

PACIFIC YOUTH RESOURCE BUREAU
CRGA 31 Paper October 2001

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform CRGA members of the activities of the **Pacific Youth Resource Bureau (PYRB)** since the last CRGA meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia in November 2000.

Background

The PYRB is responsible for the co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and review of the **Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 (PYS2005)** which was adopted by the **First Regional Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community** held in Papeete in July 1998. The PYS2005 is the platform for youth development activities in the region toward the year 2005 and beyond.

The priorities for PYS2005 include the development of gender-inclusive national youth policies which outline practical responses to emerging issues affecting young people; skills development and capacity-building; youth advocacy; and information sharing.

A special focus of the PYS2005 is providing financial assistance to **Small Island States** to foster skills training initiatives for young people through the **Small Island States Fund (SISF)**. The SISF is administered at regional level by the Youth Development Adviser and at country level by Management Committees that are responsible for the operation of local funds known in participating countries as **Youth Empowerment Funds**.

Objectives

1. Strengthen national Government and Non-Government focal points for youth development through capacity building, development of national youth policies, leadership skills development and training for youth leaders and young people in PICTs.
2. Improve the impact of the Small Island States Fund in supporting skills training for young people aged 16 to 24 years in the twelve SPC Small Island States.
3. Advocate youth concerns within the programme arms of SPC and collaborate with key stakeholders on relevant activities relating to the six programmes of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005.
4. Disseminate relevant information on youth activities to Government youth offices, national youth councils, NGO and international organisations, through the 'Youthlink' newsletter and the PYRB Webpage.

Activities, Achievements and Impacts

1. PYS2005 Programme I - Pacifika Aspirations (National Youth Policies)

The national youth policies for Cook Islands and Kiribati are completed. The YDA continue to provide technical assistance and training support to the Governments of Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau for the development of their national youth policies while financial assistance was provided for the development of the national youth policy for Niue.

2. PYS2005 Programme II - Challenge Pacifika (Responding to Country Requests)

The PYRB facilitated a youth exchange programme for Royalty Islands Province of New Caledonia which included a courtesy visit by the Vice-President of the Royalty Islands to the Cook Islands; the second phase of the Tonga National Volunteers Scheme was completed; a painting workshop for out-of-school youth was conducted in Vanuatu; a Peace and Reconciliation Workshop and a IEC project on Substance Abuse were supported in the Solomon Islands; and an Environmental Awareness Training Programme was supported in the Cook Islands.

3. PYS2005 Programme III - Youth-Lead Pacifika (Leadership Training)

Leadership Training Workshops were conducted for youth leaders in Palau, young women in Cook Islands, and State Youth Coordinators in the Federated States of Micronesia and work continues on the proposed Certificate in Leadership.

4. PYS2005 Programme IV - Pacifika Advocacy (Work with NGOs)

The Youth Development Adviser facilitated the 2nd General Assembly of the Pacific Youth Council (which involved all member countries of SPC) which was held in Nadi, Fiji, 11 - 15 December 2000. New Office Bearers have been appointed for PYC and a new PYC Strategy is currently being implemented. A volunteer is currently placed within the PYRB as Executive Secretary for the PYC.

5. PYS2005 Programme V - Infoshare Pacifika (Information Dissemination)

Three issues of the Youthlink Newsletter were published in 2001 and the PYRB Website has been remodelled to make it more user-friendly. In addition, PYRB publications have been distributed widely at PYRB events during the year including articles being provided to an International Development Bulletin.

6. PYS2005 Programme VI - Pacifika Empowerment (Small Island States Fund)

The Small Island States Fund activities are currently ongoing in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Pitcairn Island, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna. As of September 2001, about 500 more young people from the 12 participating countries have received training assistance through the fund.

Main collaborative activities (internal and external)

During the year, the PYRB collaborated with various SPC Programmes in supporting activities with direct links to the PYS2005 including the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (*conducting Handicraft Marketing Workshop in Palau and organising various components of the 8th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women*); Adolescent Reproductive Health Project - Suva (*facilitating the 1st Regional Planning Meeting and publishing ARH information in Youthlink*); HIV/AIDS Project (*producing the HIV/AIDS/STI Brochure and distributing HIV/AIDS materials at PYC General Assembly*); Pacific Action for Health Project (*providing contact linkages in Kiribati and Solomon Islands and attendance at Pacific Youth Council Meeting*). External collaborations include the University of the South Pacific Extension Services (*serving on Community Workers Certificate Advisory Committee*); Pacific Youth Council (*securing funds and organising 2nd PYC General Assembly*); Development Studies Network - ANU (*production of materials for Development Bulletin Newsletter*) and Peace Corps Pacific Initiative (*Capacity Building for Youth Councils*).

Funding Sources

Funding for the PYRB activities include contributions for the Small Island States Fund (SISF) by the Government of the United Kingdom; Government of France; and the Government of New Zealand. For other activities, funding was provided by the Governments of the United Kingdom (specifically for Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands); the Government of the Republic of Taiwan/ROC; the Government of French Polynesia; the Government of New Caledonia; and the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund.

Future Priorities 2002

The PYRB continues with:

- Implementing of Pacific Youth Strategy 2005.
- Responding to country-specific requests for technical and other assistance in 2002.
- Youth Initiatives to be supported in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in 2002.
- Certificate in Leadership to be finalised in 2002.
- Providing technical assistance and support to the Pacific Youth Council in 2002.
- Preparations for the 2nd Pacific Youth Ministers Conference.