



PACIFIC ISLANDS PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATION (PIPSO)

“Issues, Challenges and Opportunities with Private Sector Development in the Pacific”

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PEGASeS Seminar
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Background

- **1980-90s: Attempts to form a Regional Private Sector Organisation (RPSO) not successful**
- **1997 FEMM recognised role of Government and private sector**
- **2002 FEMM recommended Public-Private Sector Partnerships**
- **2004 pre-FEMM Public-Private Dialogue recommended a feasibility study on a Regional Private Sector Organisation**

2005 - PIPSO's Big Year!

- Feb – RPSO feasibility study completed
- Apr – Regional Business Forum accepted RPSO feasibility study
– RPSO established to represent the interests of the private sector (regional cooperation for policy dialogue & advocacy, capacity building, networking & business facilitation)
- Jun – RPSO represented at 2005 FEMM
- Oct – Forum Leaders adopted Pacific Plan (Initiative 3:1 “support for private sector mechanisms including through RPSO/PIPISO”)
- Nov – PIPISO/UNDP Pacific Centre partnership for launching of “Unleashing Entrepreneurship”
- 2006 – Adopted PIPISO name; invited to FEMM & PACPTMM
- Note 2005/06 – Administrative support provided by PIFS

Vital Features

- **Vision** – *a region of opportunities for all people to grow and prosper*
- **Mission** – *to be a pivotal partner in harnessing resources to bring about real growth and prosperity for the region*
- **Governance** - Constitution, By-Laws & Policies; 3rd AGM & 2008 Audit done
- **Board** (FSM [Chair], Fiji [Vice-Chair], Cook Is, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa plus 2 Alternates from PNG & Tonga)
- **Members**: 14 National Private Sector Organisations (NPSOs); Fees FJ\$1,000/\$3,000/\$10,000
- **Associates** (regional business agencies, \$1,000)
- **Affiliates** (corporate entities, \$1,000)
- **2007: PIFS/UNDP Partnership** → PIPSO Secretariat (2 staff), Suva
Pacific Islands Business Forum (PIBF), Nadi
- **2008: AusAID PLP Partnership** → NPSO visits & strengthening
EU/BizClim Regional Small, Medium & Micro-Enterprises Forum, Samoa
- **2009 Strategic Priorities**: Capacity Building, Partnerships & Technical Support

PIPSO Board 2008-10



Regional vs. National Mandates

- **COOK ISLANDS - Maximize Cook Is' membership of PIPSO (National Sustainable DP 2006-10)**
- **FIJI – Govt has consulted widely with the private sector and NGOs to identify policies appropriate to the current social and economic situation in Fiji (Strategic DP 2007-11)**
- **KIRIBATI - Private Sector Consultative Committee is where Govt-private sector consultations take place, enabling private sector inputs to decision making (National DS 2004-07)**
- **NAURU - Strengthen partnerships between Government, civil society, private sector and donors (National Sustainable DS 2005-25)**
- **NIUE - Govt cannot create a 'Prosperous Niue' without a big effort from everyone: elected members, Govt employees, private sector, civil society, the public and investment partners (Niue Integrated Strategic Plan 2003-08)**

Regional vs. National Mandates (con't)

- **PALAU** - A priority objective of Govt and the private sector is to establish a business friendly environment that provides incentives for private sector growth – Palau Management Action Plan 2005-07
- **PNG** - Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council is an effective forum for facilitating dialogue and consultation between Govt and the private sector (PNG Medium Term DS 2005-10)
- **RMI** - We will continue to work closely with members of the Private Sector to foster a cooperative partnership where both sides work together towards achieving our National Vision (Strategic DP Framework 2003-18)
- **Samoa** - Closer cooperation and dialogue between Govt and the private sector is required to clearly identify areas of concern by the private sector and design appropriate strategies to address them (Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-07)

Regional vs. National Mandates (con't)

