



- Data analysis training
- Brisbane Accord Group Meeting
- World Statistics Day
- Nauru Education Management Information System workshop

Data Analysis training conducted by the SPC-EMIS team for the Solomon Islands Education Management Information System (SIEMIS) team, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), 1–10 November

The MEHRD in Solomon Islands requested the SPC-EMIS team to provide technical assistance on the drafting of the 2015 Performance Assessment Report (PAR). A training was conducted in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 1–4 November with SIEMIS staff, as well as some staff of the Policy and Planning strategic management.

PAR is the process of compiling and documenting factors that quantify MEHRD profitability, efficiency and adherence to budget, comparing actual results against original targets. The PAR process is usually conducted once per year; although in some cases it is carried out more often.



Member of the SIEMIS Team, MEHRD

A comprehensive PAR document provides an overview of the MEHRD mission, planning process, internal structure, and the strategies implemented to achieve desired goals. The PAR process illuminates

how performance and information is handled to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Training participants were invited to identify and link the National Education Action Plan (NEAP) indicators to the list of PAR indicators. They also learned basic computer skills on how to link tables and graphs from an Excel workbook to a Word document. This basic training was an opportunity for the team to examine the SIEMIS analysis workbook and extract the relevant indicators for the 2015 PAR. This training will enable the team to automate the 2016 PAR next year.

2015 Performance Assessment Report (PAR)

The SIEMIS team was able to prepare the first draft of the 2015 PAR during the last few days of the training. This work was done in conjunction with the technical support of the SPC-EMIS team, who assisted with tasks such as creating tables and graphs for the report. The team arrived at a consensus on the set of data and indicators for the 2015 PAR. A framework for the report was agreed upon by MEHRD and the team was able to begin adding tables and graphs using the 2015 data from the SIEMIS and MEHRD websites.

On 10 November, MEHRD received a first draft of the PAR. The plan is to publish the 2015 PAR by end of January 2017. It is to be noted that the SIEMIS system comprises a large amount of information, and 90% of the data integrated in the 2015 PAR were extracted from SIEMIS.

MEHRD is equipped with an efficient EMIS team, a large amount of data, a good EMIS, and a well-designed website. In addition to these resources, the SIEMIS team has received ongoing training from the SPC-EMIS team and consultants since 2014. As a result of these trainings, MEHRD is now able to draft its first PAR this year.

Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development Website developed

The design of the MEHRD website was a positive development in 2014. The website contains important information that will interest both stakeholders in education, as well as the general public.

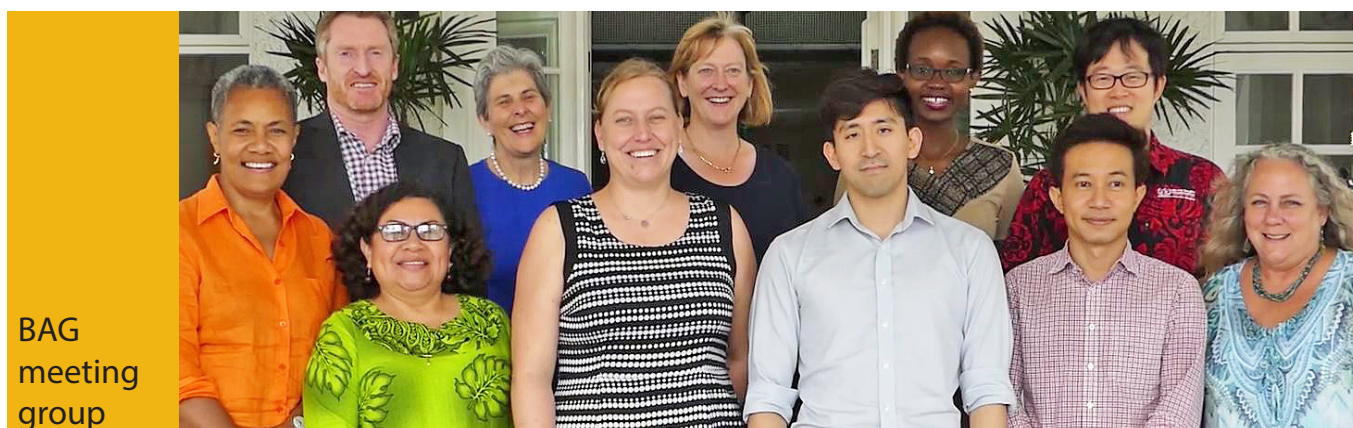
Data from SIEMIS has been made available on the MEHRD website.

