

Tok Blong Pasifik

***A Quarterly of News and Views
on the Pacific Islands***

Spring 1995, #49

Victoria, BC, Canada



Featuring ...Interviews on Canada-Pacific relations with Ieremia Tabai,
Secretary General of the South Pacific Forum, and Raymond Chan,
Canadian Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
...Good Things Come in Small Packages
...Profiles of Canadian Organizations and People Working in the Pacific
...Linking Indigenous Peoples
...Churches Build Strong Pacific Partnerships
...Canadian Businesses in the South Pacific
...Sailing the Pacific

About this journal...

Tok Blong Pasifik is a phrase in Pidgin, a language used in parts of the Pacific. A rough equivalent in English would be "news from the Pacific". **Tok Blong Pasifik** is published by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada. SPPF's major aim is to promote awareness of development, social justice, environment and other issues of importance to the peoples of the Pacific Islands. Through the journal, we hope to provide readers with a window on the Pacific that will foster understanding and promote action in support of Islanders in their struggles for development and social justice. SPPF gratefully acknowledges financial support for **Tok Blong Pasifik** from the Canadian International Development Agency.

For further information about **Tok Blong Pasifik** (ISSN: 1196-8206) or SPPF, contact:
SPPF, 415-620 View St., Victoria, BC, V8W 1J6, CANADA.
Tel: 604/381-4131
FAX: 604/388-5258
sppf@web.apc.org
Editor: Stuart Wulff
Assistant Editor: Margaret Argue

Editorial Policy

We welcome contributions to the journal and readers' comments, suggestions for articles and notices of events and materials. A priority is placed upon contributions from Pacific Islanders and others currently living in the Islands. As an issues based journal, **Tok Blong Pasifik** often includes material that is contentious. Views expressed are those of the authors/contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of SPPF or financial supporters of the journal. We reserve the right to edit material.

Subscription Rates

Subscription is by annual donation to SPPF of at least the following amount: Subscribers in Canada should remit a minimum donation of \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals and \$40 for organisations; all other subscribers should remit a minimum donation of US\$15, US\$25 or US\$40 as appropriate.

Looking Back...Looking Ahead



1995 is SPPF's twentieth anniversary year - somewhat amazing for a still small organisation that used a dining room table as its first desk! After a few years of thinking about how to get the agency up and running, that original Board of Directors, one of whom - Jim Boutilier - is still here as Chair, committed to hiring SPPF's first director in 1981 and it's been a determined climb up hill ever since. Determined we say because the island nations of the Pacific and the issues that concern the people that live there have never been front and centre on the news pages of the world - not even when nuclear bombs were being atmospherically tested in the region well into the 1970s. Too often the region remains a dream of coral atolls and sunsets. It's a hard dream to crack. People hold on tightly to their hopes of a paradise somewhere.

My connection to SPPF goes back to early 1984. A classmate from a French course I was taking at the time told me about a slide show on Kanaky/New Caledonia where I had spent the last five years. I wondered, in some amazement, why someone in Victoria would be speaking about Kanaky! Well, it was an excellent presentation and was the beginning of my 11-year stint at SPPF, first as a volunteer and then as part time staff. How lucky I have been to work in an education project that focuses on my home away from home, the Pacific Islands.

Three directors later and me, now the 'corporate memory' still here, our original mandate remains in place - to give the South Pacific a stronger voice in Canada and on the global stage and to support small community-based projects as we are able. The prime vehicle for SPPF outreach programmes has always been our quarterly journal, **Tok Blong Pasifik**. Back in the days of the dining room table it was a photocopied corner-stapled 20-page little mag of reprints. Now it's a 36-page popular journal featuring

Pacific island authors that circulates through 40 countries worldwide.