- **SOLOMON ISLANDS** - The successful implementation of the Plan requires strong cooperation and mutual support between Govt, civil society, NGOs, private sector and donors (Solomon Is' National Economic Recovery, Reform and DP 2003-06)
- **TONGA** - Govt accepts that a better partnership between the public and private sectors should be fostered during the SDP8 period, in order to reach consensus on required actions and appropriate roles for each sector (Strategic Development Plan 8: 2006/07 - 2008/09)
- **TUVALU** - A priority would be to expand private sector participation in the decision making process and strengthening the Chamber of Commerce (National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2005-15)
- **VANUATU** - Greater understanding of the need to provide a favourable business environment for the private sector has come about with discussions made at the annual National Business Forums (Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-15)

How Have We Fared So Far?

- 1998 Impediments to Investment (PIFS/FIAS):
Bureaucracy / Policy Changes / Land Access
- Today, 10 yrs later, these impediments are still there!

- 2008 WB Rankings on Ease of Doing Business:
FIJI (36th), TON (47), SAM (61), VAN (62), KRB (73), SOL (79), PAL (82), PNG (84), RMI (89), FSM (112)

- 2005-09 ADB Mid-Term Review of Pacific Strategy:
 - need for deeper engagement with non-state entities
 - support for the “creation” of a conducive environment

- Great challenges for PIPSO and stakeholders

<u>PRIORITIES</u>	<u>ARCHIEVEMENTS</u>
1. Capacity Building - PIPSO & NPSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12 NPSOs visited ● Website & Newsletters ● Human Resources Manual ● 2009 Pacific ACP Trade Ministers
2. Partnerships - various institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MOUs: PIFS/UNDP/PLP/SPC/PITIA ● Governments & CROP Agencies ● Forum Trade Offices ● PPD via 2007 PIBF, 2008 SMMEF ● WIB, Youth, Tourism, Agro, Manfg. etc ● Pacific Ports Authorities
3. Technical Support - business development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ComSec / ITC / UNCTAD / EU-ACP ● Competitiveness & Market Access ● Relocation of PIFS' PSD schemes ● Business Mentoring & PACER Plus

2009 Kiribati Private Sector Development Seminar, Tarawa



Business Opportunities & Trade Agreements

- **Private sector is best placed to identify opportunities**
- **PICTA, PACER Plus, MSG: intra-regional trade & investment opportunities**
- **Cotonou/EPA: Pacific ACP States & EU**
- **Bilaterals eg. FAS (FSM, Palau & RMI) with USA**
- **PIPSO emerged after above Agreement signings but has a key role to play in facilitating B2B networks so Agreement objectives can be achieved**

2008 Australia/PNG Business Forum



Woman-owned Micro-enterprise, Tuvalu



Resource Constraints

- **Affecting regional private sector inputs to:**
 - - **Health Issues (HIV/AIDS, H1N1)**
 - - **Climate Change**
 - - **Global Financial Crisis**
 - - **Data-based policy analysis**
- **Participation in relevant meetings (eg. Cross-ACP Participation Programme)**
- **PIPSO's role is limited to information sharing**

Upcoming Events/Projects

- **Global Financial Crisis Conference, Brisbane**
- **NPSO Visits to Cook Is & Niue**
- **Regional Business Mentoring Programme**
- **Ports Authorities-Ports Users Dialogue**
- **Address Container Contamination (with SPC)**
- **Fashion designers/niche garment manufacturers**
- **Transfer of PIFS' PSD projects to PIPSO**
- **ADB National consultants Seminar (Sep 09, Suva)**
- **PICTA Symposium (Oct 09, Tonga)**
- **2009 FEMM (Cook Is)**
- **Follow-up on NPSO/AGM, PACPTMM issues etc.**
- **Resource Mobilisation**

The Way Forward

- **Strengthening of NPSOs & PIPSO**
- **Private-Private Dialogue & Partnerships**
→ intra-private sector
- **Public-Public Dialogue & Partnerships**
→ intra-public sector & Development Partners
- **Public-Private Dialogue & Partnerships**
→ to ensure a business-friendly climate so the private sector can grow the economy

Thank You from



PIPSO

Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation