

T H E P A C I F I C P L A N

FOR STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

# niu pasifika



A PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT QUARTERLY PUBLICATION JANUARY 2008 ISSUE 01-08 VOLUME 3



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

# KEY FACTS ABOUT THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM & ITS SECRETARIAT

The Pacific Islands Forum, formerly the South Pacific Forum until a name change in October 2000, was founded in August 1971 and comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. The Forum is established by a treaty between its members as the region's premier political and economic policy organisation. Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's membership has increased from the original seven founding members (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Tonga and Western Samoa - now Samoa) to also include the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. New Caledonia and French Polynesia, previously Forum Observers, were granted Associate Membership in 2006. Current Forum Observers include Tokelau (2005), Wallis and Futuna (2006), the Commonwealth (2006), the United Nations (2006) and the Asian Development Bank (2006), with Timor Leste as Special Observer (2002).

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings. The Secretariat is funded by contributions from member governments and donors.

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**Executive**

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# MESSAGE FROM PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM CHAIR



Mālō e lelei to Niu Pasifika readers from across the Pacific and beyond.

It is with great honour that the Kingdom of Tonga has taken on the role of the Pacific Islands Forum Chair, as of October 2007. I undertake to you all, that in Tonga's time as Forum Chair, I will, drawing on the examples of the fine leadership by my distinguished predecessors, do my utmost to progress the region along the common cooperative path for development we have chosen to pursue under the Pacific Plan. We need to maintain cohesive leadership to nurture and strengthen our sense of common purpose and direction in our collective endeavour to meet the many challenges of our region.

While a number of the key objectives of the Pacific Plan have been accomplished in its first two years of implementation, there is more that we need to work on in order to strengthen regional cooperation. At the same time we need to recognise that many of the Pacific Plan's objectives - as are so many of our other aspirations - will only be fully realised on the basis of sustained efforts over a number of years. It is a long-term process but we must stay the course and keep scoring "runs on the board".

As the current of globalisation sweeps across regions, the inevitability of fomenting deeper regionalism in our own region will increasingly influence our policy considerations. The challenge for Forum Leaders is to determine and shape a regional architecture that develops regionalism the way we want it rather than accept a model that fails to embrace our common ideals. On this front, I am pleased that Forum Leaders are committed to progressing work to better define the existing regional architecture.

As envisaged by the founding Leaders of the Forum 36 years ago, regional cooperation can uplift national efforts by engaging the support of others in those areas where collective effort might be more efficient. The various political and economic crises experienced by a few Forum members demonstrate there is at least a political and economic case for deepening regional cooperation.



# MESSAGE FROM PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT SECRETARY GENERAL



Warm greetings from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

The New Year presents us, once again, with countless opportunities for growth and development. As the Pacific Islands Forum, development partners and the region's technical agencies strive to achieve the broad objectives of the Pacific Plan, cooperation and hard work remain top of mind.

This year is particularly significant for the Pacific Plan representing the third year since its inception and end of its first phase of implementation. The direction that we take from this point on, as a region, will be greatly dependent on the development priorities of Pacific Island Countries.

Enjoy the read and may 2008 bring with it thoughtful commitment and progress.

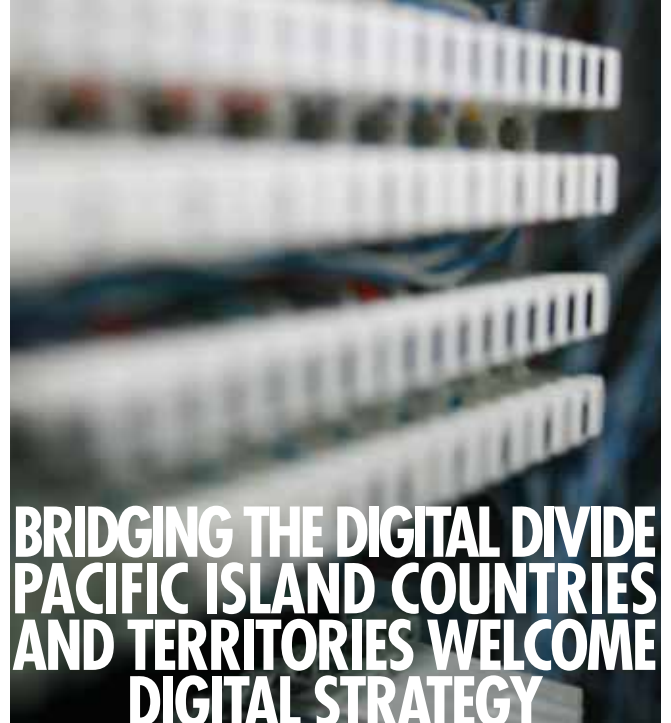
Greg Urwin  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Secretary General