We've run campaigns to convince the Canadian navy to stop target bombing on Kaho'olawe, a sacred island in Hawaii, to bring attention to the effects of the French nuclear testing programme on the people and environment of French Polynesia, to publicize the plight of the indigenous peoples of West Papua/Irian Jaya and East Timor, both taken over by highly questionable tactics of the Government of Indonesia. We've been ecstatic, like when the French government put a moratorium on testing; sometimes we've been depressed, like when the same government makes sounds to start up testing again. We've been tired, frustrated AND in the dog house, like the time we captioned a photo entirely incorrectly to the point of insult or when we printed a drawing upside down. We've had our wrists slapped by CIDA for comments on Canadian investment in Indonesia, and we've received quiet thanks over and over for the work we do on behalf of the peoples of the Pacific Islands.

For years we've struggled to expand our funding base. With volunteer support we've run crazily successful garage sales. We've also written endless grant proposals. It is a measure of our success that we are still here and the strongest reason for that is the remarkable loyalty of the individuals who support SPPF. It captures us all - from members to Board to staff - that undefinable thing about the Pacific that grabs you - the issues, the people, the cultures, the problems but first and foremost that it is the right of the people who live in those island countries to decide their future, whether it be logging their forests or choosing their own ways of governance. Those issues are still there, bigger than before. SPPF has work to do.

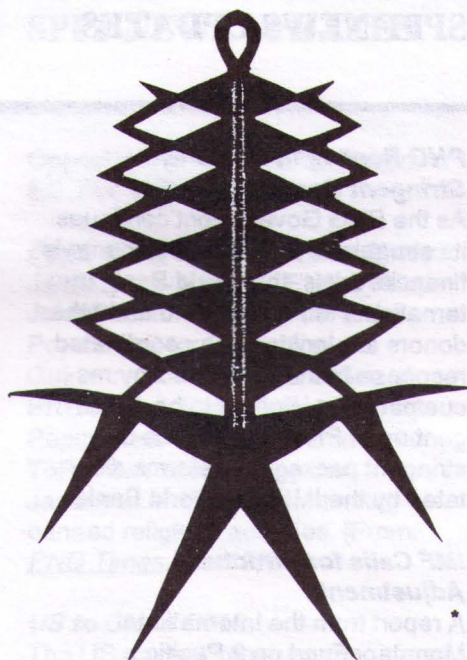
Margaret Argue at SPPF

Canada and the Pacific - Common Interests Shape Many Relationships

When we began this special issue of *Tok Blong Pasifik*, we knew that there were more Canadian links to the Pacific than those of which we were aware. Indeed, for a region of the world that rarely catches the attention of most Canadians, it is amazing how many connections do exist. In one issue of a small journal, we cannot do justice to all these relationships. But we hope the range of articles we've gathered will prove as interesting for you as it has been for us. In future issues, we'll try to look at other examples of the Canada-Pacific connection.

As one looks at these relationships, a common theme emerges, that of mutuality of interests. The Canadian government focuses its aid in the area of fisheries and ocean development because Canada and Pacific nations share many interests in this area and because Canada has relevant experience to offer. Dora Demers talks about the important lessons that indigenous peoples North and South have to learn from each other. Organisations like SPPF and CUSO see their work as building alliances between Pacific Islanders and Canadians working on similar issues. Alison Gardner's article on the "education network between Canada and the South Pacific" and Terry Brown's article on church links speak of very different communities of interest, but again the idea of like-minded organisations coming together for mutual benefit comes through.

Another theme that emerges is the importance of personal relationships and encounters, whether one looks at the experiences of CUSO cooperants and Crossroads volunteers, VIVA doctors and their families, First Nations exchanges, Canadian sailors touring the South Pacific, or the difference that personal connections make in the



effective delivery of Canada Fund support to local projects.

