

Tok Blong SPPF

A Quarterly of News and Views on the Pacific Islands

AUGUST 1993, #44

VICTORIA, B.C., CANADA



Lautoka, Fiji

Photo by Elaine Briere

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- ...A look at Pacific Media
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- ...Tahiti, Banaba, fishing and more

About this journal...

TOK BLONG SPPF is pidgin, a language used in many parts of the Pacific. An equivalent expression in English might be "news from SPPF". *TOK BLONG SPPF* is published four times per year in English by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada. SPPF gratefully acknowledges financial support for the publication from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

SPPF's major aim is to promote awareness of development, social justice, environment, health and other issues of importance to the peoples of the South Pacific. Through this journal, SPPF hopes to provide Canadians and others with a window on the Pacific that will foster understanding and promote action in support of Islanders in their struggles for development.

We welcome readers' comments on the journal, as well as suggestions for articles, selections of clippings, or notices of development education materials of interest. We reserve the right to edit material. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of SPPF or of CIDA.

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SPPF Update

A Busy Summer

We used to find that July-August was a quiet time around the SPPF office. However, Summer 1993 kept us hopping.

July saw a visit from Meli Tauvoli, an administrator in the Fijian education system (see page 10). Meli was interested in seeing what steps indigenous peoples in Canada are taking with respect to education. Though schools are not in session in July, SPPF arranged for Meli to visit two communities of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation here on Vancouver Island. Meli and I spent several days as guests of the Tsheshaht and Hesquiat Bands. Both bands administer their own school and are making efforts to ensure that traditional cultural practices as well as academic subjects are taught. The visits also provided time for discussion of other topics, socializing, a demonstration of traditional dancing by the Tsheshaht Band and a visit to the glorious hot springs near the Hesquiat Band's community on Hot Springs Cove. I'd like to thank both bands for their generous hospitality in hosting Meli and I.

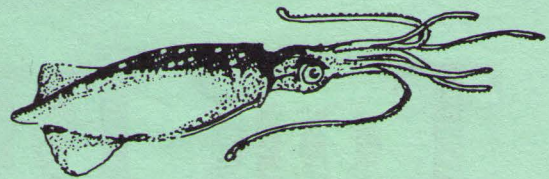
Meli was visiting Canada under the auspices of Canadian Crossroads International. SPPF and Crossroads are exploring the possibilities for a longer term placement of a Fijian Crossroader with SPPF. As part of the ongoing discussion, I will be visiting Meli and the Fijian Crossroads committee during my September-October trip to Fiji and Vanuatu.

Imagine 48 teenagers, 16 adults and me on a "tall ship" sailing vessel. If you can, you'll have a picture of how I spent part of August. Class Afloat is an educational charity that operates the sailing vessel Concordia. They offer schooling for secondary school and junior college students while the students get a taste of the world sailing. Class Afloat has recently shifted their operations to Vancouver and will be spending more of their time in the South Pacific. I had fun providing several briefings for the students and staff. SPPF also helped Class Afloat make contacts to set up shore programmes in several ports. As the Concordia will be visiting many Pacific ports in the next ten months, some of *Tok Blong's* Pacific readers will no doubt have their own opportunity to meet the Class Afloat crew.

The latter part of the Summer was also busy with planning for the coming year. While you'll hear more about that in coming *Tok Blong* issues, I would like to draw your attention to one important date. SPPF will be having its annual general meeting on October 29 in Victoria. We invite and encourage members and friends of SPPF to attend. Call the office for details.

SPPF is embarking on a new endeavour, the marketing of videos produced in the Pacific Islands. Please see Page 31 for further information. Also feel free to contact us if you have or know of other videos that SPPF might distribute.

Stuart Wulff
Executive Director



SPPF 1993 Annual General Meeting

Friday, October 29, 1993
St. John's Anglican Church
1611 Quadra Street
Victoria, B.C.
7:00 PM

In This Issue...

Something for Everyone?

SPPF is always receiving or finding possible articles for inclusion in *Tok Blong*. One result of our shift in 1992 to a strong thematic approach for *Tok Blong* is that we haven't had the space to include as much miscellaneous but interesting material as we once did. As a solution to this "problem", we've decided to reserve one edition per year, August, for a more general collection of articles. Here is our first such edition.



Despite this "problem", we have received lots of positive feedback about our thematic approach for *Tok Blong*. So have no fear; thematic *Tok Blong's* will still make up three editions each year. Planned editions already include disabilities, the Commonwealth in the Pacific, and land issues.

We start this edition with several articles on the state of the mass media in the South Pacific (Pages 5-8). The articles examine several issues related to the role of the media in Pacific Island societies.

By coincidence, we happen to have several articles on Fiji (Pages 9-12). We also have several articles by young people (Pages 12-14), two by Islanders studying at Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific in Canada and one by a Canadian visiting the Solomon Islands as part of a Youth Challenge International volunteer programme.

As well as Meli Tauvoli's article on Pages 10-11, other visitors to SPPF are responsible (directly or indirectly) for articles on Tahitian independence (Page 15) and women's role in fishing (Pages 22-23).

We had hoped to run several articles on the state of trade unionism in the South Pacific, including a report on the South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU) conference in Vanuatu in July. The Vanuatu Government's refusal to allow SPOCTU staff to enter the country and the resulting cancellation of the SPOCTU conference sabotaged our plans. We offer a shorter selection of articles on Pages 16-17.

Discussions of "partnership" between non-governmental organisations in North and South have assumed prominence in recent years. We offer an article on an interesting approach to partnership (Pages 18-21) as a contribution to these discussions.

David Stanley is no stranger to *Tok Blong*. We've finally found space to include an earlier article on Banaba which he submitted to us (Pages 24-25). This article has subsequently found its way into the third edition of his *Micronesia Handbook*, which we recommend to anyone travelling in the region.

We round out this edition of *Tok Blong* with a report on a recent conference hosted on the traditional lands of the Lil'wat Nation here in British Columbia, our regular news updates, book reviews and other odds and ends.

As always, we welcome feedback from readers and suggestions of material to include in future editions of *Tok Blong*.

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Letter to the Editor...

Dear friends,

I would like to warn your readers against accepting at face value the article, "Blood Money: The Mining and Smelting of Nickel in New Caledonia" (*Tok Blong*, Feb/93). The article's attacks on the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) are more a reflection of the frustrated ambitions of its author, Susi Newborn, than an objective assessment of the truth.

After doing nothing to support our struggle through the turbulent 1980s, Newborn's first contact with the Kanak independence movement was at the end of 1990 when she met Luc Tutugoro, a Kanak whom she later married. At first, Newborn was singing the praises of the FLNKS position on the perils of the nickel industry, the very issue which now forms the basis of her attacks. For example, she wrote:

"To coincide with this meeting (of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme - SPREP), the FLNKS issued a cutting press release, pointing out that in all the years SPREP had been working in New Caledonia, the Programme had done nothing to 'stop the pollution from nickel mining and smelting that has made our country one of the most polluted in the region, even though France is a signatory of the SPREP Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific.'" [*Earth*, Nov/91]

How can it be then that barely a year later, she writes in *Tok Blong*:

"The Kanak leaders have fallen for the (French) ploy and the 'easy' development model this (nickel) industry represents without really considering its environmental consequences or the damaged health of their people."

Why, in the space of less than 2 years, had Susi Newborn gone from having no association with Kanaky to virtually appointing herself as our representative, and then becoming a strident international critic of the movement, portraying it as ignorant, corrupt and bought-off? Has there

been an FLNKS leadership change? No. Has there been a policy change? No. Was it the decision to buy the mining company, SMSP? No, that happened in mid-1990, months before Newborn arrived on the scene. It was a source of controversy at the time and its activities are still being discussed within the movement today. The main cause of Newborn's swing in allegiance is that, in a very short period, she managed to alienate herself from even the most tolerant people in the independence movement.

Her first public attack came in a letter she wrote to *Pacific Islands Monthly* [Jul/92] in which she called me an "unsuspecting accomplice" of the French and accused me of missing the point in my article [*PIM*, May/92] about recent developments in Kanaky. I replied [*PIM*, Sep/92] pointing out that environmental concerns, particularly regarding the nickel industry, had been a concern of our movement for decades, and I questioned her right as a foreigner to dictate Kanak priorities. Her husband replied [*PIM*, Nov/92] with a slanderous letter against me, neglecting to mention that Newborn was his wife and making his personal opinion look like an official rebuke by signing himself "Minister for Economic Development, Gouvernement de Kanaky", a position which had long lapsed. This misrepresentation was subsequently exposed through a communique from the FLNKS Bureau Politique [*PIM*, May/93].

Newborn and her husband are now trying to take the moral high ground. Her article in *Tok Blong* was one of a number of similar articles sent all around the world. She concludes by claiming:

"Environmentalists - both Kanak and non-Kanak - have their work publicly discredited by those members of the Kanak independence movement who now have a financial interest in the mining industry."

It is completely untrue for Newborn and her husband to brand all of their opponents as either ignorant or bribed by the nickel industry and the French Government. The truth is that most of her critics earn very

little or no money, and some have been active for years on the very issues she claims to have discovered.

It is no secret that France has succeeded in creating serious tensions within the Kanak independence movement - notably by slaughtering Kanak people and then using the threat of more killing to pressure FLNKS leaders into signing the controversial peace plan known as the Matignon Accords. But when it comes to attitudes to Susi Newborn, there is no disagreement. In fact, they (Newborn and Tutugoro) are totally isolated and it is time they were challenged to provide evidence of just who their political allies in Kanaky really are.

Yours sincerely,
Susanna OUNEI-SMALL
Christchurch, Aotearoa/New Zealand

SPPF Responds...

We chose to run the article, "Blood Money: The Mining and Smelting of Nickel in New Caledonia", even though we knew it would generate some controversy, because of the interest which we knew many of our readers have in the other issues raised by the article: the environmental and health impacts of mining in the South Pacific and the links made between nickel mining and the nuclear industry. In running Susanna Ounei-Small's response, we have included some counter-balance to the accusations vis a vis the Kanak independence movement raised by Susi Newborn. In her letter, Susanna Ounei-Small alludes to contradictory views within the independence movement regarding both nickel mining and the Matignon Accords, but does not go into details. SPPF has invited Susanna Ounei-Small to provide an article, written by herself or someone else associated with the FLNKS, amplifying on Kanak views regarding mining and/or the Matignon Accords.

[Note: SPPF reserves the right to edit articles for brevity, style or legal reasons.]

First Woman of the Press: Samoa's Miller leads by example

by Ulafala Aiavao

[STOP THE PRESS: SPPF just learned that Monica Miller has resigned as editor of the *Samoa News* after only eight months in the position. Miller has apparently noted "philosophical differences" with the *Samoa News*' owner/publisher as the reason for her departure.]

The good news is that Monica Miller is the first woman to be appointed editor of a daily newspaper in the South Pacific. The bad news is that her gender still places tremendous social pressure on her to continue as a full-time mother for her family. The balancing act, she freely admits, has cost her personally as it has other women journalists in similar situations. But her commitment has helped her through a 17-year career in television, radio, and newspapers.

During an eight-year stint as a newscaster with American Samoa's KVZK television station, Miller had been approached several times by the owner of the *Samoa Times*, Lewis Wolman, to join the 3000-circulation daily newspaper. She saw advantages and disadvantages. Said Miller; "I enjoyed television very much but people always commented about your hair or clothes and never about what you were reading. TV news is brief and can give a warped view. What put me off about newspapers was that the people I knew there had no life after-hours.

Children: Eventually she left television in 1990 to work as a reporter for the *Samoa News*, partly because she felt there was a limit to what she could do as a journalist in a government-run television station. "I found out my fears about newspaper work were true: the hours were long, I was less able to be part of the community life, like missing out on Parent-Teacher Association meetings because of press deadlines, missing time with my family. I try to make my children understand but it's hard. If the children don't turn out it's always the mother who is blamed."

Her commitment won the respect of Wolman. As publisher and editor he had transformed the News from a small weekly using old equipment into a Monday-to-Friday daily using state-of-the-art computers. Eventually, he decided to step aside from the day-to-day running of the paper and put Miller, 33, in charge. As editor she is responsible for getting the paper out each day. Often on a small daily that includes doing a stint as a reporter, then turning to the editing and production, before finishing the long day with her administration work.

Miller started out as a 16-year old cadet at Western Samoa's government radio station 2AP. She joined a two-year United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation training programme. She recalls: "Graeme Thomas (the instructor from Radio New Zealand) was the best teacher I have ever had. One thing he instilled in us was that if we ever got to interview a prime minister, we had to ask what the public would ask if they had the chance.

She was introduced early to the dual pressures of motherhood and the pursuit of financial and career independence. "There were no buses from the market to the radio station (half a mile away). My first two years of marriage I was carrying both times and had to also shoulder heavy Uher tape machines on the walk to the office," she recalls.

Miller and her musician husband moved to American Samoa where she got a job with Radio WVUV and started to attract a following. This grew when she moved to television and became one of the best known faces in both Samoas.

Harbour: It was not all glamour and recognition. Her not-so-magic moments include falling into Pago Pago harbour while handing a microphone to the captain of a winning boat during a live broadcast of races on the harbour. Viewers saw her hand and the mike drop from view.

She looks forward to her time as editor. "One area I would like more reporting on is social problems like alcoholism, spouse abuse and gambling which are not being discussed," she said. More community news will be a feature of her tenure. The News already has a reputation for solid reporting about the government. But Miller says readers need to feel their local paper is for them. "We're not doing this job to sell the paper, we need to improve the community understanding ... that they have a right to information."

The editorial posting means more pressure to work hard, a trait Miller says she got from her mother, Lydia Hazelman. She brought up eight children after her husband died.

Miller's initial advice to women wanting to become journalists and perhaps join a daily newspaper is to hold off on marriage and children. But then she adds that somehow things have turned out for her over the years, even if they have not been perfect. "I do worry about the impact of my work on my kids, that they might not be treated well sometimes because of me, and I think of times I see parents bringing their children to celebrations and I'm there taking pictures. I'm thankful that they help out in things I should be doing at home like cooking and the laundry.

Miller's 12-hour days and work skills have been recognised beyond American Samoa. She was one of the first two Pacific Islanders to be awarded Asia Foundation fellowships to study advanced journalism at the University of California at Berkeley in the United States. Miller's unswerving commitment to the public's right to know and professional standards is also recognised. Last year colleagues from throughout the region voted her into office as the first woman president of the Pacific Islands News Association, the region's main association of news people.
[Reprinted from *Islands Business Pacific*, Apr/93]

South Pacific Media Freedom Under Attack

by David Robie

David Robie is a Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Papua New Guinea and a practising journalist and author with many years of experience in covering South Pacific stories.

For more than four decades, the International Federation of Journalists has campaigned in the defence of a simple truth - that press freedom is "inextricably linked with democracy". No society can be free unless, as Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says, "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and import information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

Freedom of the press is the guarantor of these rights. But internationally the practice of independent journalism is frequently under attack. However, vigorous and courageous reporting of events by reporters in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and South Africa over the past few years has reminded the world that openness and freedom of expression are cornerstones of democracy. It is ironic then that several nations in the South Pacific should be heading in the other direction and imposing restrictions on the news media which are a threat to democracy in the region.

Six years ago, the news media of Fiji and Papua New Guinea were perceived to be most at risk. Following the Fiji coups in 1987, harassment by the military-backed Interim Government effectively imposed a pattern of self-censorship in both the private and state-run news media. Newspapers were only allowed to publish after assurances that they would not print anything that would "incite racial antagonism". Both English-language dailies, *Fiji Times*

and *Fiji Sun*, were closed for a short period at the time of the May coup, and again for six weeks after the September coup. The *Fiji Times* agreed to republish under the constraints, but the *Sun* refused to continue under "self-censorship" conditions and closed. Few foreign journalists - and virtually none regarded as critical or incisive - were allowed access to the country.

Late in 1987, Papua New Guinea also faced a difficult time for the media. Until then the country had boasted what was arguably the most vigorous and certainly the most independent press in the region. How-



ever, a commissioned report prepared by Australian barrister and media commentator, Stuart Littlemore, for the then Minister of Communications, Gabriel Ramoi, caused a stir. Based on the Littlemore report, Ramoi's Mass Media Tribunal Bill sought to unilaterally impose national development objectives on the news media. The licensing provisions for controlling editorial content and curbing foreign ownership provoked a polarised response. Eventually the bill was shelved and the ex-minister is now serving a three-year jail sentence for misappropriating public funds. Since then, pressure on South Pacific media has shifted to Polynesia where harsh new legislation in Western Samoa and legal manoeuvres in Tonga designed to force journalists to reveal sources now jeopardise press freedom.

The second Wingti government has again embarked on developing a new media strategy by setting up a National Information and Communication Policy committee. Information and Communication Minister, Martin Thompson, recently soothed media unease about the policy by declaring that "the people of PNG should not be unduly concerned about the government legislating to control the media". While stressing that freedom of expression and the media were guaranteed under the constitution, he added that it was up to the policy committee to decide whether to impose any restrictions on the media.

The Samoan and Tonga experiences are a salutary warning for Papua New Guinea press freedoms. In February, Western Samoan Prime Minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, introduced the Newspapers and Printers Act 1992/1995, requiring disclosure of sources of information in defamation cases. Following two days of parliamentary debate, the legislation was passed into law. Penalties for breaching the new law involve a fine of up to 5,000 tala (approx. Cdn. \$2,700) or a three month jail term. Later the same month, a new Defamation Act making it an offence to publish defamatory statements about a third party in court proceedings was also passed.

No public submissions were allowed for the newspaper law, although the Journalist's Association of Western Samoa was able to make submissions on the defamation law. However, as the implications of the legislation became clear, international journalist organisations protested vigorously. National Secretary of New Zealand's Journalists and Graphic Process Union, Tony Wilton, who is currently Oceania Advisor to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), said the laws were "a serious blow to the free flow of information in the Pacific". He endorsed protests by the Pacific Journalist's Association (PJA) and the IFJ. The

Pacific Islands News Association also condemned the legislation. The PJA and the PNG Journalist's Association called on the government of Western Samoa to repeal the newspaper law because "we consider such law is already amounting to (the curbing of) media freedom".

Samoaan journalists intend to defiantly defend the confidentiality of their sources in spite of the penalties under the new law. The country's major newspaper, the Samoaan Observer, said in an editorial: "This publication will defy this requirement...no matter (what) the consequences (are) to us".

In Tonga, parliamentarian and newspaper publisher, Akilisi Pohiva, currently faces five lawsuits. They are three libel cases involving damages claims totalling 180,000 pa'anga (approx. Cdn. \$180,000), and two gagging actions seeking to prevent him from publishing information considered to be confidential in his newspaper Kele'a, and also to make him reveal his sources. Pohiva has waged a decade-long campaign for open government in his kingdom and he exposed the passports-for-sale scandal.

"If these actions succeed, it will silence the news media - it will effectively shut down a free press in Tonga," said Auckland lawyer, Nalesoni Tupou, who has himself become exiled from his homeland because of his legal work on behalf of Pohiva.

Pohiva refused to file an affidavit with the Supreme Court naming his source as required in the Tonga Development Bank judgement against him. He filed an appeal, but still risks being jailed for contempt of court. International news media organisations have condemned the gag over the bank and a "copycat" lawsuit filed by the Tonga government. They say the gags contravene internationally recognised standards of press freedom. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has expressed grave concerns.

Plan for New PNG Newspaper Stirs Furore

Recent months have seen conflict between Papua New Guinea's Wingti Government and the PNG media. Government ministers have been incensed with press coverage and have claimed that foreign ownership of PNG's sole daily newspaper, the Post-Courier, is a cause of the problem. PNG's other daily, Niugini Nius, was closed in 1990 and the government is considering the possibility of a second daily newspaper. Considering the stated concern about foreign ownership, many observers were surprised to learn that the government is apparently backing publication of a foreign-owned second daily, Pacific Star, due out in November.

The Pacific Star initiative is troubling many in the media and other sectors due to the fact that the daily will be owned by the giant Malaysian company, Rimbunan Hijau Group (RHG), which dominates PNG's logging industry. With reported control of 86% of PNG's log exports, RHG has in recent months led a vigorous public attack on PNG's current Forests Minister and new logging guidelines intended to redress the widespread corruption, illegal practices, environmental abuse and undermining of benefits to the local resource owners in the logging industry. There is concern that RHG will use Pacific Star as a propaganda vehicle to promote its commercial interests. Delegates at a June meeting of the Pacific Journalists' Association criticised publication of the new paper and urged the establishment of a PNG-owned and controlled daily in the interests of a free and sovereign press".

[From articles by David Robie, "Plan for new daily stirs furore" and "Turmoil over forestry policy", in The Review, Jul/93]

Last month (Ed: April), Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Solomon Mamaloni, censored publicity about his country's purchase of 700,000 kina (approx. Cdn. \$525,000) worth of arms by ordering a blanket ban on the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Commission airing any news story involving Bougainville or the recent border crisis. The move followed a front-page report on the arms crisis in the (Papua New Guinea) Post-Courier by reporter Wally Hiambohn. The reporter interviewed Solomon Islands police chief, Frederick Soaki, who told him the weapons had been ordered because his men on the border were armed only with truncheons.

Among many who protested over Mamaloni's action was Professor Robert Seward of Meiji Gakuin University, Yokohama. Seward, who is doing a study of the media in the Pacific, appealed to the prime minister to lift the restriction. In this period of "global glasnost", he said, the ban was anachronistic.

Now the ball is back in the Papua New Guinea court over press freedom. Unless the PNG public and journalists are vigilant, the media policy committee could effectively endorse government restrictions on the news media under the guise of "consensus".

As Professor Futa Helu, the noted Tongan philosopher, observes, in the Pacific "there is widespread confusion about what really is this thing, the media, and what to do with it". In his view, the morality of liberal media and the "right to be well and truly informed" grates on Pacific cultures whose values are directly opposed to media values. Censorship, adds Helu, is invariably the replacing of the good with the bad.

[Used with permission of the author. Originally appeared in The Times of Papua New Guinea, May 27/93]

How the media can explain the nation's logging crisis

by Kevin Pamba

The controversial forestry industry has been the centre of debate for months, even years. But has everyone been able to say their piece about the issue?

Traditionally our lives have been centred around what our "green gold" could provide in almost everything we needed and today 80-90% of the people still use the forests.

Revelations from the 1989 Barnett Commission of Inquiry described the industry as "totally out of control". This prompted Parliament to pass the 1991 Forestry Act which, however, has sparked off further controversy.

The most recent debate arose when the act was amended earlier this year by the current Wingti Government.

Resource owners and interested companies argue that the act does not cater for their interests but gives more power to the Government over the control of the industry.

In a *Times* editorial of July 29, Forests Minister Tim Neville rejected this as untrue. He said; "In the new forestry guideline the resource owners are to benefit more in terms of royalty payments at no less than the current rate, and, in some cases, at a greater rate than at present.

"More importantly, landowners will receive a large proportion of the sales price of the forest products for use as investment funds."

One foreign company, Rimbunan Hijau Group (RHG) of Malaysia, which is reported to control 86% of all logging operations in PNG, has commissioned a review of the act. It has engaged an Australian barrister, Michael White QC, to prepare it.

Francis Tiong, general manager of Rimbunan Hijau PNG Pty Ltd, was reported in the *Times* Insight column of July 22 as saying: "The study is in the best interests of the industry and the people of PNG."

Mr Neville said foreign companies should abide by PNG laws and not try to dictate to the Government - or they should pack up and leave.

"Foreign companies are manipulating resource owners who have not been properly briefed," Mr Neville said.

The National Alliance of Non-Government Organisations (NANGO) has, with limited resources, been carrying out awareness campaigns in forest areas about economic deprivation, environmental damage, selective logging practices and non-logging economic activities that can be done using our forests. Examples of the latter include butterfly farming, identifying medicinal plants for research and establishing village guesthouses for tourists.

NANGO should be commended for at least trying to do something meaningful. But what is the news media doing on this issue?

It has so far reported mostly attacks and counter-attacks between parties involved in the debate. It can be seen as being used as a "battleship" for the debate.

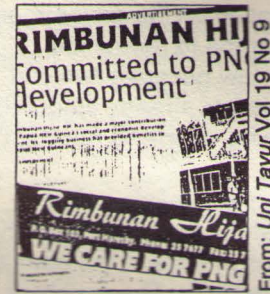
The only meaningful coverage of the issue was a recent radio documentary by NBC's Roger Hau'ofa on July 14 when landowners and the public had a chance to air their views.

Wesley Sanaru, of the Gogol Naru TRP (Ed: Timber Rights Purchase) where Japanese timber merchant JANT operates, said: "The royalty paid by the company is insignificant. For 240 clans in the area it is like each person getting K1-K1.50." (Ed: The kina is approximately equal to the U.S. dollar.)

Another person of the area, James Yogomu, said: "The company delivered promises but there has been nothing constructive in the area."

UPNG law lecturer and human rights commentator Powes Parkop said, "People have been psyched up with the idea of a better life as a trade-off with the exploitation of timber resources, but there is no evidence of such infrastructural development."

He also said the environmental impact had been great: "People can no longer fish in the rivers to supplement their protein intake as in the



past. Now they have to go to the trade store to buy Japanese tinned fish."

This kind of media coverage in highlighting the pros and cons of the industry will be for the better. But what the media has failed to do is to go out into the project areas and report on the *real* situations.

It also should emphasise the impact of selective logging practices and explain alternative economic activities that the resource owners could engage in with their forests. In other words discuss some of the activities suggested by NANGO.

If the media wants to be a battleship for such a debate and relying on nice media releases and media conferences in the nice air-conditioned hotels of Port Moresby, then its role in society is questionable.

Minister Neville has been fighting a lonely war by taking a hardline stand in dealing with foreign companies which interfere with the laws of this country.

Now the logging baron Rimbunan Hijau has put on another hat to bring "goodies" to PNG. This time it is opening a second daily newspaper - the *Pacific Star* in November.

The *Post Courier's* Perspectives column on July 21 reported that the Government was divided over the proposal but with Mr Wingti in favour of the Malaysian proposal.

The question now is how can the Government avoid the *Pacific Star* becoming, as some claim, a "propaganda sheet" and hindering the free flow of information?

[Reprinted from *Uni Tawur*, a newspaper produced by journalism students at the University of Papua New Guinea, Vol 19, No 9, August 23/93.]

Practice with a Window



**by Dr.
Mridula
Sainath**

*Dr. Sainath
is a Suva-
based*

physician specialising in treatment of venereal diseases. In this article, she offers "a very personal insight of the sex trade in Fiji gained during my practice".

A venerology based practice allows a window into the lifestyles of patients and information not often reported by clients or patients in other practices. This information gives a new perspective and insight into the background of commercial sex workers.

In the Pacific, we are experiencing a time of great change. Women realise they can no longer depend upon a traditional system; women recognise the need to be able to accept and take responsibility for themselves and in many cases for their dependent children and family. For the commercial sex worker, the trade is a survival tool. The present social and economic climate has further fuelled the sex trade.

The contributory and co-factors as to why a person takes up the trade are many, varied and many a

times interlinked - the rural-urban shift (in search of a "decent" job), the single mother, the separated or divorced mother, the de facto wife who is not sufficiently supported, the working girl who is not earning enough to make ends meet, the left behind spouse syndrome..... The list is endless.

Prostitution in Fiji is illegal. A worker can be fined and the media have a field day (see cartoon). There are various categories of workers depending on the time of practice: the usual 6 PM - 6 AM; the 8 AM - 4 PM day shift workers; and of course some office workers function as commercial sex workers on a "part-time" basis as a means of earning extra

cash or goods in kind. The new arrivals as young as 12-14 years are competing and stalking the streets with the older workers.

Most workers practise as individuals guided by their own needs and convenience, having their own "regular" clients, their regular pick up spots and selected hotels they patronise. The rates vary according to clientele; a local guy can get a "quickie" for \$5-10 whereas a tourist may pay \$20. Of course, the taxi, room, etc. is paid by the client. Responding to needs, some motels hire rooms at a two hourly rate of \$6.00! Rates also vary according to type of sexual activity.

There is no organised solidarity group or union. A few support groups are now making some headway to reach the workers.

One interesting facet is the so-called "regular clients". They normally claim that they utilise the services of one particular worker and hence consider themselves safe! The other famous line is "I am a married man, I don't need to use a condom." The workers have great trouble negotiating safer sex. Some clients agree to use a condom at the initial soliciting, yet refuse once in the confines of the room; the worker feels physically powerless and agrees to unprotected

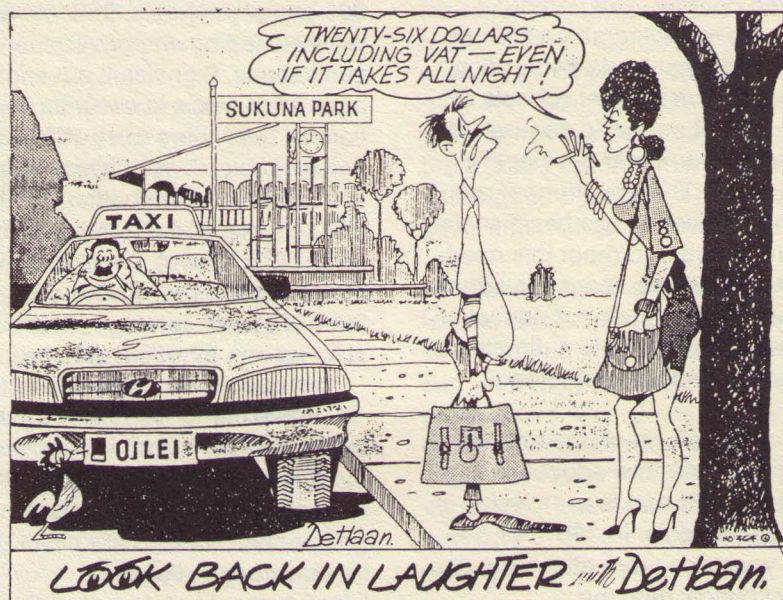
sex rather than risk being raped on the job.

Unfortunately, very few workers have regular medical check ups. Some are even under a false sense of security that taking a penicillin tablet a day will prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). There are free government STD clinics, but very few if any workers utilise these services.

Another shade to the trade in Fiji is the transvestites. The client is fooled by the now famous lines, "Please don't touch my breasts, they're very painful - you see I am having my period - but of course you can have anal sex with me."

I feel the commercial sex workers are in a situation where due to the social barriers, outreach programmes are not effective. Their plight in terms of rehabilitation, their medical needs, their need to learn new negotiating skills for safer sex, all are so remote that STDs including AIDS should be a major cause for concern.

Society has turned a blind eye to the needs of the oldest trade. Whilst you read this article, another window with a different scenery opened.... No, the previous did not close. Life goes on.....



Fiji Times, Mar 27/93

Education in Fiji

by Meli Tauvoli

Meli Tauvoli is Senior Education Officer for Secondary Schools in Fiji's Western District. He spent May-July 1993 in Canada with Canadian Crossroads International. Mr. Tauvoli accompanied SPPF's Stuart Wulff on a visit to the Hesquiat and Tsheshaht Bands of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation, whose lands are on Vancouver Island, to experience band run schools and indigenous education thinking in Canada.

Fiji's education system is very much a British model. We have kindergartens that cater for children aged 4-5, eight years of primary education for children aged 6-13, and 4-5 years of secondary education for youngsters aged 14 to 18/19. The quality of education in Fiji is high compared to other developing countries. This may reflect a well-managed system and sustained attention to quality over the years. Schooling in Fiji is neither free nor compulsory; it is by choice. Compulsory education in the country has been approved in principle by the government, but lack of resources is one reason why the proposed compulsory education is not being implemented.

The government is spending \$100 million over five years (1991-1995) for the development of education in the country. The primary schools are receiving about \$50 million, secondary schools \$40 million, technical and vocational schools \$7 million, and \$3 million to general administration, curricular development and research. The government recognizes that education is a basic social need and in order to meet this need, it has increased the access to education, boosted the quality of education and related the curriculum directly to the country's employment needs.

One major form of government assistance is fee-free education in all primary schools and fee remission in secondary schools. In 1987, 99.5% of 6-11 year olds were attending primary schools full-time.

Unfortunately, a survey in 1992 revealed that, while 93% of 6-11 year olds were going to school, 7% had dropped out of the system. The Ministry of Education reported that this was because of parents' lack of support and negligence. However, Fiji has achieved virtually universal access to primary and lower secondary education. A child's chances of getting education, if he/she desires, is greater now than it ever was before.

More Access to Education There are 300 pre-schools or kindergartens with some 400 teachers. The Ministry of Education has accorded special attention in recent years to the needs of rural children by encouraging establishment of pre-school centres in rural areas and giving them learning and teaching materials.

The national teacher/pupil ratios are 1:31 at primary school and 1:20 at secondary school level. But in practice for the last three years, schools in urban areas have 40 to 50 students in a class. Urban drift created a demand for more places in a class. Virtually all primary school teachers and about 80% of secondary school teachers are civil servants and their salaries are fully paid by the government.

In 1991 there were 144,000 children taught by 4672 teachers in 681 primary schools, 98% of which were owned by non-government organisations. Significant advances have been made in secondary education. In 1990 there were 142 secondary schools, 92% of which belonged to non-government bodies. Of the 142 schools, 214 offered education up to Form 4 level, 93 up to Form 6 and 35 up to Form 7. There were 2684 teachers serving in these schools with 52,000 students.

While non-government agencies own over 90% of schools, government allocates substantial financial resources to promote education. Non-government schools are given grants for classrooms, libraries, laboratories, hostels and staff

quarters, with provisions for repair of existing buildings and purchase of new furniture, computers and other learning materials. The development of education in Fiji has been made possible largely because of the initiative of our community leaders. They did not simply wait for government to provide all the facilities for educating their children. Instead, various religious groups and local communities have built and are managing both primary and secondary schools.

Teacher Training We have a special government teachers college for primary school teachers. Teachers undergo a two year training programme prior to taking up positions in primary schools. There are two other teachers colleges owned by religious bodies. High school teachers receive their training from the University of the South Pacific or from overseas universities.

An in-service training course for secondary teachers has been started with financial assistance from the Australian government. The programme, which began in 1991 with 50 teachers, will be maintained for several years. Each training cycle is of a year's duration and is structured such that teachers can complete the training programme without interruption to their teaching duties. In addition to this in-service course and in response to the shortage of qualified teachers, the government introduced in 1992 a pre-service secondary teacher training programme. A teachers' college, the Fiji College of Advanced Education, was established to train teachers to meet the need for well-qualified teachers to teach such subjects as science, mathematics, agricultural science, social science, commercial studies and secretarial studies.

Another strategy which the government plans to use in response to the shortage of graduate teachers in secondary schools is to award more degree scholarships to students majoring in science, mathe-

matics, accounting and other subjects. In order to minimize risks of losing them to overseas countries and the private sector, which offers lucrative salaries, a more stringent bonding arrangement has been introduced and enforced.

Curriculum Curricula and examinations have undergone major reform. Gone are the days when secondary school pupils studied overseas' syllabi and applied for New Zealand secondary schools and New Zealand examinations. The introduction of the Fiji School Leaving Certificate has given an opportunity to improve the relevance of the curriculum to the Fiji situation. The new certificate, which was examined for the first time in 1989, replaces the New Zealand School Certificate and the New Zealand University Entrance Examinations.

The new leaving certificate allows students to take a wider range of subjects in Forms 5 and 6 including food and nutrition, engineering technology and wood technology. It is also now possible for students to take vernacular courses (Fijian/Hindi) up to Form 6. Support for the curriculum is given through the provision of textbooks, science and technical equipment for Forms 5, 6, and 7. This scheme has been in operation for the last three years.

At primary level, two educational aspects of special relevance are emphasised, cross-cultural education and citizenship training. In the last five years, the Ministry has implemented a programme of cross-cultural understanding between the two major races. We hope that this programme will facilitate the task of nation building and will be particularly useful to improve our efforts in the area of citizenship training. Perhaps the concern of parents and citizens is based on the anti-social behaviour of youth often highlighted by the mass media. We believe that schools can help our young people to grow up as responsible citizens if teachers pay greater attention to citizenship training using as many areas of the school curriculum as possible to achieve this goal.

Form 7 Expansion

In the last decade, there was increasing demand for a thirteenth year of schooling. This was partly met by government sponsoring selected academically bright students to the foundation year course at the University of the South Pacific. Because of the high cost of sponsoring and the limited places available, relatively few deserving students could be assisted. The government has therefore struggled to spend money to provide new facilities for an increasing number of schools offering the Form 7 programme.

There was a marked increase in Form 7 enrollment, with the number of schools increasing from 15 in 1989 to 36 in 1992 and the number of Form 7 students increasing from 420 to 2,000 in the same period.

The government realises that the Form 7 schools require additional graduate teachers. The government is recruiting suitable qualified expatriate teachers and is exploring the possibility of increasing the number of Peace Corps teachers in Fiji. Grant-aided secondary schools have also been encouraged to recruit expatriate teachers if they are unable to recruit suitably qualified Fiji citizens.

Computer Education and Media Centres Computer education has been introduced into more than twenty secondary schools since 1988. Selected teachers from these schools have been given in-service training to facilitate the introduction of computer education in their schools. Rural secondary schools receiving computers have also been supplied with generators. More than \$500,000 has been spent on computer education since 1984.

To improve the resources available to rural primary schools,



Meli Tauvoli and summer staffer from the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council office at the village of Hesquiat, Hot Springs Cove, Vancouver Island, Canada.

Photo: Stuart Wulff

particularly Fijian schools, 12 Educational Media Centres have been established since 1987. Eventually 150 centres will be established. Each centre caters for a cluster of about six schools and provides library books, reference books for students and teachers, equipment and photocopying facilities.

Indigenous Fijian Education The \$3.5 million set aside every year since 1984 for Fijian education has been extended. This has enabled Fijians to undertake degree and diploma courses at the University of the South Pacific and overseas institutions. Since 1991, emphasis has been placed on courses leading up to professional qualification in Law (10 places), Economics (10), Accounting (25), Engineering (25), Medicine (10), Dentistry (10), Pharmacy (10), Science (40) and Arts (40). An intensive diploma training programme has also been high on the training agenda to meet the shortage of Fijians in a number of government departments.

Government will continue its efforts to raise the standard of Fijian education so that indigenous Fijians can enter commerce and other professions. Our aim is to make special efforts, by positive discrimination where necessary, to reduce disparities between the educational attainment of indigenous Fijians and others.

Two Students Reflect on their Island Homes

Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, located near SPPF's home base of Victoria, annually hosts several students from the Pacific. During early 1993, two of these students participated in a number of activities with SPPF, including writing the following short articles for Tok Blong SPPF.

Solving Financial Problems in the Village

by Ruveni Waqanitoga

I was brought up in the village of Karoko on the eastern coast of the island of Vanua Levu in Fiji. I had a wonderful childhood and I enjoyed the life in the village. I went to a local school situated in the village for my primary education and on to secondary education three kilometres from my village. Although it was a boarding school, it was my parents' that I be a day scholar because of financial problems. I remember getting up early in the morning at about 5:00 A.M. to prepare for school. My mother, who is a very active woman and very much concerned about my schooling, would have everything prepared even though she left school at elementary level, knowing only how to write and read in Fijian.

After four years of hard work and walking barefooted to school on a gravel road, I passed the Fiji Junior Exam with a marvellous result which enable me to be accepted to Labasa College. This school is attended by students from different parts of Vanua Levu and is a very prestigious institution. As Mr. Sharma, the principal of the school used to say, "Do not tarnish the good name of Labasa College". I did not finish my second year of schooling when I was accepted for a very competitive scholarship to attend Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific in Canada.

Like most of the villages in Fiji, Karoko village is located on a coastal area close to a stream. The village is reasonably located. The villagers get their main source of diet from the sea and copra (dried coconut meat) is a major source of income. The village is made up of more than 30 houses with an approximate number of people of 260. Karoko village is the most developed village of the region.

It has a good water supply, electric lights and modern houses made of concrete and timber.

In the morning before breakfast, the men would do some village cleaning while the women are preparing for breakfast. It is men's responsibility to keep their own compound clean. After breakfast the men would make their own decision about what to do in the day. For example, one may decide to go back to bed, go to the plantation or work in the garden. Each will be paid accordingly to what they do. Those who do something productive will have the benefit of it.

The villagers are subsistence farmers; they plant just enough food for their family. Sometimes there might be an abundance of food and this would be delivered to the market. The villager's income backbone from their garden is "yaqona" (kava as it's called by the South Pacific Islanders). The women also participate in the financial situation. Their products is "masi" known as "tapa" in the South Pacific Islands. Masi is a material made from the bark of a very skinny and tall tree. It is skinned and goes through a long process of beating until it has reached the required size. It is left to dry and then painted with beautiful patterns. Masi is also used as our traditional dress. Masi appears in two important occasions, marriage and death. These two occasions are of great concern to the people not only of my village but in the whole of Fiji. Masi is used for dressing the bride and the groom and also for the coffin dress.

Although life in the village is tough when concerned with financial problems, parents working hand in hand can solve them.

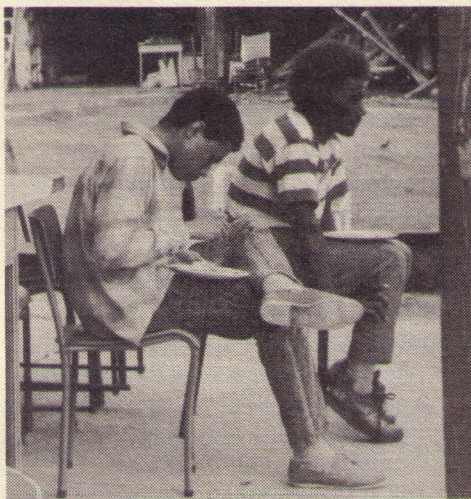
Thoughts on Vanuatu, My Home

by Eric Malessass

As Vanuatu consists of many islands, it is not surprising that each island has its own living fashion. We are considering one of those islands. It is located in the southern part of the archipelago and is called Tanna. At this point, we are studying only one village. The others may have the same life style.

The word "village" traditionally refers to a society, or group of people living together as a family. The people always work together in order to achieve their goals. There are two priorities, the construction of houses and the traditional gardening. These two major factors need to be executed collectively. Referring to agricultural products, it is no wonder that people in rural areas produce basically for self sufficiency. However, if they happen to have surplus, they may decide to sell it. In reality, the agricultural goods are demanded in huge quantity when a traditional feast has been requested. As a result, the entire family spends most of the time working in the gardens. Moreover, knowing that the majority of villagers are illiterate and they now have the opportunity to let their children attending nearby schools, the parents have to prepare some food for their children before they leave the village.

As it is risky for a ship without a captain, it is hard for a community without leaders to live in harmony. Therefore, in order to avoid potential, negative interactions in the framework of the community, at least one chief is elected. In the village in question, there are two chiefs. It is the exception in the entire island for it is historically significant.



Ruveni Waqanitoga and Eric Malessas at the 1993 Pacific Networking Conference in Cowichan Lake, Vancouver, Island, Canada.

In general, a chief in a village is involved in every community activity. He solves problems and makes sure that everyone is satisfied. This is not

always the case. Sometimes people protest against what he proposes and eventually elect another chief. This situation is rare in my village. The two chiefs are highly respected because of their irrefutable decisions and perfect reputation in other cases.

Photo: Kirsten Young

The island of Tanna has a incomparable system of marriage. On this particular island, the question of choosing a girl or a boy to marry is decided by the parents. The parents choose the future partner for their children following the traditional precepts and finally seek the chief's approval. This is relatively rational and secure.

When somehow in the future the couple happens to have problems, the chiefs and the parents involved would make a resolution. They are

able to comfort the couple and eliminate possible sources of conflict. This is not all. When a man wants to have a wife, he should compensate the family of his spouse with one of his sisters. His sister will move to live with his parents-in-law. This sort of exchange gives a better balance in themes of home duties. It is profitable when it's done between remote villages. If one village has mangoes and the other has oranges, the two villages would eat both fruits thanks to the marriage system imposed.

This system occasionally doesn't work for two reasons: first when the parents have not the proportional number of children of the same sex to carry out the replacement, and the second when the children reject the choice made by their parents.

Working Together - Youth Challenge International Project Solomon Islands

by Shaun Johnston

The international organisation, Youth Challenge International, promotes the active, responsible and continuing participation of young people in critical issues of local and global development. The participants do a 3-month field programme followed by one in their home communities. As part of their preparation for their overseas stint, they participate in fundraising activities. Shaun Johnston, a YCI participant from Vancouver, B.C., Canada reports here on his time in the Solomon Islands.

From April to June 1993 in various parts of the Solomon Islands about 60 Australians, Canadians, Costa Ricans, and Solomon Islanders worked together to carry out medical, community service, and anthropological projects, which were organised by Youth Challenge International (YCI).

My time in the Solomon Islands was spent with the Makira/Ulawa team, made up of four Australians, three Canadian, one Costa Rican, and three Solomon Islanders. With

several malaria workers and microscopists from the Anti Malaria Office of Makira/Ulawa province and an entomologist from the World Health Organisation, our group carried out an anti-malaria programme on Ulawa Island and at two secondary schools on Makira and Uki Islands from April 26 to May 21, 1993. We then moved to the Stuyvenburg Rural Training Centre where we worked with the students to build a medical clinic for the isolated east coast of Makira Island from May 23 to June 16.

Anti Malaria Programme The organisations involved in this part of the programme were Solomon Islands Malaria Training and Research Institute, WHO, Anti Malaria Office of Makira, Ulawa and YCI. On April 26 we arrived at Hadja, the government station on Ulawa, where we stayed for about a week while we worked on the west side of Ulawa. For the duration of the tour on Ulawa we stayed at Aroha, a village on the east coast of Ulawa. We achieved roughly 97% coverage of the 2300 people on Ulawa. We also visited Pamua National Secondary School on Makira



Photo: courtesy of Shaun Johnston

Shaun Johnston and Godfrey Simon in Aroha village on Ulawa Island. Mr. Simon is wearing *kastom mani* (custom shell money with dolphin teeth) for a church service

and Pawa Provincial Secondary School on Uki Island.

A typical day...Before 7:30 we had a quick breakfast of navy biscuits, kumara or yams, coffee, and occasionally some fruit. (A cyclone in January blew down most of the fruit trees.) By 8:00 or 8:30 we would arrive in a village by tractor or motorised canoes and wait for people to show up for malaria education talks, blood screening for malaria parasite, bednet distribution, and village clean up.



Youth Challenge International participant taking blood samples at a village on Ulawa Island

Photo: Shaun Johnston

any stagnant or slow running fresh water) and daytime resting spots (tall shady grass). Coconut shells, tins, plastic biscuit wrappers, puddles from standpipes, poorly drained

ditches beside the road and plant-choked rivers were ubiquitous and we simply did not have the time or manpower to accomplish such a massive clean up.

The true test of our effectiveness will come during next year's (and hopefully subsequent years') follow up visits. Before the anti-malaria programme the malaria incidence on Ulawa was roughly 770 cases per 1000.

Medical Clinic Sponsoring this portion of the work were the Stuyvenburg Rural Training Centre, Save the Children Fund, U.S. Peace Corps and YCI. We started the project at Stuyvenburg on May 23 working long hours every day except Sunday. We dug and poured concrete foundations, mixed cement, poured walls, laid bricks and did many other physically demanding jobs. We finished most of the concrete work. The roofing and the painting of the clinic will be finished by the students of Stuyvenburg. For months before we arrived they had been felling trees miles inside the jungle, chainsawing every piece of timber used at Stuyvenburg from these trees, and then carrying it out. They also cleared the clinic site. The students and our construction supervisor (an experienced builder who is volunteering with the Peace Corps) made this project work. Save the Children Fund will provide a nurse, once the clinic is completed.

During the week we would eat breakfast with the volunteer staff of Stuyvenburg, lunch with the students, and dinner in our leaf houses with frequent guests. Some of the women in our group learned several *kastom* dances for warriors. All of us enjoyed the "social nights", where the students would play guitars, pan pipes, or keyboard and everyone danced. Everyone had a great time when some of us *araikwao* played the enormous *kastom* drums. Of course there was plenty of swimming, card playing and sports. Most of our group taught a few classes at the Training Centre in science, business, or geography. Through the building of the medical clinic and during our free time, we all learned *staka*.

Paraphrasing Brother George, who founded Stuyvenburg three years ago: "Your visit has taught the students a valuable lesson: white people don't know everything." Our group did not do anything that the students could not have done themselves. We simply provided a few extra hands. In the words of Brother George: "The building is secondary; the people come first."

Although Makira/Ulawa Province is poor and isolated from the rest of the country, the successes of Styvenburg show what can be done, if people work together.

It seems to me that it would be almost impossible to convey all the facts and the emotions of this journey in anything smaller than a book. In fact I don't know if words can express how humbled I am by what I have learned during my time on Ulawa and at Stuyvenburg. We took what we knew and held to be true into another part of the world where we worked alongside new found friends. At first their ways and ours seemed very different. Two and a half months later each of us returned to our own world with the teachings and perspectives of this shared journey. With luck what we derive from these experiences will be guided and informed as much by our hearts as by our minds and by our senses. [August 11, 1993]

With the help of flip charts from Papua New Guinea we discussed the causes and prevention of malaria with small groups of villagers for about ten minutes. The discussion was entirely in Pijin except in some villages where translation into the local island language was needed for some people. Topics included the role of the mosquito in transmitting the malaria parasite, mosquito habitat and methods of destroying these sites in and around villages, preventing mosquito bites at night through the correct use of bednets, and treatment of malaria.

Then we took blood slides from everyone in the village. The microscopists later examined these slides for malaria parasites and positive cases were treated immediately with a first dose and two doses were left with the nearest health care worker.

The bednets, which we had previously treated with the insecticide Permethrin, were sold for SI\$3 per person. This price was heavily subsidised by WHO and the Government of the Solomon Islands. About 97% of the villagers received a bednet. The participation of all villagers is essential to the anti malaria programme's success and to the villagers' health.

The huge job of doing a village clean up we left with the villagers themselves. We pointed out various mosquito breeding sites (basically

Strangers in Paradise

The story of French Polynesia

*Excerpts from an address by
Remuna Tufariua*

Remuna Tufariua is a representative of the Polynesian Liberation Front. He was in Canada as the guest of the Inter-church Uranium Committee Educational Coop, with funding from the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation's Small Projects Fund. He was also a guest speaker at the Pacific Networking Conference in May 1993.

We have lived 151 years under the yoke of French colonialism. France has always taught us in school that our Polynesia is a piece of land that became detached from France and floated away across the ocean. For this reason the French made our Polynesia "French Polynesia", or a Polynesia that comes from France.

These 151 years of French colonialism have been for our people years of struggle, suffering and work to make French people admit that we are not French, but instead a distinct people -- a people with our own identity, language, culture, and territory. For us, independence is not only a necessity and a choice, but a right.

We call ourselves "the maohi people" which signifies "a people born of pure roots, clean roots" -- a people who are completely opposed to the vileness we live in, as a result of French nuclear weapons testing.

Simply stated, our people do not exist in the eyes of France. If I am in Canada, it is because we want to be heard. We want to bear witness to what is happening in our country, with respect to French colonialism and nuclear weapons testing. We are not only victims of the colonial process, but also victims of one of our resources from Northern Saskatchewan - Uranium. Uranium

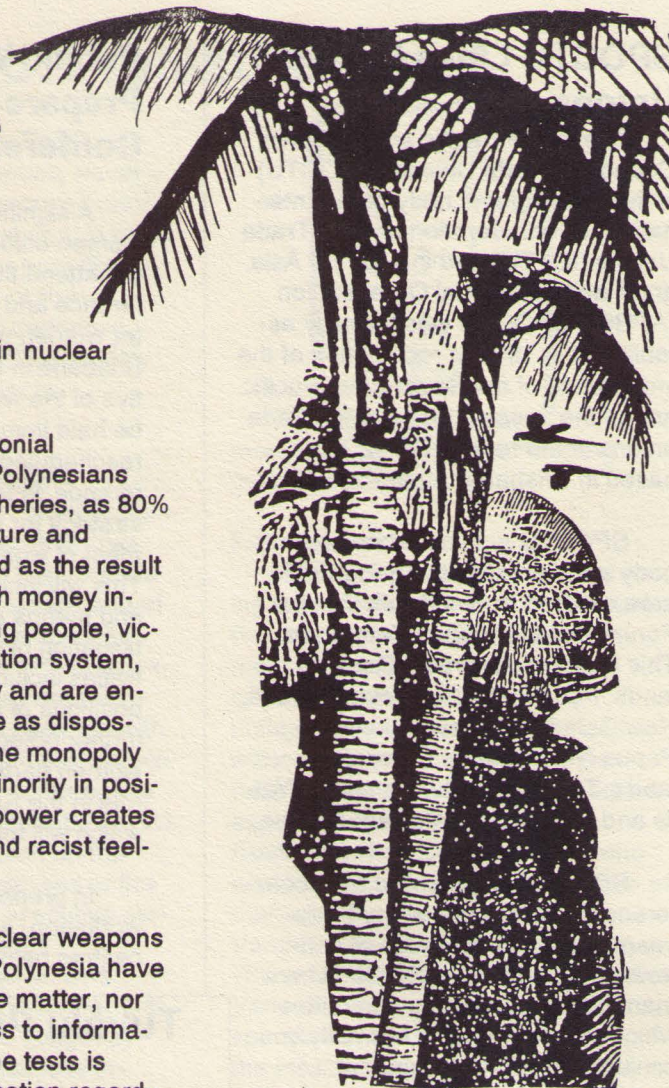
is the vital component in nuclear weapons.

Because of the colonial economy, only 5% of Polynesians live off the land and fisheries, as 80% did in the past. Agriculture and fisheries were devalued as the result of large sums of French money injected into Tahiti. Young people, victims of a foreign education system, feel rejected by society and are ending up more and more as dispossessed delinquents. The monopoly that keeps a French minority in positions of influence and power creates a sense of inferiority and racist feeling in the population.

With respect to nuclear weapons testing, the people of Polynesia have absolutely no say in the matter, nor are they allowed access to information. Every aspect of the tests is secret, including information regarding contamination, medical statistics and accidents at the test sites. All the French try to do is convince the people, through the French-controlled media, that the tests are safe. Several demands that independent scientists be allowed to examine bomb fall-out have been refused.

I don't know what you think of the French companies that control the projects pulling uranium and profits out of the mines in Northern Saskatchewan. What I do know is that we are completely opposed to continued French nuclear weapons testing, and, because we are affected by these tests, we are opposed to the expansion of uranium mining in the North. The source and the continuation of our suffering is your uranium and French colonial power.

I would like to remind you that those who decide are not necessarily those who suffer the consequences



of the decision. We are, unfortunately, those who suffer if you, the people of Saskatchewan, do not choose to help us.

From our side, along with non-violent actions we organise, we firmly believe that the way to stop French colonialism and her nuclear weapons testing is through one thing: independence. We want the freedom to speak for ourselves and to organize ourselves.

There is only one thing in which we agree with France. If you were to read the French LaRousse dictionary, this is what it would have to say about the word "independence": "Independence is the unique joy of a people."

How we thirst for this joy.

[Reprinted from *Earthbeat*, the SCIC newsletter, Summer 1993.]

SPOCTU Links Pacific Unions

The South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU) is the sub-regional body of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the ICFTU Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation (APRO). SPOCTU was formally established in 1990 in recognition of the importance of the South West Pacific and of the special needs of the trade unions of the region. SPOCTU is based in Brisbane, Australia.

SPOCTU acts as an umbrella body and serves in the geographic area covered by the South Pacific Forum and the French Territories. This includes Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

SPOCTU is governed by a conference which meets every three years. Between meetings of conference, the affairs of SPOCTU are managed by a steering committee which meets annually, normally in conjunction with a seminar or workshop on a matter of current interest to the regional union movement.

SPOCTU policy supports the right to independence for all countries of the region and supports also a nuclear-free Pacific. In addition SPOCTU has carried resolutions dealing with specific environmental issues such as driftnet fishing, rising sea levels, and the dumping of nuclear and chemical waste in the Pacific.


SPOCTU seeks to be a positive contributor to the evolving of a development strategy that will provide a more prosperous and stable future for the working class people of the region. A strategy that seeks to share the resources of the region in a culturally and environmentally responsible way. In this respect, SPOCTU is seeking to become a member of the South Pacific Forum Committee, the Committee for Regional Economic Issues and Trade (CREIT).

Pacific Women Prepare for Regional Conference

A significant number of women unionists from the region will attend the SPOCTU conference and a two-day workshop for women which will be held in Brisbane in November. The objective of the women's workshop, to be held immediately before the rescheduled SPOCTU conference, is to prepare a regional strategy for the further development of women in trade unions. This will include examining ways and means of increasing the participation of women in union activities including election to positions of union leadership. A further objective is to prepare women participants to play a full role in the SPOCTU conference which will follow the workshop.

In preparation for the regional workshop, a number of national centres held workshops for

**PACIFIC
WOMEN
IN
TRADES**



'Pacific Women in Trades'
Available on loan from SPPF (\$15 handling fee plus GST in Canada) or by purchase from the South Pacific Commission, B.P. D5, Noumea CEDEX, New Caledonia.

women aimed at examining and advancing the situation in their own countries.

[From: *Pacific Unionist*, No 13, Sep/93]

Tuvalu Plan To Set Up National Committee

Unions in Tuvalu have resolved to establish a national committee aimed at strengthening the Tuvaluan union movement. This was the major recommendation arising from a March 1993 leadership development seminar held in Funafuti, Tuvalu. The seminar was conducted by SPOCTU Education Officer, Raghwan.

Tuvalu is the smallest SPOCTU country both in terms of land area and population. There is a total population of only 10,000. There are four unions: the Civil Servants' Association, the Nurses' Association, the Overseas Seamen's Union and the Teachers' Union.

The Overseas Seamen's Union (TOSU) is the largest union with a membership of around 700, 500 of which at any one time are working on ships in Europe and Asia. TOSU is very much a household name in Tuvalu. The union is held

in high regard both within the Government and the community. Tuvalu seafarers are a major asset to the country. They are in demand by overseas ship-owners and contribute around A\$2 million per year to Tuvalu in foreign income. In addition to the normal union activities provided by TOSU, the union also provides a public transport service which is run as a commercial venture. This has been achieved through the donation of a mini-bus from the Japan Institute of Labour.

The seminar recommended that the proposed national committee should involve all four country unions. The aim will be to generally strengthen the overall position of the trade union movement in Tuvalu and to specifically encourage further union organisation in the private sector. Other recommendations included the setting up of a credit union and a continuing programme of union education.

SPOCTU Conference Cancelled: Protests Lodged

by Rod Ellis (SPOCTU
Executive Officer)

SPOCTU conference #2 was to have been held in Vanuatu 15/16 July 1993. It was to have been preceded by a seminar for women and by an education workshop. It was also to have been attended by some 80 representatives from the 14 South Pacific member countries of SPOCTU and from the international union and other friendly organisations.

Normal conference arrangements had proceeded during the first half of 1993 including discussions government and business agencies in Vanuatu and, as late as June, talks with the Prime Minister's Office on having Prime Minister Karlot Corman speak at the conference opening.

Project secretary, Judy Young, travelled to Vanuatu 7 July with executive officer, Rod Ellis, and education officer, Raghwan, due to travel on 9 July. On the morning of the 9th, the SPOCTU office was advised that the airline carrier, Air Vanuatu, would uplift neither Rod Ellis nor Raghwan as they had both been declared undesirable immigrants by the Government of Vanuatu and as such were prohibited entry into the country. Although the order had been issued a month previously on 7 June, no advice had been provided to either SPOCTU or to the union movement in Vanuatu.

Attempts to obtain an explanation for the order, and to hopefully have it rescinded proved fruitless. Government officials advised that only the Prime Minister had authority to act in the matter. By late afternoon 9 July, when it became obvious that the order would not be rescinded, the decision was taken by the SPOCTU officers to cancel the conference.

Considerable expense had already been incurred by SPOCTU to this point in normal arrangements and now added to this was the cost

of travel by some South Pacific participants. In some instances, travel had already been commenced prior to the decision to cancel and, in other cases, it was simply not possible to contact the participant, or the relevant airline, prior to departure. Costs incurred by SPOCTU, mainly relating to travel, amount to A\$25,000.

Government Condemned

The ICFTU, SPOCTU and a number of SPOCTU member countries were quick to condemn the Vanuatu Government. A press release issued by the SPOCTU Chairperson Ken Douglas stated that the SPOCTU experience should make all organisations extremely wary in dealings with the Vanuatu Government and certainly of attempting to hold conferences or meetings in that country. SPOCTU advised that the restriction on the free movement of the citizens of the region, particularly the executive personnel of a legitimate non-governmental organisation, was totally unacceptable, and further that compensation would be sought by SPOCTU for the financial loss incurred. The ICFTU wrote to the Prime Minister protesting at the blatant disregard for human rights which was described as a serious attack not only on the Vanuatu trade union movement but on the Pacific and international union movement in general. The ICFTU urged the Prime Minister to meet with SPOCTU to discuss the matter of compensation and also sought the immediate withdrawal of the order against the two SPOCTU officers.

The Vanuatu Government has failed to provide a reason for the bans although reporters have been that it relates to an alleged involvement by both officers in the 4-week long Vanuatu teachers' strike of May/June 1993. Although both officers were in Vanuatu for part of that time, neither had any involvement in the teachers' dispute. Indeed no outside assistance was sought by the teachers who proved that they were



more than capable of conducting their own affairs.

Future Trends

This incident adds to the worsening democratic record of the Vanuatu Government. In 1992 the government passed legislation which granted the Finance Minister unilateral power to refuse or revoke, without appeal, the issuing of business licences. This issue caused the expulsion from Vanuatu of the Australian High Commissioner who was found guilty of the grave crime of making representation to the Vanuatu Government on the issue. The government radio station, Radio Vanuatu, is barred from reporting specific events on a regular basis, the most recent of these being the cancellation of the SPOCTU conference.

In general commentary, the countries of the South Pacific region have achieved independence over the previous two decades. Politicians, and political parties, who rightly claimed freedom from colonial rule at that time are now faced with similar calls for democratic and social change.

The push for change, and progress, quickens as the world grown smaller and as communications mediums, such as television and video, increasingly find their way into South Pacific homes. Rather than becoming more open, more democratic, the regional trend is towards increasing authoritarianism with freedom of the press and the trade union movement becoming all too familiar targets for suppression. [Adapted from: *Pacific Unionist*, No 13, Sep/93]

Working with Partners to Construct an Evaluation Framework: The Case of CUSO's Indigenous People's Solidarity Programme

by Alison Mathie

Many organisations from North and South are exploring ways to achieve meaningful partnerships that break away from the old, often patronising, relationships dominated by expatriate organisations. This article reports on one approach by CUSO, a Canadian organisation, in its Papua New Guinea programme. Alison Mathie, currently completing a Masters Programme Evaluation and Planning at Cornell University in the United States, has worked for over eight years with women in Papua New Guinea, part of that time with CUSO.

The Indigenous People's Solidarity Programme is a carefully drafted partnership between CUSO Papua New Guinea (CUSOPNG) and Papua New-Guinean non-governmental organisations (PNGNGOs) working in areas such as human rights, women's participation, environmental advocacy, critical literacy and small scale business development. To evaluate this programme presents particular challenges - the fact that the programme works with NGOs of diverse needs and interests, the difficulties of assessing "progress", and the importance of ensuring that evaluation practice is consistent with CUSO's organisational philosophy, especially its commitment to equal partnerships with Southern NGOs. This paper reports on how these challenges were addressed through the development of an evaluation framework for this programme.

"Evaluation" often has a threatening ring because it has traditionally been used in hierarchical organisations for purposes of accountability. As a result it has earned a reputation as a means of bureaucratic control. More recently, other purposes for evaluation have been given more attention. For example, turning "top down" accountability on its head, evaluation by beneficiaries can be a means by which they can assess programmes designed with their

interests in mind. A larger, more reflective movement in the evaluation field has looked at evaluation as an ongoing management exercise in a learning approach to development (Korten, 1980, cited in Chambers, 1988), embracing such possibilities as self-evaluation and "participatory evaluation" for the purpose of more sensitive programme management. Sometimes these attempts to make evaluation more constructive are treated with suspicion (Is this a wolf dressed in sheep's clothing?). Sometimes they are met with frustration, because the expected "day of reckoning", when a definitive judgement about the programme is made, never arrives.

In the case of CUSO's programme in PNG, the evaluation framework was developed principally for the purpose of self evaluation. The staff of CUSOPNG wanted a tool for ongoing reflective evaluation of their work. Involving PNGNGOs in the development of the evaluation framework was consistent with the importance attached to cultivating reciprocal, sustainable partnerships with PNGNGOs in all aspects of CUSO's work, including planning and evaluation.

At the same time, evaluation of CUSOPNG's programme was of

concern to CUSO as a whole. All CUSO programmes world-wide are expected to contribute to a coherent organisational identity. A second purpose for evaluation was therefore to ensure that the programme could be held accountable to the democratic legislative bodies (CUSO's "centre of moral authority") that generated the Mission Statement and the programming criteria agreed upon in 1991. In developing a framework for the self-evaluation of CUSOPNG's programme, therefore, there was an additional interest to see whether the programme would dovetail into the broader themes and goals of the global CUSO.

What Kind of Evaluation

Framework? The usual format of an evaluation framework is to state what the programme is trying to do (goals, objectives and priorities), how it is going to do it (inputs or activities), and how it will assess whether or not it has done what it set out to do (evaluation indicators). In their extreme form, frameworks have been used more like straitjackets. Constructed at the planning stage, they have often imposed just the planners' view of programme goals and how to get there; they have been too rigid, too linear in their logic and insensitive to the complex social phenomena that characterise social

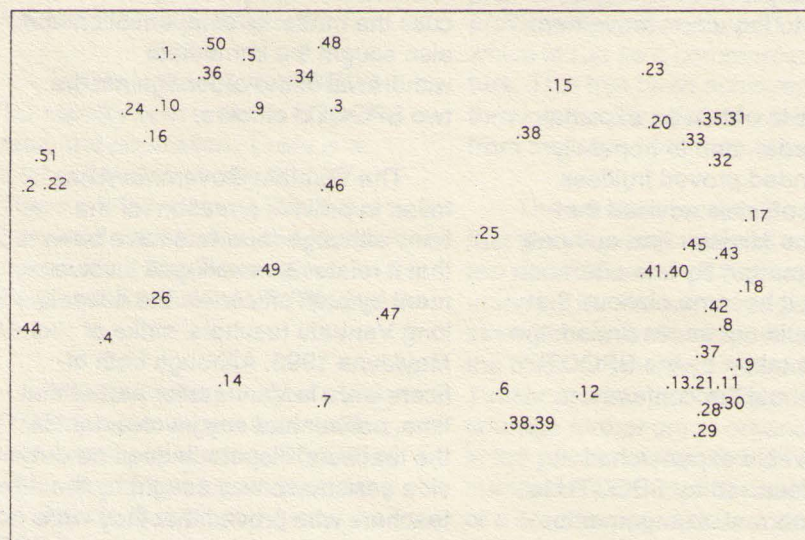


Figure 1. Point Map. Each point represents one statement generated by the group.

change (Crittendon and Lea, 1991). Using such a framework as a yardstick to measure progress for evaluation purposes has therefore often been harshly and justifiably criticised.

This is of particular relevance to this context because CUSO has been conscientious in its avoidance of a donor-recipient relationship where the donor, as the planner, sets the agenda. Written into its programming criteria, it is specified that

CUSO's role (is) as a catalyst, facilitator, and participant in programming, and should demonstrate movement towards a more equal relationship. (CUSO, 1991)

Consistent with this role, a more moderate approach to the use of frameworks can be used which recognises that programme goals are often diffuse and changing, and vary among different stakeholders in the programme. In this case, the PNGNGO partner agencies, the CUSO field staff, and the CUSO

cooperants working with these partners. The PNGNGOs were themselves a diverse group; although all progressive in their orientation, they had varied origins, history, capacities and needs.

Given this heterogeneity, a starting point for constructing a framework in this context was a "goals clearance" exercise (Sen, 1987) that would allow different views and goals to be aired, and tentative goals identified. This needed to be done in such a way that different perspectives could be expressed and displayed without constraint.

For these reasons a combination of qualitative methods was used. A workshop involving PNGNGO representatives, CUSOPNG staff, and cooperants centred around a technique called "concept mapping". This technique focussed participant discussion on the question:

What benefits would you like to see from CUSO's partnership with Papua New Guinea NGOs?

Prior to the workshop, an attempt was made to interview all participants individually. In some cases, participants were interviewed after the workshop. The interviews introduced participants to the question of interest, sensitised them to some of the issues that underlay the workshop, and elicited views about future programming. Interviews were recorded and transcribed for later analysis, and have been an important source of deeper and wider understanding of the issues raised at the workshop.

The Workshop: Concept Mapping

Sixteen participants attended the workshop: three CUSO programme staff, four cooperants and nine Papua New Guinean representatives from NGO partner agencies. Eight participants were women (2 Papua New Guinean women, 6 expatriates).

Concept mapping has been described as "structured conceptualisation". In a structured and efficient way, it tries to bring order and meaning to diverse views in a group.

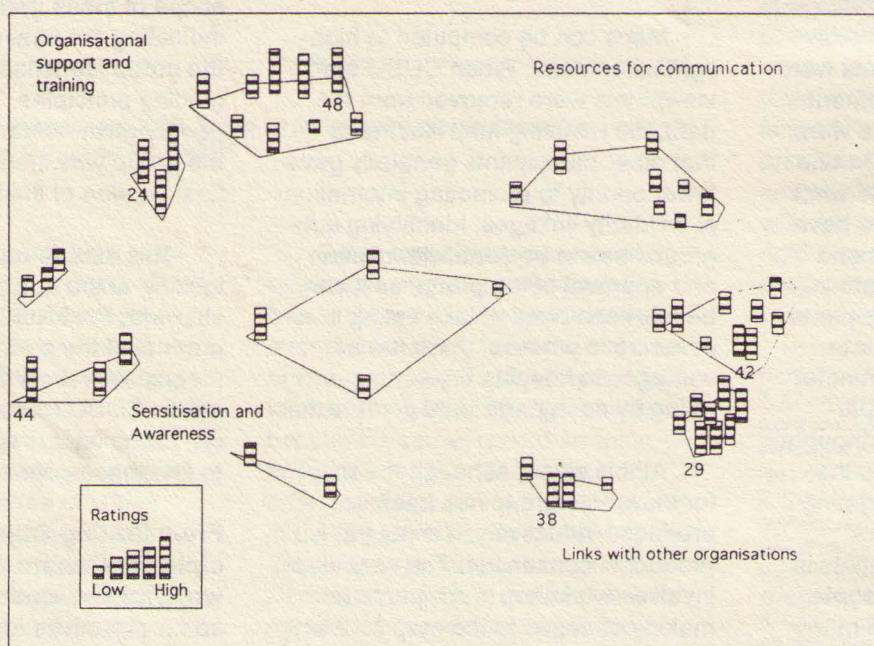


Figure 2. Statements arranged in 10 clusters or concepts, with average rating for each statement indicated.

Broad concept areas have been labelled here by the author. Note that the statements that are towards the centre of the map are ones that participants sorted in the least consistent manner, usually because the meaning of these statements was not clear. In later sessions, these statements were relocated by the group. For illustrative purposes, 6 statements have been identified on the map:

24: CUSO should work with partners to provide extra training and management.

29: South-South links are important and CUSO should assist in this.

38: CUSO could assist in facilitating research opportunities about political, economic and social issues so that NGOs can provide alternative information to people.

42: Many NGOs are not part of the National Alliance of NGOs and we want to bring them into the network.

44: CUSO should help NGOs increase the participation of women in the network.

48: CUSO should support organisations and groups without "bringing their own agenda".

The different ideas and views of the participants are mapped so that relationships between ideas can be visualised and overall areas of agreement and disagreement can be discerned. The process is aided by a computer programme called The Concept System (Trochim, 1989). To some extent, using a process that is technology dependent was a disadvantage in this context. However, the efficiency offered by the software in processing the information was a distinct advantage. It was important to encourage scrutiny of the process, cautioning participants against its seductive nature, while at the same time demonstrating its value as a tool to those least enthusiastic about computer technology.

The first step of the procedure is to have all participants write one or two statements in response to the focus question. All participants then take turns reading out their statements before opening it up to a more typical brainstorming session where statements can come from anyone. In this way the statements generated are not just the voices of the most vocal.

In this study, 51 statements were generated in total. Each statement was recorded and two full lists were printed for each participant. On one list participants had to indicate what priority each statement should have (on a scale of 1 to 5). The second statement sheet was cut up into individual statements and participants were asked to organise the statements in piles that were meaningful to each of them. In this way, participants put statements they thought were related to one another in the same pile. In any concept mapping workshop, there are "clumpers" (people who organise statements in a few piles) and "splitters" (people who organise statements into many piles), but this is less important to the final result than the different ways that people perceive relationships between ideas. This highly individualistic exercise came as a surprise to the participants - a more animated first day had been expected! Nevertheless, the success of the later process depended on individual effort at this

stage. This is because the concept map that is produced from everyone's "sorts" is an aggregate of individual views, as distinct from a product of consensus. This distinction is important, Consensus comes later.

At the end of the session all the "sorts" are collected and recorded. The computer programme assumes that the more frequently a pair of statements is put in the same pile by the participants, the more likely it is that those statements are conceptually similar. Conversely, if two statements in a pair are rarely put together in the same pile, the computer assumes that they are not conceptually similar. At the end of the analysis, statements are located as points on a map according to how close they are conceptually to one another, as in Figure 1 in the CUSO case. Several maps can be produced after this. Figure 2 shows statements organised into clusters. Each cluster represents a concept and cluster areas have been marked. The average rating for each statement within each cluster is also shown.

Maps can be computed to highlight differences. When CUSO staff viewpoints were removed from the data, the resulting map illustrated that other participants generally gave lower priority to promoting international solidarity linkages. Identifying subgroups has to be done with caution and approval of the group, as it can be a breach of trust. Like voting in a democratic process, there are advantages to keeping the sorting and rating by each participant confidential.

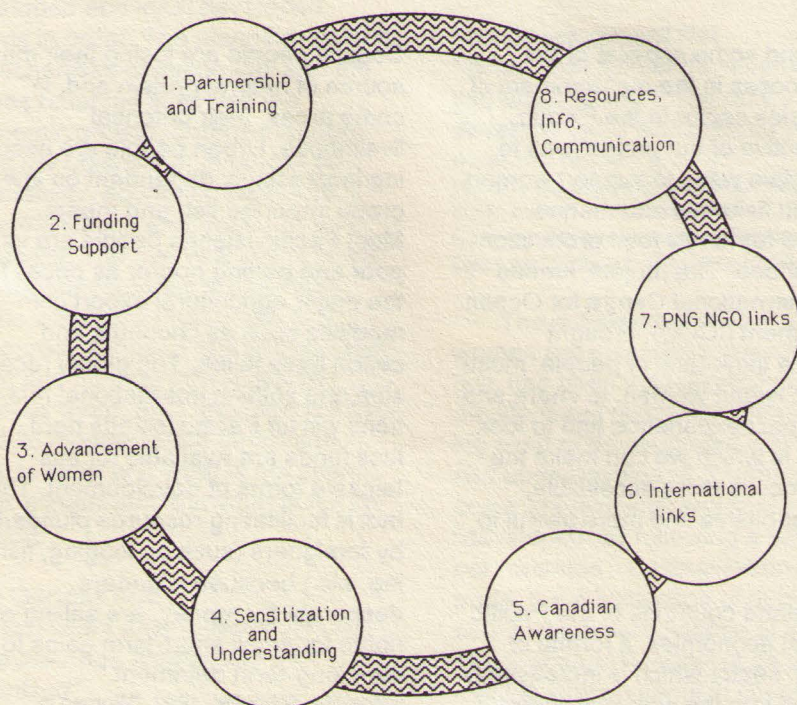
At this stage, although the map for the whole group has been produced inductively, it is not yet a product of consensus. The next step involves workshop participants in making changes to the map so that it makes sense to them, by moving statements around, changing cluster labels, combining or splitting clusters, and so on. In this case, a repeated theme in these discussions was that there were a number of statements that people wanted to place in several clusters on the map. Eventually it was clear that many of the

statements related not so much to *what benefits* participants wanted to emerge from the partnership between CUSO and PNGNGOs as to *how* they wanted the partnership to be conducted. In other words, despite the constraints of the concept mapping procedure, which focused on *ends* (that is, "What benefits....?"), workshop participants succeeded in bringing out the importance of *means*, later listed as "guiding principles".

This result helped solve the contradiction of how to establish goals, objectives and plans for a programme that is fundamentally committed to being non-directive in its approach, and that is responding to agencies with diverse needs. In this goal clearance exercise, the most appropriate solution was to agree on general objectives, and define the principles to guide the relationship with partner NGOs, because ongoing self-evaluation of the programme needed to give as much attention to the *quality* of the partnerships as to the *product* of those partnerships. Figure 3 illustrates the scope of these general objectives by indicating the final concept areas that the group identified, linked by these guiding principles. The different priority given to each statement by the group was incorporated into the final version of the framework.

This double-barrelled approach, looking at the quality of the partnership with PNGNGOs as well as the product of the partnership (the means as well as the ends), complements CUSO's organisational agenda. It was encouraging and affirming to find these connections.

From Setting Objectives and Principles to Constructing a Framework for Evaluation Having set some objectives and guiding principles, the next step was to consider how programme progress and development would be assessed. Assumptions that underlay the objectives were first outlined, as a focus for continued questioning of the programme's activities. Then, in groups, participants took one of these objectives, made some sugges-



Guiding Principles for all CUSO's work with PNG NGO's

CUSOPNG's contribution with confidence and cut a programming path with conviction. It is this kind of constructive judgement that should be the hallmark of an evaluation exercise, not the old style "day of reckoning" which has alienated so many people in the past.

Lessons Learned Given CUSO's commitment to partnership, there was no question that partner agencies had to be actively involved in developing an evaluation framework for the Indigenous People's Solidarity Programme. The challenge was to provide an opportunity for effective and efficient participation. In this case, the concept mapping technique offered a balance between individual input and group consensus building and helped to identify essential concerns and issues. This was a starting point for constructing an evaluation framework; interviews prior to the workshop and group discussions during the workshop helped to flesh this out.

The real test of the usefulness of the evaluation framework will be in its application and relevance to the task of evaluating a programme that is bound to change as circumstances dictate. Assumptions will be challenged, key people will move on, priorities will change, alliances among partners will shift, and funding will ebb and flow. Far from being a rigid blueprint, it is a flexible guide to assessing active partnership towards common goals.

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Figure 3. General Objectives for the IPSP, linked by Guiding Principles, drawn from concept maps adapted during the workshop.

tions for programme activities or inputs, and tried to think of "indicators" that would help to identify progress or problems. One of the conclusions drawn from this was that while some quantitative indicators would be useful, the majority of the indicators of CUSO's progress would be qualitative assessments, some of which might be of such slippery notions as "satisfaction", "greater awareness" and other subjective measures. It was also recognised that since PNGNGO development was influenced by several factors, it would not be possible to pin down the cause of progress to any one influence exclusively. Assessing CUSO's contribution would have to take this into account.

Given these concerns about assessment, ongoing self-evaluation has to rely on astute interpretation of events from multiple sources. To be effective, there has to be systematic information gathering, rigorous (but not cumbersome) record-keeping, and opportunities for honest and open feedback from all stakeholders in the programme. By identifying indicators, even subjective ones, the framework points to the kind of information that needs to be gathered and serves as a common reference point among CUSO staff, PNGNGO partners and cooperants. Neither subjectivity nor multiple influences should be considered problematic; the point is to balance indisputable facts with sufficient information about the whole spectrum of "subjective views" in order to assess

Of Women and Fish

by Wendy Poussard

Wendy Poussard has worked with several non-governmental organisations that support programmes for women in the Pacific, including Australia's International Women's Development Agency and Canada's CUSO.

"Conceptual models not only fix the mesh of the nets through which the analyst drags the material in order to explain a particular action. They also direct him to cast his net in select ponds, at certain depths, in order to catch the fish he is after.

[G.T. Alison. 1971. *Essence of Decision*. Boston, Little Brown, quoted in Susan Barrett and Colin Fudge. 1981. *Policy and Action*. Methuen, p.8.]

This is the story of women and fish.

In the small island countries of the Pacific, the sea is a major source of food and wealth. The Pacific basin encompasses twenty-two small island states and territories. Their landmass and population are small, but their sea borders cover a vast area, about one-third of the earth's surface. For island people, and for their governments and regional organisations, ocean management is a subject of great interest and importance.

Traditionally, Pacific women harvest ocean resources more frequently and more regularly than men. Efficient use of human resources, as well as considerations of equity, suggest that women as well as men should be involved in the development and management of ocean products, through training, introduction of new technologies and systems, access to research and information, and opportunities to shape policy. However, there are few opportunities for women to benefit from or participate in the massive interventions by government and international aid donors in the fisheries sector.

By participating in a project entitled "Women in Fisheries and Marine Resources", I have begun to

understand some aspects of the policy process in the management of the fisheries sector in the Pacific. The objective of the project was to find effective ways to support women working in fisheries and marine resources for family food production and livelihood. The project, funded by the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), brought together a think-tank of people, mostly Pacific Island women, to share and analyse past experience and to look for ways in which we can make the policy process more accessible, more responsive and more useful to women.

All island countries of the Pacific have dual economies, a formal or "modern" sector which is increasingly integrated into the global economy through international trade and finance and, alongside this, the subsistence, non-cash economy which provides food and shelter for the majority of people. The sectors are not entirely separate. Even in the most remote village, people now need some income to buy kerosene and pay school fees. Everywhere, commercially processed food such as tinned fish and rice have become part of the Pacific diet. Even in major commercial centres such as Port Moresby and Suva, subsistence production and traditional systems of exchange and distribution coexist with multinational business and high finance. Fishing and gathering of marine products such as shellfish and food gardening remain fundamental to the survival of the majority of Pacific communities who live in this mixed subsistence/cash economy.

Penelope Schoeffel, an economic anthropologist who has undertaken several studies of fisheries in the Pacific, notes some new pressures on the physical and social environment:

"Water pollution, overfishing and damaging fishing practices are threatening the coastal fisheries of most Pacific Island countries.

Coastal people are losing their main source of natural protein and, in some areas, their potential livelihoods. Urban people are becoming increasingly dependent on low-grade imported fish and meats.... Most Pacific Islands people are very poor and getting poorer as prices for the major agricultural export commodities such as coconuts and cocoa have fallen. The global recession and shifting international relations will hit Pacific Islands hard.... less funds are available for sustainable forms of development. This fact is facilitating resource plundering by foreigners (such as logging, fishing, etc.) because islanders, desperate for money, are selling off rights for small short-term gains to their long-term detriment."

[Penelope Schoeffel. 1992. "Women in Fisheries in the Pacific Islands: A Retrospective Analysis": Briefing paper for a Women in Fisheries think-tank, Suva, Fiji, August 27-28, 1992.]

A Clash of Symbols

Many island countries gained political independence in the 1960s and 1970s. The initial policy frameworks of these countries were their national constitutions within which their legislative structures operate. The ideals expressed in national constitutions remain a constant reference point in political discourse. Pacific constitutions reflect the rhetoric of decolonisation and independence. The Constitution of Papua New Guinea, for example, espouses principles of equality, decentralisation, self-reliance and human development. It specifically acknowledges the rights of women as citizens and workers. At the time of independence in 1975, Papua New Guinea adopted "Eight Aims", one of which is a "rapid increase in the equal and active participation of women in all forms of economic and social activity."

Another parallel system within which policy decisions are made is the planning cycle (five year plans recently replaced by a continuous "strategic planning" framework). This regime of planning is imposed by

multilateral aid donors and financial institutions to keep their less developed and least developed clients in order. The planning cycle is a mechanistic planning tool and the values reflected in its use are economic growth, orderly management (by objectives), financial accountability, economic integration, industrialisation and, recently, sustainability. The five year plans of aid dependent countries are political myths which are ritually told and honoured. Although few people read them and no one, I think, literally believes them, they reinforce the conceptual models which determine what is seen and what is not seen, what is important and what is not important.

The Gender Net

"Seven years after independence, Men are Free, women are still colonised"

[Grace Molisa. 1987. Colonised People. Black Stone Publications, Port Vila, p.7]

One cannot be long in the Pacific without hearing a lot of talk about culture. Both politics and economics are flavoured by opinions, stories and metaphors expressing the perceptions of indigenous and non-indigenous islanders and outsiders on what we/they are inherently like, our/their characteristics, customs, preferences and moral strengths. In every policy process, the divisions between insiders and outsiders, defined in terms of culture, is an important element.

In many political and financial processes, women are outsiders. This exclusion is often ascribed, in the Pacific, to culture, an explanation which works powerfully both locally and internationally. Many people who in their own society would see women's exclusion from the policy process as an injustice or dysfunction, and chiefly privilege as oppressive, are willing to accept these things as 'culture' and therefore acceptable and inevitable in another place. The story of culture is not the only possible way to explain why women are excluded; some invoke theory of patriarchy or make the prosaic observation that a group or

class which has power is not generally motivated to give it away.

The Development Net

"What other kind of development are you talking about? The only true development is that cooking pots must not remain empty."

[An old man at a village development meeting in Fiji, quoted in: Asesala Ravuvu. 1987. "Fiji: Contradictory Ideologies and Development" in Class and Culture in the South Pacific. p. 238.]

The subsistence sector, where women are most economically active, has been virtually excluded from development planning. The prevailing myth of development is that poor and underdeveloped countries will become "developing" and finally "developed" by following a path of export-oriented industrialisation, free trade, the privatisation of public assets and the deregulation of industry. The managerial model of development is very powerful in countries dependent on the good will of the International Monetary Fund and tutored in planning by international agencies. It is in many ways more influential than the political process of democratic decision making.

A regional mission undertaken by six major multilateral and bilateral aid donors in 1988 reported that "fisheries development is in general moving through an important phase, changing from largely subsistence to primarily commercial fisheries with increasing international trade interdependence". [Forum Fisheries Agency et al. 1988 Joint Fisheries Strategy Mission Report. Vol 1, 1.1] This statement could be interpreted to mean that subsistence fishing has somehow developed so that those who once fished only for subsistence can now make a profit from their work, but this is not so. Subsistence fishing remains more or less the same and commercial fishing is superimposed as a new industry which has unplanned and unmeasured effects on the subsistence sector.

According to the donors' report, the importance of this change is not due to its commercial success: "In contrast to their perceived economic potential, fisheries currently make only a minor contribution to the



overall monetary economies of most Pacific Island countries: [ibid. 2.3.3.]. The report writer noted a "recognised commonality of objectives" among donors, with the first objective "the development of all fisheries towards optimum sustained production" [ibid. 1.1.] (The tentative wording leads me to think that the common objectives have not been formally agreed, but are deduced by the writer). This objective is consistent with the development myth. Assistance provided to the commercial fisheries sector (boats, harbour facilities, gear, cold stores, etc., with an estimated budget around thirty million dollars in 1991) is clearly directed towards maximising production.

High Williamson of the Ocean Resources Management Programme estimates that inshore fisheries probably contribute ten times as much to national economies as does tuna [Shireen Lateef quotes High Williamson in "Notes from Women and

Fisheries Meeting in Suva, Fiji, May 29"]. The decline of this industry could cause famine in Pacific Island countries, but as Penelope Schoeffel comments, "There has been a longstanding assumption that subsistence will somehow continue to sustain the majority of the population, in the face of population growth, pressure on land and resource depletion without any development assistance." [Penelope Schoeffel op.cit.]

Generally the goals of fisheries departments are formulated by ministries of finance. They are expected to generate revenue, preferably from exports, and their work tends to be dominated by various technical aid projects. This is where their nets are cast.

"Women Don't Fish"

Women are fishing in the atoll country of Kiribati (population 68,000; land area 690 sq km; exclusive economic zone 3.5 sq km). Coral atolls do not make good gardens and shellfish are a staple food for many families. A recent study by Temawa Taniera and Jean Mitchell showed that women have a central role in fishing in both the subsistence and cash sectors and use a wide variety of methods including gill nets, traditional fish traps and rod and line on the reef. They catch octopus with flares and pressure lamps and collect eels with knives. Fishing from boats and canoes is usually done by men, though a few women also regularly fish this way. Women sometimes market fish caught by men as well as what they have caught and gathered themselves. In Kiribati, the community has survived hurricanes, when gardens are destroyed and fishing is impossible, by storage of dried and salted fish. [Temawa Taniera and Jean Mitchell. 1992. "Women and Fishing, Notes from Kiribati" presented at Women in Fisheries Think-tank, Suva, Fiji, August 1992.]

Lamour Gina-Whewell has made a study of fishing by Roviana women in the Solomon Islands [Lamour Gina-Whewell, 1992. "Roviana Women in Traditional Fishing". Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) School of Education and Cultural

Studies. Presented at Science of Pacific island People's Conference, July 1992, Suva, Fiji.] The main conclusion of her research is that traditional fishing practices require many years of learning and a high degree of knowledge and skill. Over a long period of time, Roviana women have developed a scientific system which classifies molluscs, crustaceans, fish and seaweed species, describing not only their habitat and behaviour, but also the weather and tidal cycles that affect them. She notes that, with the recent development of clam and seaweed farms, women who are the traditional managers of these resources are not involved. When this subsistence activity was commercialised, only men were chosen as participants. "So it appears", she writes, "that women's knowledge of this resource has not been given any recognition."

When Penelope Schoeffel worked on women in fisheries studies for the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau and the Commonwealth Secretariat, she was constantly told that "women don't fish", even where there were actually women fishing on the shore outside the fisheries department in plain view. The invisibility of women in the policy process is more than a figure of speech. [Penelope Schoeffel op. cit.]

Dances with Whales: Changing the Policy Process

The policy process, like a net, is a system of holes joined together. For those of us who plan to make some changes, this is the good news. There have been many sensible recommendations from previous studies, made by short-term consultants and left in filing cabinets. Perhaps an activist group, intent on making things happen, may be the missing element. The executors of the policy process, although constrained by their own organisational systems, are people with diverse views and may be more open to change than is usually expected of them.

Our think-tank became the "Women in Fisheries Working

Group". We can work for change at several levels:

- **Concepts, models, metaphors** - We can challenge the conceptual models which justify the marginalisation of women and of the subsistence economy. This can be done through media, teaching, research, publication, conversation and direct action.
- **Development assistance** - We can actively seek funding and other resources to support development activities identified and managed by women. These can be grass-roots economic projects, training, research or advocacy. It is my experience that, when a few interesting and useful projects are promoted, some cynics and sceptics become believers and supporters.
- **Facilitating organisations** - People's networks and alliances can become new players in the policy process, with some power to encourage, support and link ideas and activities which promote the work of women and the subsistence sector.

I am optimistic about our capacity to make a difference. Policy is sufficiently diverse, ambiguous and conflicting for there to be a lot of discretion in how it can be interpreted and acted upon. One of the frequently cited constraints to development in the Pacific Islands is that communications are difficult and expensive. On the other hand, through informal networks (the coconut wireless) everyone seems to know all the news, even before it happens. Ideas spread quickly. Popular alliances grow. Maybe the "Women in Fisheries Working Group" network will fade away quickly, but if it proves interesting and useful, it will probably continue. We know at least some of the things we intend to do. We are linked to the women on the reef and the planners in the office. We have the resources to begin.

Banaba, the Story of an Island

by David Stanley

David Stanley is the author of Micronesia Handbook, South Pacific Handbook, and Tahiti-Polynesia Handbook an excellent series of travel books on the Pacific published by Moon Publications. This article appears in the current (3rd) edition of the Micronesia Handbook available through bookstores for approx. \$US12.00.

Banaba (also known as Ocean Island, is a tiny, six sq km raised atoll which claims the highest point in Kiribati - 86 metres. It lies 450 km southwest of Tarawa, close to Nauru. Like the latter, it was once rich in phosphates, but from 1900-1979 the deposits were exploited by British, Australian and New Zealand interests in what is perhaps the best example of a corporate/colonial rip-off in the history of the Pacific Islands.

After the Sydney-based Pacific Islands Company discovered phosphates on Nauru and Banaba in 1899 a company official, Albert Ellis, was sent to Banaba in May 1900 to obtain control of the resource. In due course "King" Temate and the other chiefs signed an agreement granting Ellis' firm exclusive rights to exploit the phosphate deposits on Banaba for 999 years in exchange for 50 pounds sterling a year. Of course, the guileless Micronesian islanders had no idea what it was all about.

As Ellis rushed to have mining equipment and moorings put in place, a British naval vessel arrived on 28 September 1901 to raise the British flag, joining Banaba to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate. The British Government reduced the term of the lease to a more realistic 99 years and the Pacific Phosphate Company was formed in 1902.

Things ran smoothly until 1909 when the islanders refused to lease the company any additional land after 15% of Banaba had been stripped of both phosphates and food trees. The British government ar-

anged a somewhat better deal in 1913, but in 1916 changed the protectorate to a colony so the Banabans could not withhold their land again. After World War I the company was renamed the British Phosphate Commission (BPC) and in 1928 the resident commissioner, Sir Arthur Grimble, signed an order expropriating the rest of the land against the Banabans' wishes. The islanders continued to receive their tiny royalty right up until World War II.

On 10 December 1941, with a Japanese invasion deemed imminent, the order was given to blow up the mining infrastructure on Banaba and on 28 February 1942 a French destroyer evacuated company employees from the island. In August some 500 Japanese troops and 50 labourers landed on Banaba and began erecting fortifications. The six Europeans they captured eventually perished as a result of their treatment by the Japanese and all but 150 of the 2,413 local mine labourers and their families present were eventually deported to Tarawa, Nauru, and Kosrae. As a warning the Japanese beheaded three of the locals and used another three to test an electrified anti-invasion fence.

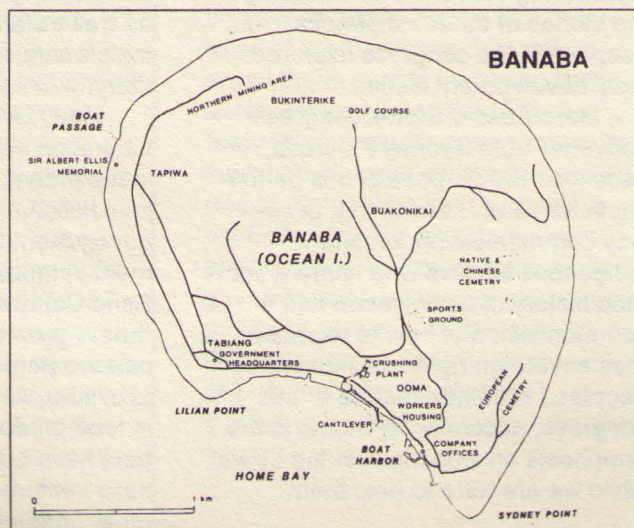
Meanwhile the BPC decided to take advantage of this situation to rid themselves of the island's original inhabitants for once and for all to avoid any future hindrance to mining operations. In March 1942 the commission purchased Rabi (Ed: Pacific Islands Yearbook alternate spelling - Rabi) Island off Vanua Levu in Fiji for 25,000 pounds as an alternative homeland for the Banabans. In late September 1945 the British returned to Banaba with Albert Ellis the first to step ashore. Only surrendering Japanese troops were found on Banaba and the local villages had been destroyed.

Two months later an emaciated and wild-eyed Gilbertese man named Kabunare emerged from three months in hiding and told his story to a military court:

We were assembled together and told that the war was over and the Japanese would soon be leaving. Our rifles were taken away. We were put in groups, our names were taken, then marched to the edge of the cliffs where our hands were tied and we were blind-folded and told to squat. Then we were shot.

Kabunare either lost his balance or fainted, and fell over the cliff before he was hit. In the sea he came to the surface and kicked his way to some rocks where he severed the string that tied his hands. He crawled into a cave and watched the Japanese pile up the bodies of his companions and toss them into the sea. He stayed in the cave two nights and after he thought it was safe made his way inland where he survived on coconuts until he was sure the Japanese had left. Kabunare said he thought the Japanese had executed the others to destroy any evidence of their cruelties and atrocities on Banaba.

As peace returned the British implemented their plan to resettle all 2,000 surviving Banabans on Rabi, which seemed a better place for them than their mined-out homeland. The first group arrived on Rabi on



Map: Micronesia Handbook

14 December 1945 and in time they adapted to their mountainous new home and traded much of their original Micronesian culture for that of the Fijians. There they and their descendants live today.

In 1966 Mr. Tebuke Rotan, a Banaban Methodist minister, journeyed to London on behalf of his people to demand reparations from the British for laying waste to their island, a case which would drag on for nearly 20 bitter years. After some 50 visits to the Foreign and Commonwealth offices, he was offered (and rejected) 80,000 pounds sterling compensation. In 1971 the Banabans sued for damages in the British High Court. After a lengthy litigation, the British government in 1977 offered the Banabans an *ex gratia* payment of A\$10 million, in exchange for a pledge that there would be no further legal action.

In 1975 the Banabans asked that their island be separated from the rest of Kiribati and joined to Fiji, their present country of citizenship. Gilbertese politicians, anxious to protect their fisheries zone and wary of the

dismemberment of the country, lobbied against this, and the British rejected the proposal. The free entry of Banabans to Banaba was guaranteed in the Kiribati constitution, however. In 1979 Kiribati obtained independence from Britain and mining on Banaba ended the same year. Finally, in 1981 the Banabans accepted the A\$10 million compensation money, plus interest, from the British, though they refused to withdraw their claim to Banaba. The present Kiribati government rejects all further claims from the Banabans, asserting that it's something between them and the British. The British are trying to forget the whole thing.

In 1990 an Australian company studied the viability of re-starting phosphate mining operations on Banaba on a small scale but found the plan unworkable due to the high cost of replacing obsolete equipment and depressed phosphate prices on the world market. It was estimated, however, that there was a potential for profits as high as A\$24 million which would have been shared equally by the company, the Kiribati government, and the Banabans. It's

possible this scheme will be revived some day.

A far more sinister proposal came from another Australian company in 1991 which wanted to build an A\$12 million treatment plant on Banaba for liquid industrial wastes from Italy. The company said it was willing to pay A\$3.5 million a year to dispose of three million tons of the chemicals, the residue from which would be dumped in the island's mined-out interior. The irony that poor devastated Banaba should have been selected by these unscrupulous opportunists is almost surreal. As yet nothing has been done.

Some 284 people now practice a subsistence lifestyle on Banaba. There's no airstrip so the only way to get there is on the quarterly supply ship from Tarawa (\$25 deck OW). Anyone wishing to spend three months on Banaba must obtain advance permission from the Home Affairs Office in Bairiki (Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati), but no permit is required to visit the island for a few hours while the ship is in port.

Lil'wat Sovereignty Supported at the First World Indigenous Eco-Development Congress at Mt. Currie, British Columbia

The 9-day working congress, which concluded recently, has brought indigenous peoples' leaders from around the world to focus on the challenges and lessons learned in the struggle for self-determination and local self-reliance. Lil'wat leaders were telling their story and hearing the stories of other indigenous peoples as the congress explored local development issues.

Marc-Aussie-Stone, congress convener from Sydney Australia, describes the purpose of this gathering in terms of "networking, or two-way communication, among indigenous leaders who share a common history of colonisation and a common vision of how to exercise their sovereign rights as indigenous peoples." A unique feature of this congress, according to Stone, is the "emphasis on working with the Lil'wat while we are here to help them

achieve their goals and objectives. We're not just here to talk," he added.

Mary and John Williams and Martin Sam, leaders of the Lil'wat Liberation Movement, are serving as hosts for the congress. The Liberation Movement has been resisting forest clear-cutting and pesticide spraying as well as land encroachment and toxic waste storage in their native territory.

Many Lil'wat have joined the Liberation Movement in adopting an independent stance which rejects the jurisdiction and authority of Canadian government, including the Department of Indian Affairs-sponsored Band Council, and are developing a "home-grown" economic base to support the perpetuation of their traditional culture. Already largely self-reliant in food production, movement members have built a series of small business ventures that produce food and other products for trade with other in-

digenous groups and for sale in global markets.

Congress delegates included indigenous leaders and sovereignty activists from Australia, Fiji, Hawai'i, New Mexico, California, Great Britain as well as several Canadian provinces. Working sessions focused on tourism, energy, marketing, and self-based ecodevelopment planning from a community-based ecodevelopment perspective.

A priority project is the creation of a Lil'wat cultural centre and interpretative programme. Delegates met in small working groups to help with current plans for fund-raising, design, and programme implementation.

Congress participants were billeted in local homes to strengthen awareness of local conditions, worked with the Lil'wat in harvesting and canning fish, fruit and mushrooms, and visited a toxic waste

...Continued on p. 27

Diplomatic Initiatives on Bougainville Issue but Conflict Continues

While the Papua New Guinean Government and PNG Defence Forces continue to pursue a military solution to the Bougainville Crisis, other parties have in the past couple of months taken steps to seek a negotiated resolution to the crisis. A North Solomons Peace Negotiating Committee has been established by Bougainvillean leaders in PNG-controlled parts of Bougainville and has initiated negotiations with Bougainville Interim Government representatives, with a view towards finding a "made in Bougainville" resolution to the crisis. While a preliminary meeting was held in late July in Honiara and other contacts have continued, plans for a Pan-Bougainville peace meeting in Arawa have been frustrated by the PNG Government's lack of support for the initiative and BRA demands that their safety be guaranteed by an independent third party before they would attend. Bougainvillean leaders have issued pleas to the PNG Government to support the peace process. Meanwhile, the new Solomon Islands Government of Francis Billy Hilly presented a six-point plan to Papua New Guinea in early August that is intended to defuse the tensions between the two countries. The plan includes steps to normalise relations

with PNG and develop a border treaty, closure of the Bougainville Interim Government's humanitarian aid coordinating office in Honiara and its replacement by a "peace office", and support for a Pan-Bougainville peace conference. To date, there has been no known official PNG response to the proposals.

[From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Vol 8 No 8, Aug/93; *Pacific Report*, Vol 6 No 16, Aug 23/93; *PNG Times*, Aug 5/93]

South Pacific Forum Focuses on Environmental and Economic Issues With all 15 member heads of government in attendance, the first time since the Forum had seven members, the 24th Forum welcomed recently announced moratoriums on nuclear weapons testing and called for the United States, France and the U.K. to accede to the Protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. Concern was reiterated about Japan's shipments of plutonium through the Pacific. Forum leaders expressed support for steps to prevent waste dumping and agreed to begin consultations on development of a regional convention on hazardous wastes. The Forum communique reiterated concerns about global warming and rising sea levels. The importance of intra-regional trade was emphasised and

member governments were urged to participate in the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States next year in Barbados. The Forum reviewed the progress of the Matignon Accords in New Caledonia, expressing satisfaction with progress, but also emphasising the need for transparency in the preparation of the electoral rolls for the self-determination referendum. Forum leaders welcomed the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in June that an International Decade of the World's Indigenous People be proclaimed commencing in 1994.

[From: *Pacific Report*, Vol 6 No 16, Aug 23/93; *Pacific News Bulletin*, Vol 8 No 8, Aug/93]

Bougainville Issue Raised at Forum Meetings Several Forum members used the opportunity provided by the Nauru meetings to raise the Bougainville issue. Cook Islands and Tonga raised the issue during the leaders' retreat before the official meeting, while New Zealand's prime minister raised the subject on the floor of the main Forum meeting. Prime Minister Bolger sought a "position statement" from PNG's Prime Minister Wingti. However, the meeting was then adjourned and the subject was not revived when the meeting reconvened. It was left to the Canadian delegation at the Post-Forum Dialogue meeting to raise the biggest stir when Walter McLean, head of the Canadian delegation, urged the Forum to intervene in the issue. McLean cited the United Nations' agenda for peace, which is placing a stronger emphasis on the role of regional bodies in resolving conflicts. He also raised concerns about access to Bougainville by non-governmental organisations for the provision of humanitarian assistance. Replying for the Forum, Gordon Biliney of Australia rejected the Canadian position and reiterated that

Lil'wat...continued

dump site and ancient burial grounds.

Rev. Kaleo Patterson, a Hawai'ian minister with the United Church of Christ and head of the delegation from the Hawai'i Ecumenical Coalition, which supports sovereignty for Native Hawai'ians, noted that "the Lil'wat deserve our support because they have chosen to act on the principles of self-governance which have just been articulated in the U.N. Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Taking control of their own lives and futures is not a radical step. It is fundamental."

Pecelli Bulakro, a Fijian Chief, noted that "unfortunately, we must fight the government in order to preserve our villages and protect our way of living from outside influences. So we are familiar with the issues which the Lil'wat now face."

Ted Hampton, head of an aboriginal business development group in Australia, said "now the courts have recognised our people's prior claim to all of the lands in our country, we are moving to secure the benefits of sovereignty. Hopefully, Canadian courts will soon acknowledge the same rights for the Lil'wat and other indigenous peoples here."

[From: *KAHTOU*, Aug 11/93]

Bougainville is regarded by the Forum as an internal PNG matter.
[From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Vol 8 No 8, Aug/93; *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Vol 63 No 9, Sep/93]

Nauru Settles Dispute with Australia, But Faces Protests Over Investments Australia has agreed to pay Nauru \$107 million over 20 years to compensate Nauru for environmental damage due to phosphate mining before Nauru became independent. The agreement between the two countries includes cash payments to assist with land rehabilitation, a programme of development cooperation and a joint declaration of principles covering relations between Nauru and Australia. The settlement ends the dispute before the International Court of Justice and requires Nauru to renounce all further claims arising out of Australia's administration of Nauru. Meanwhile, reported problems and extensive losses with the Nauru Government's investments of earlier proceeds from phosphate mining have prompted protests by Nauruan citizens, including during the recent Forum meetings in the country.
[From: *Australia*, No 90, Aug 12/93; *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Vol 63 No 8 Aug/93; *Pacific Islands Monthly*, No 9, Sep/93]

Political Turbulence in Vanuatu The governing Union of Moderate Parties' (UMP) coalition with Walter Lini's National United Party (NUP) has collapsed, but not without an accompanying NUP split. Lini had demanded that two formerly NUP Cabinet ministers be sacked or the coalition would be dissolved. UMP and NUP officials organised a Cabinet reshuffle that would have seen the ministers replaced and Lini become Deputy Prime Minister. Instead, Prime Minister Carlot Korman retained the ministers in a reshuffled Cabinet, left Lini out in the cold and sacked Lini's sister, Hilda Lini, from Cabinet. Lini declared the coalition no longer valid, but four NUP MPs (including three Cabinet ministers)

broke away to stick with Carlot Korman and the UMP. With Lini's six remaining NUP MPs and 16 Opposition coalition MPs, the governing UMP/NUP breakaway coalition holds a narrow majority with its 24 seats. Besides the slim majority, the UMP Government faces the problem of electing a new Vanuatu president in February. As the president must be elected by a two-thirds majority of an electoral college including all MPs and local government presidents, the UMP currently lacks the necessary votes and may be forced to call an election.
[From: *Pacific Report*, Vol 6 No 17, Sep 13/93]

Logging Issues Heat Up in Melanesian Countries Recent moves to partially curtail logging in Malaysia have prompted Malaysian companies to escalate their operations in the Pacific to secure the raw logs needed to keep their Malaysian sawmills operating. These and other logging developments are generating controversy in several countries. In PNH, the conflict between logging companies and the government has centred on the new National Forestry Development Guidelines introduced by PNG's Minister of Forests, Tim Neville, in June. The Guidelines set limits on the practices of logging companies, reduce permissible levels of raw log exports and establish a new revenue system to ensure that more of the profits from logging go to the country and local landowners. The attack on the new Guidelines has been led by Malaysian logging giant, Rim-bunan Hijau, said to control 86% of PNG's logging exports, and has featured extensive attacks through the media. Neville also claims to have been offered bribes and to have had his life threatened. The threat to the new guidelines is also moving to Parliament, where some politicians are pushing for amendments to weaken the Forestry Act.

Meanwhile, in Vanuatu, a group of logging companies connected to Malaysian entrepreneur, Ting Jack Sang, are poised to begin large scale

logging on several islands. At the proposed rate of logging, the island of Erromango, Malekula and Santo would be logged off in three to five years. In response to concerns about the logging companies, three Vanuatu Government ministers took a two week, all expenses paid trip to Malaysia courtesy of one of the logging companies to examine logging operations in Malaysia. Upon their return, they announced that they were satisfied with the company's operations. Critics of the proposed logging plans note that Mr. Ting is already a controversial figure for his association with inappropriate logging activities in Solomon Islands that led to extensive environmental degradation and included undervaluing of log exports. In the Solomon Islands, an upcoming takeover will give Malaysian companies around 50% of the logging industry in that country. The Natural Resources Minister in the new Solomon Islands Government, Ezekial Alebua, has said that he wants to implement tighter controls and more appropriate practices vis a vis logging in the Solomons.
[From: *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Vol 63 No 9, Sep/93; *The Review*, Jul/93; *Tropical Forest Update*, Vol 3 No 4, Aug/93; non-published sources]

PNG National Security Initiatives Create Concern Criticism of the Wingti Government's new Internal Security Act has continued both locally and internationally. Papua New Guinean churches, human rights groups and the PNG Trade Union Congress are among the domestic critics of the new measures. Amnesty International has been a significant international critic. Despite the concerns, the Wingti Government has made further moves, including Cabinet approved plans to introduce a national registration system whereby any Papua New Guinea travelling from their homes to anywhere else in the country will be required to be registered and to carry an identification card. Other proposed legal amendments would transfer the burden of proof in trials

(who would have to prove his/her innocence rather than the prosecution having to prove guilt).

[From: *PNG Times*, Jul 29/93; *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Vol 63 No 9, Sep/93; non-published sources]

PNG Moves to Abolish Provinces

The Wingti Government of Papua New Guinea is proceeding with plans to have Parliament abolish the provincial government system in the country. However, the move faces strong opposition from PNG's four island provinces, which have announced that they will hold their own referenda on the future of the provincial system. The premiers of the four provinces have also announced that they will be lobbying against the proposed restructuring. While PNG's provincial governments have been fraught with problems, the island provinces have largely avoided these difficulties and resent the moves to centralise authority with the national government.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 23, Sep 1/93]

Nuclear Testing Moratoria Extended

The U.S. and French Governments announced in early July that they would both extend their moratoria on nuclear weapons testing. U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that the U.S. will extend its moratorium for at least 15 months and will decide next year whether to extend the ban, dependent on other nations showing "reciprocal restraint". A day later, French President François Mitterand called for a comprehensive test ban treaty and indicated a continuation of France's current testing moratorium. Both moves were welcomed by Pacific leaders, though criticised by some pro-testing French and British government officials. With Britain dependent on U.S. testing facilities and a current Russian testing moratorium, the possibilities for a permanent test ban have rarely if ever appeared better.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 23, Sep 1/93]

Dissension Over Fijian Constitutional Review The June announcement that Fiji's long awaited constitutional review would be conducted by a Cabinet sub-committee rather than a Parliamentary committee sparked the resignation of Fiji Labour Party MP, Navin Maharaj, as deputy speaker of Parliament and a boycott of Parliament by all 13 FLP MPs as a protest against the slow pace on constitutional review and lack of action on the land and labour reforms that were a condition for the FLP's support of Sitiveni Rabuka for prime minister last year. The other major Opposition party, the National Federation Party, has joined the Government review, with four NFP MPs participating with the Cabinet sub-committee. Rabuka has also invited the FLP to join the constitutional discussions, and the Government has scrapped several of the labour laws that had drawn the FLP's ire.

[From: *Pacific Report*, Vol 6 No 14, Jul 26/93; *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 19, Jul 15/93]

Latest Belau Compact Vote to Proceed Under New Rules Belau's High Court has dismissed a law suit and upheld the results of last November's referendum which lowered from 75% to 50% plus one the majority required to amend the republic's constitution. This paves the way for another referendum to end the current U.N. trusteeship and approve a compact of free association with the United States. The conflict between nuclear provisions of the compact and Belau's nuclear free constitution, plus the 75% requirement, have defeated previous attempts to ratify the compact. A new vote has been set for November and has been approved by the U.S. Government.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 19, Jul 15/93]

"People's Tribunal" Condemns U.S. Takeover of Hawai'i The "People's International Tribunal" completed its August hearings in Hawai'i, pronouncing the United States guilty

of genocide and other human rights abuses against indigenous Hawai'ians and declaring invalid the 1959 vote which made Hawai'i a U.S. state. The nine tribunal members also advocated placing Hawai'i on the U.N. list of non-self-governing territories. While the tribunal "verdict" will not be accepted by the U.S. or state governments, it marks a further development in the Hawai'ian sovereignty movement, following on the large commemorations earlier this year of the 100th anniversary of the U.S.-supported coup which overthrew the Hawai'ian monarchy.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 23, Sep 1/93]

Strong Quake Shakes Guam The world's strongest earthquake in four years, measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale, struck Guam on August 8. While there was significant damage, the quake epicentre was 80 kilometres from Guam and there were no reported deaths and few serious injuries.

[*Victoria Times-Colonist*, Aug 9/93]

SPREP Treaty Signed in Apia On June 16, the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was opened for signing. The SPREP Treaty, concluded after a final round of intense negotiations and compromise, paves the way for SPREP's legal separation from the South Pacific Commission. Ironically, the difficulty in concluding the treaty was related not to environmental differences of opinion, but to differing views by the United States and France as to whether Pacific territories of the two countries should be SPREP members or not. The eventual compromise will see countries as full members and territories as "parties" to the treaty. In one sour note to the congratulatory atmosphere, Guam withdrew from SPREP in protest over the compromise.

[From: *SPREP Environment Newsletter*, No 33, Apr-Jun/93; *Washington Pacific Report*, Vol 11 No 21, Aug 1/03]

Mau: Samoa's struggle for freedom

Michael J. Field. Polynesian Press.
1991. XV, 253 pp. U.S. \$24.95.

by Barbara Wedlake

In 1962, Western Samoa was officially granted independent political status and renamed the Independent State of Western Samoa. Given the common history of European domination, Samoa shared with other South Pacific Islands, this remarkable achievement bears closer examination. Indeed, although Western Samoa endured decades of foreign administration, first under German administration 1900-1914, next under New Zealand military rule 1914-1919 and finally as a class "C" mandated territory awarded to New Zealand by the League of Nations in 1920, the Samoan people nevertheless retained a firm grasp on their cultural sovereignty throughout this period and gradually evolved a philosophy of political sovereignty as well.

The Mau movement chronicled by Field, developed during the 1920s as a voice of opposition to an exceedingly unpopular administration. New Zealand attempted to implement a radical programme of enforced socioeconomic change that seriously challenged many aspects of traditional Samoan custom and social structure. Discord among the native population was matched with equal dissatisfaction among the European and part-European groups.

As discontent grew, Samoan opposition coalesced into a coherent, well organized structure. The administration reacted with characteristic chauvinism. Blinded by their own racist assumptions, administrators refused to acknowledge Samoan competency in any degree of political self-determination and engaged in a course of punitive measures against the growing Mau. The Samoans responded by declaring a highly effective boycott of government sponsored activities.

Although the Mau was pacifist in nature and its members unarmed, the administration assumed an increasingly militant air, culminating in the shameful events of Black

Saturday, 29 December, 1929. At a peaceful Mau parade, New Zealand police attempted an arrest of one of the band members. The confrontation grew violent, the police panicked and shot indiscriminately into the unarmed crowd. Among those killed was Tupua Tamasese, a high ranking chief in Samoa, shot in the back while, with hands raised, he was exhorting his people to maintain the peace. After this horrifying day of brutality, the Mau dispersed into the bush and the administration continued its unrelenting harassment of women and children left alone in the villages. The conflict between Mau and government continued for another five years, and finally ended by the New Zealand election of a more benign labour government.

Field, a former member of the Volunteer Service Abroad, served in the office of the Hon. Tupuola Efi, Prime Minister of Western Samoa. From this experience, he was led to the archival material describing Mau activities and had produced a detailed journalistic account of the New Zealand administration and the Mau movement. The result is a biting critique of the bureaucratic bungling, racial chauvinism and cultural arrogance that characterized the Mandate administration. The administrators, described in great detail by Field, incriminated themselves through their own letters and papers, policy statements and administrative reports as totally unsuited to the "sacred trust" of Mandate administration.

Field does justice to the complexities of events during this chaotic but formative period of Western Samoan political development. Admittedly not an academic, he refuses to offer facile interpretations of Samoan behavior and instead lays out the events simply and clearly in chronological fashion. Best of all, he had captured for the reader a sense of the great spirit of dignity and courage evinced by the Samoan people as they initiated their assertion of sovereignty over their own affairs.

Moruroa, notre bombe coloniale
Bengt et Marie-Thérèse Danielsson.
Paris. Editions L'Harmattan, 16, rue
des Ecoles, Paris 75005 France.
1993.

par Bruno Barrillot

Bengt et Marie-Thérèse Danielsson, prix Nobel "alternatif" 1991 pour leur action en faveur de la paix publient Moruroa, notre bombe coloniale aux Editions L'Harmattan. Au moment où Américains et Russes viennent d'engager un important processus de désarmement nucléaire, la question de l'arrêt définitif des essais nucléaires est plus que jamais d'actualité.

La suspension des essais français dans le Pacifique en 1992, approuvée par plus de 70% des Français, aurait dû être un temps pour avancer vers l'interdiction totale et l'occasion pour la France de lancer une initiative dans ce sens.

Moruroa, notre bombe coloniale vient à point nommé pour présenter l'histoire quasiment méconnue de près de 30 ans d'"expérimentations" dans le Pacifique. Ce livre présente par le menu et documents à l'appui la lamentable et ravageuse intrusion du complexe "militaro-nucléaire" français dans l'univers polynésien. "Notre" bombe et l'argent qui a été déversé à profusion ont transformé ces archipels paradisiaques en un territoire "autonome" dirigé aujourd'hui par des politiciens incapables d'engager une alternative crédible. Et ce gâchis ne se borne pas à la dimension économique et sociale. Qu'en est-il des conséquences écologiques et sanitaires de 30 années d'essais nucléaires sur les atolls de Moruroa et Fangataufa et sur l'océan qui à la fois baigne et nourrit les archipels du Pacifique sud et sur les 190 000 Polynésiens sans oublier les milliers d'habitants des Etats voisins? Les français, à 20 000 km de la Polynésie, ont toujours eu des réponses incomplètes ou falsifiées quand on ne leur a pas menti. Bengt et Marie-Thérèse Danielsson, installés à Tahiti depuis la fin des années 40, ont été les témoins de toute cette histoire. [Damoclès no. 56, décembre 1992/janvier 1993]

Small Islands Conference : Barbados April 1994

Regional Technical Meeting for Pacific and Indian Oceans

by Gerald Miles

From 31 May to 4 June, countries of the Indian and Pacific oceans met to prepare this region's contribution to the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados in April 1994. Over 90 representatives from governments, NGOs, intergovernmental and international organisations participated in the discussions.

Participants considered the problems of islands that support their need for special attention. These problems relate primarily to their small size and isolation, within and between island nations and from international markets and the fragility of island environments. As was highlighted during UNCED, island countries are faced with all the problems of development concentrated in a limited land area, often entirely coastal and often in the context of high population growth and strong traditions.

Governments agreed upon a detailed action programme for islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans at national, regional and international levels. The areas in the action programme are: climate change and sea level rise; natural and environmental disaster preparedness; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater resources; land resources; energy resources; tourism resources; biodiversity resources; national institutions and administrative capacity; regional institutions and technical cooperation; regional transport and communications systems; science and technology; human resource

development, including education, health and population; environmental legislation.

The implementation of this action programme will require commitments at all levels. Like Agenda 21, a significant number of these commitments are made at the national level. These include the integration of environment and development issues in decision making by more effective links between environment programmes and national budgets; integrating strategies and plans for environmental management into the development process; consultation with local government, community groups and relevant non-government organisations; integrating traditional knowledge, culture and values into national sustainable development planning and decision-making.

At a regional level, the emphasis of the meeting was on strengthening the organisation of islands that contribute to sustainable development and improving coordination. The meeting also called for action at the international level. It is clear that the concerns and special problems of developing island states are not region-specific. The result of this meeting will be sent to the UN where it will be discussed during the August 1994 session of the Preparatory Committee along with similar contributions from a meeting of Caribbean, Atlantic and Mediterranean islands.

Contact: Gerald Miles, Sustainable Development Officer, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, PO Box 240, Apia, Western Samoa, Tel 685/21929 Fax 685/20231

[Reprinted from *The Network*, No. 27, June/93]

Videos for sale at SPPF.....

Em I Graun Blong Yumi: Popular Theatre and the Melanesian Environment Produced by CUSO Vanuatu 1992 Available in 32 min or 59 min versions English or French (long version only) VHS \$75

and 6 videos from Indo-Fijian filmmaker, Shaista Shameem

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Small Islands Conference : Barbados April 1994 Regional Technical Meeting for Pacific and Indian Oceans

by Gerald Miles

From 31 May to 4 June, countries of the Indian and Pacific oceans met to prepare this region's contribution to the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados in April 1994. Over 90 representatives from governments, NGOs, intergovernmental and international organisations participated in the discussions.

Participants considered the problems of islands that support their need for special attention. These problems relate primarily to their small size and isolation, within and between island nations and from international markets and the fragility of island environments. As was highlighted during UNCED, island countries are faced with all the problems of development concentrated in a limited land area, often entirely coastal and often in the context of high population growth and strong traditions.

Governments agreed upon a detailed action programme for islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans at national, regional and international levels. The areas in the action programme are: climate change and sea level rise; natural and environmental disaster preparedness; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater resources; land resources; energy resources; tourism resources; biodiversity resources; national institutions and administrative capacity; regional institutions and technical cooperation; regional transport and communications systems; science and technology; human resource

development, including education, health and population; environmental legislation.

The implementation of this action programme will require commitments at all levels. Like Agenda 21, a significant number of these commitments are made at the national level. These include the integration of environment and development issues in decision making by more effective links between environment programmes and national budgets; integrating strategies and plans for environmental management into the development process; consultation with local government, community groups and relevant non-government organisations; integrating traditional knowledge, culture and values into national sustainable development planning and decision-making.

At a regional level, the emphasis of the meeting was on strengthening the organisation of islands that contribute to sustainable development and improving coordination. The meeting also called for action at the international level. It is clear that the concerns and special problems of developing island states are not region-specific. The result of this meeting will be sent to the UN where it will be discussed during the August 1994 session of the Preparatory Committee along with similar contributions from a meeting of Caribbean, Atlantic and Mediterranean islands.

Contact: Gerald Miles, Sustainable Development Officer, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, PO Box 240, Apia, Western Samoa, Tel 685/21929 Fax 685/20231

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