Small as we are, the challenge of sea level rise is surmounting as our small islands are in real danger of inundation by swelling seas. The Forum must heighten its intervention in this area and, as Forum Chair, I will work with other regional leaders to identify strategies to strengthen our regional efforts. I hope to broaden regional dialogue on this important issue which is why I am quite excited about this new initiative for information sharing launched by the Secretariat. Niu Pasifika will be a useful medium for sharing ideas and I'm proud to be associated with this first publication for 2008.

'Ofa Atu and my best wishes to you all for a prosperous and productive year.

Fred Vaka'uta Sevele  
Honourable Prime Minister of Tonga and Forum Chair





## Priorities for 2008 identified

At their annual meeting held in Tonga last October 2007, Pacific Island Forum Leaders endorsed priority areas for implementation in support of the Pacific Plan for 2008.

This follows a similar approach undertaken by Forum Leaders in 2007 and the issuing of the Nadi Decisions that greatly assisted the region in focusing its attention and resources to addressing key challenges.

While a number of sectors will receive greater focus over 2008, through their Vava'u Decisions, Leaders drew particular attention to:

- Fisheries
- Energy
- Trade and economic integration
- Transport
- Climate change

These priorities encapsulate both continuing and emerging areas of significance for the Pacific at both the national, regional and international levels, all of which have impacts in some way on the day to day lives of the region's people.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT THE PACIFIC PLAN

**A comprehensive guide for taking the region forward  
New era of enhanced cooperation  
To improve the lives of Pacific peoples**

The Pacific Plan proposes a new and innovative approach to the unique challenges that Pacific Island Countries face through a framework of greater regional cooperation and integration.

Central to the Pacific Plan are a number of 'initiatives' that have been identified as a way to progress development across the region. While these initiatives overlap to varying degrees, they have been developed around four 'pillars.' Each pillar: economic growth; sustainable development; good governance; and security, represents in many respects the key areas (and challenges) that the Pacific as a region must work to address should it be able to raise living standards, increase access to opportunity and stimulate pro-poor growth for the peoples of the Pacific.

While the Pacific Plan proposes a regional response to the challenges that Pacific Island Countries face, it does not endeavour to promote a 'one-size-fits-all' model of regional cooperation, nor work to limit the ability of countries in the region to pursue their own nationally based policies.

The Pacific Plan was endorsed by Forum Leaders at their Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in Port Moresby, October 2005. As a 'living document' it now forms the basis of ongoing strengthening of regional cooperation and integration efforts for the benefit of the people of the Pacific.

Member countries and territories of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have welcomed two major initiatives that are aimed at bridging the communication divide in the region.

This was expressed at the 37th Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 37) held in Apia, Samoa in November 2007.

Australia will fund the Pacific Rural Satellite Interconnectivity System (Pacific RICS) and France has committed to funding the South Pacific Island Network (SPIN). Both projects, which are spearheaded by SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat through the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy, are aimed at improving access to communications technology, especially in rural areas.

Fiji's delegate to CRGA 37, Foreign Affairs official Veretariki Lomalagi, said the Digital Strategy is very important to the people of the Pacific. Lomalagi said it complements the work of the Fiji Government in trying to deregulate the telecommunications market.

"The high cost of telecommunications services is something the people in Fiji are talking about a lot, and the implementation of this project will surely bring about competition – which would definitely lead to a reduction in the cost of telecommunication services."

The Kiribati High Commissioner to Fiji, Reteta Nikautarimon, said connectivity is a development issue for her country.

"The prospects of having these solutions for countries like us would certainly promote not just greater awareness and connectivity between the main centre of administration and the community, but also bridge the isolation of our people."

Tonga's Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office and



## PIFS SIGNS MOU WITH PACIFIC ISLANDS NEWS ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has formalised its existing working relationship with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat, Greg Urwin and President of PINA and Managing Director of the National Broadcasting Corporation, Joseph Ealedona, in December 2007.