This issue begins with two interviews, one with South Pacific Forum Secretary General Ieremia Tabai, the other with Canadian Secretary of State (Asia/Pacific) Raymond Chan. Both emphasise the positive nature of Canada-Pacific relations, a point made in other articles as well (though points of contention do exist, as noted in Michael Howard's article on mining companies and Malia Southard's article on Canada's involvement with Indonesia). There is one important difference in perspectives. Mr. Tabai, like others with an interest in stronger Canada-Pacific links, makes several suggestions for how Canada could enhance the relationship. Mr. Chan feels that Canada is doing enough; he emphasises the government's financial constraints and competing priorities for its attention. In doing so, he is only reflecting that, for most Canadians, the Pacific Islands are not a high priority. The surge of Canadian interest in the "Pacific" in recent years is clearly set on the Pacific Rim. For those of us inclined towards Mr. Tabai's position, our challenge is clear!

*Graphic from Grass Roots Art of the Solomons: Images and Islands

Contents....

	Page
News Updates: Indonesia, Australia at the UN; PNG-Bougainville, Gold, Structural Adjustment; Immigration Proposal in Fiji; Palau at the UN; Cracks widen in New Caledonia; Vanuatu logging	...4
South-North Perspectives on Canada-Pacific Relations: Interviews with Ieremia Tabai and Raymond Chan	...6
Honorary Consuls Bridge the Gaps	...9
Targeting Marine Development: The Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project	...10
CUSO Emphasises Building Alliances	...12
Good Things Come in Small Packages: The Canada Fund	...15
First Nations North and South Find Common Ground	...18
Churches Build Strong Pacific Partnerships	...20
VIVA Brings Canada and Vanuatu Closer Together	...22
Studying and Training Together: Education Networks between Canada and the Pacific	...23
Crossroads Builds Bridges	...25
Canadian Mining Interests in the Pacific	...26
Canadian Tourism in the Pacific: A Business Perspective	...31
Sailing the South Pacific	...32
Indonesian Pot Continues to Boil	...34

Indonesia, Australia Challenged Over East Timor

The UN Human Rights Commission has again criticised Indonesia for human rights violations in East Timor. Indonesia was also required to accept a visit to East Timor by the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights. East Timorese resistance leaders and NGO critics of Indonesia had pushed for a Commission resolution against Indonesia, but the Commission opted instead for a consensus "chairman's statement" negotiated with Indonesia. The same day as the UN action, Indonesia's own human rights commission accused the military of torturing and murdering six East Timorese villagers in January. Meanwhile, Portugal has launched a case against Australia at the World Court. The case alleges that Australia, by recognizing Indonesia's annexation of East Timor and signing a treaty to divide rich oil deposits in the Timor Gap between the two countries, has stolen resources belonging to the people of East Timor. [From: *East Timor Update*, No 38, Feb 1/95; *Victoria Times-Colonist*, Mar 2/95]



PNG Solidifies Its Position in Bougainville

PNG Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan met with Bougainvillian leaders in January and assured them that a Bougainville Transitional Government will be in place by March. He urged all peace loving people to support the process. The government will not be directly elected, but will include chairmen of the Bougainville Interim Authorities and four national MPs, one of whom will chair the transitional government. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:1, Jan 30/95; *Pacific Report*, 7:24, Dec 20/94]

PNG Rescue to Come with Stringent Conditions

As the PNG Government continues its struggle to deal with the country's financial crisis, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other donors are looking at a coordinated response to the situation. Any rescue package is going to be contingent upon PNG acceptance of a stringent package of reforms dictated by the IMF and World Bank.

IMF Calls for Structural Adjustment

A report from the International Monetary Fund on 9 Pacific economies (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa) expresses concern about their poor economic performances and calls for "determined pursuit of structural adjustment policies" to remove impediments to growth and promote dynamic private sectors. Noting the "uncertainties regarding the use and ownership of customary land", the report urges that financial authorities take steps to permit the use of land as loan collateral. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

PNG's Lihir Island Gold Mine Acquires Canadian Partner, Set to Open in 1995

After being stalled for several years, it appears that the Lihir Island gold mine will open later this year. RTZ, Niugini Mining and the PNG Government each hold 30% equity in the project. Vengold, a Canadian mining company, has recently acquired the other 10%. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:1, Jan 30/95]

Fiji Considers Chinese Immigration

Fiji's government has proposed a scheme to accept up to 28,000 Hong Kong Chinese as settlers in exchange for paying the government US\$100,000 each. The scheme has drawn strong criticism

from church, union and Opposition groups. It is reported that the Cabinet itself is split, with critics concerned about the social implications in Fiji of such a plan. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:1, Jan 30/95; *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

Palau Admitted to UN; Forum Gets Observer Status

The UN General Assembly voted on December 15 to admit Palau as the 185th member of the UN. In an earlier vote (October 17), the General Assembly approved observer status for the South Pacific Forum. The permanent seat at the UN is seen as providing a useful focal point for collective Forum member country action at the UN and as a means to represent the interests of Forum members who are not themselves UN members. [From: *Palau Gazette*, No 24, Dec 30/94; *Forum News*, No 13, Dec/94]

Western Samoa Tax Protests Bring Sedition Charges

Two Western Samoa politicians, Toalepaiali Toesulusulu Siueva and Fa'amatua'inu Tala Mailei, have been charged with sedition as a result of their involvement in organising last year's protest marches against the government's introduction of a Value Added Goods and Services Tax (VAGST). The marches were organised by traditional leaders and the Catholic Church. Feelings against the GST remain high, with another protest march in February. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

Cracks Widen in New Caledonia's Matignon Process

New Caledonia's pro-independence coalition, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), has boycotted the most recent meeting of the Matignon Accords Monitoring Committee. The committee brings together the partners (FLNKS, French government and

anti-independence Rally for Caledonia in the Republic) to the 1988 Matignon peace accords that include a 1998 vote on independence. While emphasising that the FLNKS was not abandoning the accords, FLNKS leaders stated that they were boycotting the meeting to underline their belief that the French government is not adhering to the spirit of the accords. Earlier, the FLNKS had abstained in the Territorial Congress vote on New Caledonia's 1995 budget, charging that the budget was tilted towards Noumea and the Southern Province. [From: *Pacific Report*, 7:24, Dec 20/94; *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

Vanuatu Bans Whole Log Exports, PNG Rejects Canadian Style Logging

Prime Minister Korman of Vanuatu announced in November in Malaysia that Vanuatu will amend the country's forestry laws to implement a permanent ban on whole log exports. Korman said that Malaysian companies would still be allowed to log in Vanuatu, but only if they did it sustainably and set up processing plants in Vanuatu. In Papua New Guinea, legislation to establish 25 giant Canadian-style Timber Supply Areas covering most of the country was defeated. The legislation had been opposed by many concerned about the impact the TSA approach would have on PNG's forests. [From: *Post-Courier*, Nov 10/94; bulletin from Ecological Enterprises, Dec 4/94]

No New Elections in Niue Despite Standoff

Niue's Head of State, Dame Catherine Tizard (New Zealand's Governor General), has refused to dismiss the government of Premier Frank Lui and call new elections despite a 10:10 deadlock in Parliament occasioned by defections of MPs from the Government to the

Opposition. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

Pope Visits PNG, Beatifies Martyr

January saw a visit to PNG by Pope John Paul II. The highlight of the Pope's visit for Papua New Guineans was his beatification of PNG martyr, Peter ToRot, the first Papua New Guinean so honoured. ToRot was executed by the Japanese in 1944 for continuing banned religious activities. [From: *PNG Times*, Jan 19/95]

US to Close OTIA

The US government has announced that it will close the Interior Department's Office of Territorial and International Affairs (OTIA), the principal government body dealing with US territories and dependencies in the Pacific (including Compact states such as the Marshalls and Palau). While Pacific leaders have often complained about OTIA highhandedness, this has been replaced by a new concern that Pacific interests will now get totally lost in the Washington bureaucratic maze. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

Australia Provides Compensation for Nuclear Tests

The Australian federal government has agreed to provide A\$13.5 million to compensate Aboriginal peoples who were dispossessed from the Maralinga area in South Australia by British nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s. The settlement, after 10 years of negotiations, provides for roads and water supplies, health services and employment programmes. [From: *Elimatta*, Summer 1995]