The website was one of the greatest outcomes of the SPC-EMIS project in 2014. The manager of the SIEMIS team at the MEHRD was trained to update the site on a yearly basis, and to ensure that the MEHRD website provides high-quality information that is useful for all levels of decision-making.

Training on Tableau

Solomon Islands was the first country this year to receive training on Tableau software from the SPC-EMIS team. This training involved the SIEMIS data entry officers as well as the information and communication team. Tableau is data visualisation software. The training demonstrated to the team how to make data visually appealing and interactive by using Tableau.

As a result of the training, the SIEMIS team has started to use Tableau to generate graphs for their 2015 PAR.



Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) meeting, 25–27 October

The Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), under the leadership of the Pacific Community (SPC), held their annual meeting on 25–27 October in Suva, Fiji. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress made with regards to implementation of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP) over the past year, to identify and address emerging issues/priorities, and to plan for the next phase of implementation. The BAG meeting was attended by representatives from eight out of the twelve member agencies. Also in attendance were two representatives from the World Bank Group (WBG). WBG recently signed off on a joint work programme with BAG, which focusses on supporting Pacific island countries to review and update their civil registration legislation, and on the development of IT systems for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). In addition to improving

registration and vital statistics production practices, this work is more specifically aimed at supporting countries to establish secure data interface and data sharing platforms, which should position national civil registration systems to adequately support e-government functions.

Discussions at the BAG meeting centred around five core themes: the status of cooperation and engagement of BAG partner agencies; updates on ongoing regional activities by different partners; the status of country CRVS programmes and country technical needs; BAG's research activities; and BAG's engagement in CRVS work at the global level.

Attendees applauded the signing of a formal agreement between BAG partner agencies, which was considered an important milestone in institutionalising the participation of individual agencies, and in securing continuity of the group's work over the years. The status of progress made by all countries in the region

and the nature of support provided by individual partners was discussed. There was an emphasis on the need for closer collaborative approaches, while maximising on the technical competencies and comparative advantages of different BAG agencies. The group underlined the need to mobilise resources to support a number of research projects, which were initially planned to commence in 2016, but failed to due to a lack of resources. The group also discussed the participation of BAG at the global CRVS Working Group, and the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

It was noted that BAG has been recognised as making an important contribution to the work being undertaken by these fora. For example, during the last meeting of the global CRVS group, BAG’s best practice guidelines on CRVS legislation were recognised as an important resource that would be referred to while updating the UN handbook on civil registration legislation.

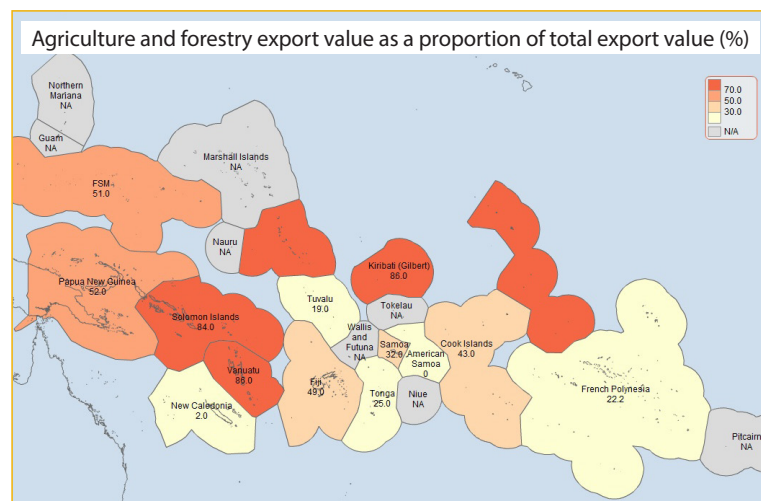
The BAG meeting also provided an important opportunity to meet and welcome new representatives of BAG member agencies from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

World Statistics Day, 20 October

On World Statistics Day, the EU-supported intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Pacific Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) took the opportunity to promote the updated and revised Agriculture and Forestry National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDIs). The NMDIs are housed on the Statistics for Development Division’s (SDD) Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM), and were established in 2010 in response to a request from the Heads of Planning and Statistics for a set of core indicators to help monitor development progress in the region.

The calculation of the Agriculture and Forestry NMDIs has been revised in order to further harmonise the indicators across the region and also to bring it in line with international classifications. The process of revision will be ongoing. It is anticipated that future versions of the NMDIs will increase the availability of disaggregated data (e.g. on age and gender). It is also anticipated that a wider set of core indicators will be established as part of a Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fishery Statistics (P-SPAFS) to

incorporate new regional demands (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals).



