also provide guidance and a more focussed direction for the HRD work under the respective work programmes of SPC over the next two years.