U.S. Extends Nuclear Testing

Moratorium The US government has announced that President Clinton will extend the current moratorium on all US nuclear testing until a comprehensive Test Ban

Treaty takes effect, assuming such a treaty is signed before September 30, 1996. For Pacific Islanders, the gaze now turns to France, where upcoming presidential elections may set the stage for a resumption of French nuclear testing in Polynesia. [From: *Pacific Report*, 8:2, Feb 15/95]

New Evidence for Global Warming

AT&T Bell Laboratories researchers have announced new evidence for global warming. The researchers found that the timing of seasons has changed slowly, about one day per century, until 1940. Since 1940, "a pronounced anomaly in the timing of the seasons has appeared in Northern Hemisphere records" and "the match between this timing shift and the CO2 increase [in the Earth's atmosphere] is very good". Climate change models predict that global warming should occur more rapidly in the polar regions. 1993 tests by the US Carbon Dioxide Information and Analysis Centre reveal that surface temperature north of the Arctic Circle has increased by 5.5 degrees Celsius since 1968. Tree ring data in the Canadian arctic shows a 3 degrees Celsius rise in temperature this century. In 1994, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, made up of scientists from 80 countries, reiterated its conclusion that global warming is occurring. No-one needs to convince the insurance companies; insured losses from natural disasters for 1983-92 ran almost 12 times higher than in the 1960s. Skandia, one of Sweden's largest insurance companies, has stopped insuring weather related damages, saying that "climatologists have the luxury of delaying their conclusions as to whether the bounds of natural variation in the weather have been exceeded, but insurance companies do not". [From: *Rachel's Environment & Health Weekly*, Nos 429 & 430, Feb 16 & 23/95]*

South - North: Perspectives

South Pacific Forum Head Hopes for Stronger Links

Jeremia Tabai is the Secretary General of the South Pacific Forum. He was previously the president of Kiribati. SPPF's Stuart Wulff interviewed Mr. Tabai in Suva in October.

SW: What are your general impressions of Canada's relationship with the Pacific?

IT: We enjoy a very good relationship with Canada. I think it has to do with the fact that we share common concerns on some basic issues such as fisheries conservation. An indication of the positive relationship is the participation of the minister [Raymond Chan] in the Brisbane South Pacific Forum meeting. Representation at that level was appreciated. I must admit though that Canada is not a big player within the region. To be frank, its aid is modest and it is quite a distance away. We acknowledge the importance of the contribution it makes, but the focus is on marine resources.

SW: Regarding Canadian aid, do you feel that the focus on fisheries and

ocean development is a good approach? Other countries do a little bit here and there, while Canada has chosen to focus most of its aid in one area.

IT: It has good and bad aspects, I suppose. The Canadian aid is assisting with management of marine resources and we are quite happy with that, but we would like Canada to consider other areas besides fisheries. We understand the reasons for the focus and can live with that. Fisheries is an important area in our region. But the preference is that the aid be extended to other areas.

SW: When you say that it would be useful to expand into other areas, do you have particular ones in mind?

IT: We have programmes that cover energy, telecommunications, trade and so on. It would be useful if there is some flexibility on the part of the donors, if they are able to consider other areas as well. While fisheries is important, it's not the only area that we are interested in.

SW: Would you prefer that Canada increase its aid programme in some respect, or just be more flexible about the aid that it gives?

IT: Aid from other countries, even our traditional donors, has gone down and I understand that world-wide Canadian aid is going to be reduced. I suppose that's going to be reflected in a corresponding decrease in the dollar amounts that we get from Canada.

SW: I'm not sure whether that will be the case. As Canada's aid to the Pacific is already fairly small it may not be cut further.

IT: All I'm saying is that when we heard that Canada was going to cut its aid world-wide, it obviously causes a reaction. When the United States cut its aid, despite good intentions, they closed their USAID office here. Our situation is generally much harder than a few years back. I mentioned the U.S. The British have announced that they're going to withdraw from the South Pacific Commission. Japan is the only country I'm aware of that has announced some increase.