Nauru Education Management Information System (Ron EMIS) workshop on use of education statistics to support planning and decision-making, 3–10 October

The Republic of Nauru (RON) Department of Education, in partnership with SPC, held a successful workshop from 3–10 October in Yaren, Nauru. The objective of the workshop was to review the Department of Education data collection and reporting systems and to rationalise the Republic of Nauru Education Management Information System (Ron EMIS) data collection tools.

Twenty-eight participants attended the workshop, which highlighted the concepts and definitions of the Ron Emis indicators and how they can be linked with the Pacific Education Development Framework, as well as the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 4. Participants discussed and reviewed the list of the questions in the existing Ron EMIS survey questionnaires.

During the workshop, the Software Developer demonstrated the Ron EMIS system to the participants, who were then able to raise queries and concerns. School principals were keen to contribute, and their requests have been brought forward in the recommended list of activities in the workshop action plan.

During the workshop, the participants identified the Ron EMIS stakeholders and the type of, and purpose for, the information required. The national statistics office in Nauru presented on education statistics from

the 2012 census report for Nauru. This marked the beginning of bringing the two departments together in order to share and compare census and Ron EMIS information.

Another important agenda item that was covered during the workshop was the quality of the data stored in Ron EMIS. The participants discussed and agreed on timelines for the 2017 data collection. It was decided that a survey timeline process will be developed to guide school principals in 2017. The Ron EMIS survey questionnaire has been reviewed based on the discussions from the workshop.

The Department of Education presented the new strategic plan and discussed its link to the Ron EMIS system.



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'Nauruan students are paid an 'entitlement' of AUD 5 for each day they attend school.'

Finally, the workshop participants listened to the National Employment and Training (NEAT) scheme. This initiative was established in agreement with the Nauru Department of Education in order to improve student attendance. The advantage of the Ron EMIS is that it runs off a robust and well-designed SQL database that is capable of managing the record-keeping requirements for the NEAT scheme.

The NEAT scheme was implemented by the **Nauru Education Assistance Trust Act 2016**, certified on 12 May 2016. Under the scheme, all Nauruan students are paid an 'entitlement' of AUD 5 for each day they attend school. However they do not become eligible to receive payment unless they complete Year 8 and commence Year 9. If they do not complete Year 9, their entitlements are the sum of the days they attended school until the completion of Year 8, plus

the days that they attended in Year 9. They are not able to receive their money until the year in which they would have completed Year 12.

After the workshop, the Department of Education in SPC is looking forward to continue working with the Department of Education in order to strengthen the business processes of the Ron EMIS in the future.

They have agreed on an action plan to mitigate the:

- Inaccuracy in data entry
- Delays with data entry
- Reporting of the student's absenteeism by the data entry staff
- Regular verification against the school records.

Upcoming events



Sub-regional workshop on international merchandise trade statistics compilation and export and import unit value indices – Guam



Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) sectoral workshop in preparation for data dissemination combined with infographic training - Honiara, Solomon Is.

Around the Region



Nauru for the first time took out a release on International Merchandise Trade

Statistics (IMTS) covering the period 2006 to 2015



Tuvalu took out a release on IMTS covering the period 2010 to 2015 on an annual basis and January to July 2016 on a monthly basis



Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) meeting – Nadi, Fiji



VANUATU MINI-CENSUS



TONGA CENSUS NIGHT

Work on-the-go

Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

- Solomon Islands – Report scheduled for completion by the end of December 2016.

Education Management Information System (EMIS)

- Solomon Islands – 2015 Performance Assessment Report; data collection and cleaning; report

scheduled for completion by the end of December 2016.

- Tonga – 2014 Annual Statistical Digest; report to be released soon.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

- Tokelau – First HIES completed and survey report to be officially released soon.
- Niue – Collections scheduled for completion by the end of November 2016.
- Cook Islands – Scheduled for completion by the end of December 2016.
- Tuvalu – Funafuti collections completed and outer islands scheduled for completion by the end of December 2016.
- Kiribati – Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) HIES scheduled to begin mid-2017.
- Marshall Islands – First CAPI HIES scheduled to begin mid-2017 (collaboration with World Bank and ADB).

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Useful links:

<http://spc.int/sdd>

<http://nauru.prism.spc.int/latest-news>

<http://tuvalu.prism.spc.int/index.php/tuvalu-documents>

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/201823303/vanuatu-mini-census-a-tech-milestone-for-pacific>