“It is important that we formalise this relationship between the Forum and PINA in view of the important role that the media plays in promoting good governance among its member countries through the training of its membership and the protection of the freedom of media in the region,” says Mr Urwin.

“The Forum Secretariat is keen to work closely with PINA as the Association delivers on its objectives of protecting the freedom of media in the region and improving on the capacity of media workers among its membership.”

Mr Urwin congratulated the PINA executive as it implements plans to ensure that the Association is accountable to its members and strives for an independent funding base for its activities.

Under the MOU, the Forum Secretariat and PINA will exchange and disseminate information, as appropriate, that is beneficial to their members and useful in the execution of their respective responsibilities.

PINA will work closely with the Forum Secretariat’s programmes that relate directly and/or indirectly to the media.

Where appropriate, PINA will also be included in the Forum Secretariat’s work programmes as a conduit for the delivery of technical advice and policy formulation related to capacity building of the media, particularly through the annual Forum Leaders’ Meeting Media Workshop and the Forum Economic Ministers’ Meeting Media Workshop.

PINA with its secretariat in Suva, Fiji, has membership from all of the 16 Forum member countries in print, radio, television and the national media associations.

*XO-1, the inexpensive laptop of the One Laptop Per Child initiative*

its delegate to CRGA 37, Falekava Kupu, said the Digital Strategy will be very useful for Tonga in the long term.

“It will complement existing educational and teaching aids. For over 40 years we’ve been using radio as a teaching aid reaching out to remote islands. I think that this project here will complement that.”

SPC’s Director-General, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, called on CRGA 37 to consider engaging in these types of technologies.

“The fact is, they are there. Before, they were not there or they were too expensive. Now they are there, and it is the role of governments to consider rolling them out so that they can benefit more of their communities.”

Dr Rodgers acknowledged the assistance provided by Australia and France for the two projects.

“We would encourage all member countries to think seriously about RICS and invest in it so that they can actually spread the benefits to the rest of the community. For the 12 countries in the SPIN project, we’d encourage you to engage seriously so that the benefits of unlimited bandwidth lower-cost communications can hit your countries and put you on the same page as developed countries in communication.

“We also urge this CRGA to encourage ministries of education to analyse the OLPC (One Laptop Per Child) initiative to see how useful that technology might be for education systems,” said Dr Rodgers.

The Pacific Regional Digital Strategy is an integral part of the Pacific Plan and seeks social and economic empowerment for Pacific Islanders, as well as a solution to the ‘tyranny of distance’. The Strategy aims to realise the potential of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for the region.



## PIPSO LAUNCHES WEBSITE

The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) has taken another step forward in serving its members with the launch of its website - [www.pipso.org](http://www.pipso.org).

“The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Pacific Centre, played an instrumental role together with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in the opening of an office for PIPSO last April. They were both supporters of last August’s successful PIPSO-organised Pacific Islands Business Forum in Nadi, Fiji, which attracted some 200 representatives of the region’s private and public sectors,” James Movick, Chair of PIPSO said.

Mr Movick said UNDP Pacific Centre has gone a step further by supporting the development of PIPSO’s website.

“This means that our stakeholders, including the business community, governments, donors and key institutions, would now not have to wait for another Business Forum in order to engage with one another. They will now be able to dialogue, network and most importantly, do business at anytime, in the most efficient and cost effective way, by simply logging onto the website. The project also ensures a global reach for PIPSO,” Mr Movick said.

Major features of the website include an ‘online discussion forum’ for policy dialogues, a ‘market place’ for trading, a depository for business data and information and, opportunities for commercial advertising.

PIPSO is a regional private sector body which seeks to facilitate policy dialogue with the public sector.



## south-pacific.travel LAUNCHES SOUTH PACIFIC CRUISE STRATEGY

**The global cruise industry is booming.**

Embarking on a plan to assist the Pacific capture its due share of the global cruise surge, the regional tourism organisation, south-pacific.travel (formerly the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, or SPTO) recently launched the ‘South Pacific Cruise Strategy’.

Global cruise passengers have exploded from less than 4 million in 1990 to over 11 million by 2005 – an almost threefold increase over 15 years.

“The South Pacific has less than two percent share of what’s going on in the cruise industry world wide,” remarked south-pacific.travel Chief Executive, Tony Everitt.

“In the words of the owners of Japan’s successful cruise ship, the Nippon Maru (Mitsui O.S.K. Passenger Line), the South Pacific has an image of paradise and cruisers want more of it.”