SW: Do you have concerns about diversity in aid? Even if the Japanese increase their aid to make up for cuts by other donors, does it concern you that your money is coming from fewer sources? Does this leave the Pacific more politically and economically vulnerable?

IT: Personally, I think it is good if you are not dependent on one or two sources of income. If you are, then you are susceptible to being influenced by those countries. At present, we receive aid from a fair number of sources such as Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union and UN agencies such as the UNDP. We are beginning to get some money out of the French government, a reflection of the improved relations that we have with them. Coming back to your question, it would be good if we had more sources.

SW: I want to jump back to fisheries for a second. Canada announced approval of Phase 2 of the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project at the Forum meeting. I hear that the Forum is reviewing regional fisheries cooperation mechanisms. How will that fit with Canada's aid programme?

IT: In the Brisbane meeting the theme was "Managing our

(cont'd on page 8)



photo courtesy Forum News

Jeremia Tabai, Forum Secretary General

on Canada-Pacific Relations

Canada's Secretary of State Sees Relationship as Positive

Raymond Chan was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1993 and became Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) in the new Government. SPPF's Stuart Wulff interviewed Mr. Chan several weeks after his return from the 1994 South Pacific Forum meeting.

SW: What were the highlights of your attendance at the Forum and what is your general impression of Canada's relations with the Pacific Islands?

RC: We were not provided with much chance to meet the heads of state, which was a disappointment. The only meeting with the whole crowd was in the dinner hosted by the Australian prime minister. We had very good results from our dialogue with the Forum representatives. I announced a continuation of the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project, with 14 million dollars for the next 5 years. I think that the relationship between us and the South Pacific states is excellent. They look at us as a non-aggressor. We never try to tie our aid with economic or political agendas. I think that's well respected.

SW: Canada made a splash at last year's Forum with suggestions about how the region might deal with the Bougainville conflict. Do you see Canada playing a more activist role in the region in future or continuing to play a fairly low-key role?

RC: I disagree that we play a low-key role. In economic development, we play a high-key role. We've expressed our concerns on human rights in Indonesia and PNG in discussions with those countries. A lot of our programmes are targeted to helping them along the path to open government. I don't think that we shy away from pressure. We don't usually take a confrontational role.

SW: A lot has happened in the last year on the Bougainville issue and some moves echo suggestions made

by Canada at last year's Forum. What is your government's view of this issue and of the role that Canada might be able to play?

RC: We are happy that Prime Minister Julius Chan has engaged in peace talks with secessionist leaders. That's encouraging. There may be ups and downs in the negotiation process. If Canada is asked to play a role, I think that we would be willing, but that's up to the two parties.

SW: The Pacific is one area where decolonisation remains a concern. There are French and American colonies and concerns about Indonesia's role in East Timor and West Papua. Some people feel that Canada's role has not always been constructive on these issues. Where do you see your government coming down on this?

RC: We support the efforts of the UN Decolonisation Committee. I think it is effective and feel that slowly those issues will be addressed. I don't think there is any strong role that Canada can play.

SW: A number of territories are not on the Decolonisation Committee's agenda due to compromises made over the years. There are people who feel that, with its current mandate, the Decolonisation Committee is not going to resolve the decolonisation issue in the Pacific.

RC: I don't think that Canada can unilaterally contribute much to addressing the issues that you have brought up. We believe that it is only through multilateral efforts that solutions can be found.

SW: What do you see as the principal areas for

collaboration in Canada's relationship with the Pacific?

RC: I think that environmental issues are the major concerns. That's why we'll continue the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project. Canada's relationship with the South Pacific states has been cooperative. In the multi-lateral organizations we have their support and we support their initiatives.

SW: Could you comment more about CSPODP?

RC: Principles for the programme include human resource development and development of monitoring for fisheries and coastal resources. I think those are good general programmes.