Mr Everitt remarked that developing such strategies is one of south-pacific.travel’s responsibilities under the Pacific Plan.

“Tourism development is prioritised in the Pacific Plan under the pillar of Economic Growth,” said Mr Everitt. “Cruise shipping is a truly regional activity with much to offer local

economies – we must cooperate as a region for it to work to its full potential.”

The Pacific Cruise Strategy, Mr Everitt explained, identifies four ‘beacons’ for implementation. Which:

- seek the development of shore excursions and land based services;
- cover the development of marine infrastructure and support services, including landing infrastructure;
- look at institutional management and cooperative frameworks; and
- consider marketing strategy.

“So where to now?” poses Mr Everitt. “Developing a Strategy is the easy part. Implementing it is the hard bit. The next step is promoting the Strategy through forums such as Cook Island’s Tourism Conference and Fiji’s own Cruise Conference, scheduled for January 2008. That process will help identify interested partners. south-pacific.travel is also looking at how to lead the marketing.”

*For more information on the South Pacific Cruise Strategy, visit [www.south-pacific.travel](http://www.south-pacific.travel).*



## EU SUPPORT FOR NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The European Commission has signed an agreement for FJD\$20 million to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters across the Pacific.

The support particularly targets Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Palau and Nauru.

At a ceremony in Suva, Fiji, in December 2007, the Representative and Head of the European Commission (EC) Delegation for the Pacific, Wiepke van der Goot, signed the agreement with the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Greg Urwin, and the Director of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Cristelle Pratt.

SOPAC will assist Pacific Island communities build emergency communications and operations centres and increase access to safe drinking water in preparation for periods of drought.

Mr. van der Goot highlighted the importance of the project, saying it would benefit the region which is increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and droughts due to climate change and noting the islands’ unique economic, social and environmental characteristics.

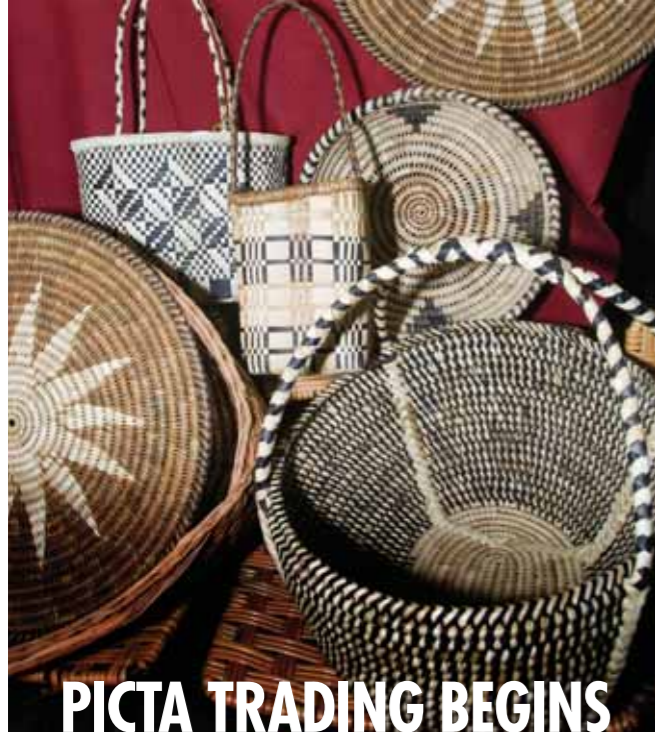
“The geographic and geological setting of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States makes them particularly vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis, and especially those related to climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. This project aims to help countries reduce the damaging effects of these risks,” he said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that most regions in the world, and especially those in the developing world, will be increasingly affected by climate change stimulating an increase in extreme weather events.

“Developing countries will be the hardest hit by the effects of climate change and therefore need our help to mitigate climate change and natural disasters,” Mr van der Goot said.

Signing the new project on behalf of the eight countries, Mr. Urwin acknowledged the support provided by the European Union.

“It is a timely intervention that will improve Pacific Island Countries’ ability to prepare for disasters and to manage, mainly through better infrastructure, the many natural hazards affecting the region.”



## PICTA TRADING BEGINS

Trading under the terms and conditions of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) commenced 1st January 2007.

PICTA establishes a free trade area in goods (and, in future, services) among Forum Island Countries (FICs).

Five FICs, namely Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Solomon Islands have so far formally announced their readiness to trade under PICTA.

Originating goods meeting the 40% local value added criteria, as verified by valid Rules of Origin Certificates, are eligible for preferential import duties.

Other FICs are at different stages of PICTA implementation, with Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu having completed their notification requirements. They are expected to complete relevant domestic requirements prior to affirming their readiness.

Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia are in the process of ratifying the Agreement, while Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands have yet to engage in the accession process.

PICTA currently covers trade in goods with the exception of alcohol and tobacco products. The Agreement will also include trade in services, covering investments and the temporary movement of natural persons within the region. A Trade in Services Agreement, as an extension to PICTA, will be negotiated over 2008.

“Completion of the necessary arrangements to engage in PICTA trade is a positive step,” Feleti Teo, Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat said. “I would urge the rest of the Forum Island Countries to work expeditiously towards implementing PICTA.”

For more information on PICTA, visit [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)



## SPORT PROMOTES REGIONAL COOPERATION AND IDENTITY

Pacific Forum Leaders recognise the important role of sport as it promotes regional cooperation and a Pacific identity.

“In noting the importance of sports in the social, cultural and economic life of Pacific Island Countries, Leaders have encouraged their National Sports and Olympic Federations to work together in the region to develop and implement regional programmes and projects that would optimally employ the limited resources available to their countries,” said Greg Urwin, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Speaking at the launch of the Fiji Oceania Sport Education Programme Symposium in Suva, Fiji last December, Mr Urwin said the Pacific Plan, which was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2005, stipulates the enhancement of regional sporting networks to support the developmental role of sport.

“The aim of the Pacific Plan is to achieve the vision of our Leaders that all people should be able to live free and worthwhile lives. And sport is, manifestly, a critical part, actually and potentially, of the lives of Pacific people, something which does and should bear directly on the quality of those lives,” said Mr Urwin.

The University of the South Pacific is establishing a set of sports programmes with majors in Sports Science, Sports Medicine, Drugs and Law, Sports Management and Sports Psychology. USP is also working with the Oceania National

Olympic Committees (ONOC) in proposals for the creation of a regional sporting institute.

In the meantime, USP has put in place a number of programmes and activities which may eventually be part of such a regional sporting institute.

Mr Urwin also pointed out that the sports community is a major contributor to Pacific economies through the employment opportunities it creates and it is an effective way of giving young people purpose and providing structure in their lives.

“Sport does promote regional cooperation and Pacific identity. An increasing number of our sports people are being employed overseas, are excelling and taking with them a distinct Pacific brand. Many are providing support for their families and their earnings have become a significant source of remittances.

“The region certainly has an abundance of natural talent, but it importantly needs the expertise to develop this to elite levels. The Oceania Sport Education Programme (OSEP) is aimed at assisting sporting organisations to reach that goal,” Mr Urwin said.

OSEP is a collaborative project involving the Australian Sports Commission, the Oceania National Olympic Committees and the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania to develop a regional approach to sport education by developing flexible, relevant and modern competency based curricula to be delivered throughout the Pacific.



## FISHERIES - A KEY TO FUTURE FOOD SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC

Careful planning is needed to provide fish for food security. This was the widespread agreement emanating from the 5th Pacific Community Conference, held in Apia, Samoa last November and organised jointly by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The urgency of this issue emerged during the presentation of a joint study by SPC's Planning Unit and Public Health, Statistics and Demography, Coastal Fisheries and Oceanic Fisheries programmes.

The SPC team identified how much fish needs to be eaten for a healthy diet, how much is being eaten in the region now, and how much will be needed for food security in the region in 2030.

The results confirmed that much of the Pacific is still extraordinarily dependent on fish.

In many Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), fish makes up 70–90 percent of total animal protein intake. Other important findings were that most of the fish used for food comes from subsistence fishing, and that fish consumption in most PICTs well exceeded the level required for good nutrition (which is an average of 35 kg per person per year). “The challenge for national planners is to ensure that growing populations have access to the fish they need for food security,” said Dr Johann Bell, Fisheries Specialist in the SPC Planning Unit.

“In rural areas, fish needs to be made available so that households can catch it themselves, while in urban centres it needs to be supplied at affordable prices.”

The amount of fish needed for future food security will be much greater than most people realise, according to Dr Bell. In Melanesia alone, coastal and urban populations will need 275,000 tonnes of fish for food by 2030.

“The sobering reality is that even well-managed coastal fisheries will not always be able to provide the fish required,” said Dr Bell. “Preliminary analysis shows a large shortfall between the needs for fish in 2030 and the estimated sustainable production from coastal fisheries for 12 of the 22 PICTs.”

Lindsay Chapman, Manager of the Coastal Fisheries Programme at SPC, urged PICTs to manage their inshore resources within sustainable bounds, otherwise, the gap to be filled will be even greater.



“Our region is blessed with tuna,” Mr Chapman remarked. “We have to manage this resource in a sustainable manner. For instance, new low-cost inshore fish aggregating devices (FADs), deployed close enough to shore so that people can paddle to them, provide the answer in several places.”

Ross Cain from the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority brought Mr Chapman’s assertion to life, explaining that local fishers had harvested more than eight tonnes of tuna and other pelagic species in three months from inshore FADs located within 1 km of the shore around Nauru.

“The value of the catches already far exceeds the cost of the FADs, and fish that is surplus to food needs is being sold on local markets,” he said.

The Conference heard that small pond aquaculture is the other way for village people to produce the fish they will need.

“Provided this simple technology can be applied at minimum risk to biodiversity, it has great potential to help meet future food security in PICTs with adequate fresh water,” said Mr Chapman.

“Families in Papua New Guinea and Fiji are already making good harvests of fish from ponds of 100–200 square metres.”

The Conference endorsed a series of recommendations on planning and managing the fisheries of the Pacific, including the need for FFA and SPC to take a long-term strategic approach to ensure that fishery resources are effectively managed to provide enduring economic, social and cultural benefits for the people of the region.

*SPC’s governing council is the Conference of the Pacific Community, which meets every two years. In years when the Conference does not meet, the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA – a committee of the Conference) is empowered to make decisions.*

*Visit [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int) for more information.*



**The Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA) has come into effect.**

Commonly known as the region’s ‘open skies’ agreement, PIASA now has the sixth ratification that was needed to come into effect.

To date there are 10 signatories to PIASA and following the deposit of their instruments of accession with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, countries that have ratified PIASA include the Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The sixth ratification, by Niue, was received by the Forum Secretariat in September 2007, and in accordance with the treaty’s terms, PIASA was brought into force on 13 October 2007.

PIASA was endorsed by Forum representatives in Tonga in 2002, opened for signature in Auckland on 16 August 2003, and signed by a number of Pacific Island Forum Ministers on that day.

The importance of developing regional transport services

embodied in the adoption of PIASA was subsequently reflected in the Pacific Plan endorsed by Leaders in 2005, under the priority area of “Economic Growth”.

“PIASA is driven by the need to allow countries’ air services to fully develop and become more efficient,” explained Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Greg Urwin.

“The highly regulated nature of regional air travel tends to manifest itself in the lack of frequent direct flights and high travel costs between Forum Island Countries.

“The consequent barriers to growth the industry faces further hinders the economic benefits that the freer movement of goods and services will provide.”

PIASA’s main objective is to establish a framework for the gradual integration of aviation services, providing a multi-lateral basis for this to occur among countries.

“This would, in effect, enable Pacific carriers to increase their range of activities to take advantage of the benefits of regional alliances and cooperation,” said Mr Urwin.

*For more information on PIASA, visit [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org).*



## PACIFIC POWER ASSOCIATION JOINS CROP

**The Pacific Power Association (PPA) is the newest member of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP).**

PPA’s admission to CROP was endorsed by the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) which met in September 2007 in Nuku’alofa, Tonga.

FOC is the governing body of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, comprising senior officials from all Forum Governments. The Forum Secretary General is permanent Chair of CROP.

Welcoming the decision, Forum Secretary General, Greg Urwin, highlighted the significant contribution PPA has made towards advancing key energy initiatives for the region, identified for implementation in the Pacific Plan.

“PPA brings significant value to the region through its work to ensure energy utilities improve performance, thus contributing to the economic development of the region,” said Mr Urwin.

“I extend my congratulations to PPA and look forward to further strengthening inter-agency relationships to best serve our members.”

The PPA is a regional organisation that facilitates direct cooperation of Pacific island power utilities in areas of technical training, exchange of information, sharing of senior management and engineering expertise and other activities of benefit to its members.

*Visit [www.ppa.org.fj](http://www.ppa.org.fj) for more information.*

[www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)



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