SW: One criticism that has come up around fisheries programmes is that they have not paid enough attention to the role of women. Will this be an area for attention?

RC: It is part of the guidelines. Women's human resource development is a major part of our development assistance policy.

(cont'd on page 9)



photo courtesy office of Mr. Chan

Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific

Tabai cont'd...

Resources". One focus was on fisheries, on how the countries can earn a better return on their resources. That is why they push this idea of a multilateral fishing treaty with the Japanese. In terms of money, that is how we obtain the best return. The idea of a multilateral treaty is also being pursued with the Taiwanese and some other countries. But I think it's going to demand some work, because Japan is a powerful adversary in that respect. On fisheries generally, I think the aim is to get a return on the resources, but also to ensure that the resource is exploited in a sustainable manner. I'm sure that we have the same interests as Canadians in that respect.

SW: Some of our fisheries resources have recently collapsed, so we certainly understand the dangers of that.

IT: Very much so. In our case fishing licences are a major source of income for governments. Imagine if all of a sudden the resource is no longer there! That big chunk of the budget would no longer be there. I don't know what we could do. It's very critical.

SW: So it would be important for Canada to not just fund projects, but to provide support to the regional bodies for these negotiations around developing mechanisms to get the best return.

IT: Yes, but also you are aware of the UN work on straddling stocks. Again we share a common interest and I think it's common sense that we need to work together with Canadians in this area.

SW: So it's a political and not just an aid relationship.

IT: Yes. In that respect, it's important to strengthen our capacity to handle these issues. I'm sure that's a possible area where Canada may come in.

SW: Are there any other areas that you would highlight for collaboration between Canada and the Forum island countries? What are the issues where you see potential for Canada and the islands working together?

IT: On nuclear issues, we share a common sense with Canadians. Since the end of the Cold War, things have improved. The French have suspended nuclear testing. Canada is a supporter of the region, for example, on a comprehensive test ban treaty. The environment of course is a very critical issue for the region. I am not up to date on Canada's position, but I assume that a lot of our concerns are shared by the Canadian government. For some of the countries, they are only 1-2 feet above sea level. If the level of the sea is going to rise, these countries are in danger. They may no longer be there within the next 40-50 years. It's a very important issue and needs constant airing and debate within the international community. Canada is a middle power and has influence over other countries.



SW: As you're aware, the Canadian government doesn't have a direct diplomatic presence in the islands. It manages its relations with the islands from Canberra and Wellington. How do you feel about that? Would you like to see a Canadian diplomatic presence here?

IT: Definitely! We would welcome the presence of the Canadian government within the region. Many governments handle their representation from New Zealand or Australia. It would send a very good signal within the region should Canada be represented in one of the countries. Countries like China are represented in almost every country they have relations with. So sure, we are not big trading partners, but we still believe we are good enough to warrant a review of the very good links that we do enjoy with Canada. We share common values and concerns. I think that a case can be argued that it would make sense.

SW: You mentioned the word trade. Canada has not had a strong business connection with the Pacific Islands. There's been some trade. There are a few Canadian companies involved, particularly in Papua New Guinea around mining, but on the whole, one would have to say that the Canadian business presence is not strong. Do you see areas that might have potential in terms of a useful Canadian business contribution to the economic development of the region?

IT: One scheme that we came up with was with the Americans. We had a summit in Hawaii to enable American businessmen and businessmen from the region to meet and have links. We are talking with Japan on the same idea. If Canada is keen to explore the opportunities, I would suggest that possibility. You cannot really trade without knowing the market, the companies and the people. Bringing people together may be the first step towards promoting commercial and trade links. I agree that our trading links with Canada are very small, but I think a lot of people from the South Pacific, particularly Fiji, are now residents in Canada. That can be the start of a link that can be taken advantage of in the future.

SW: Yes, and I suppose if there were one or two Canadian offices in the region, that would help with that understanding too.

IT: I gave a talk on the [Pacific Islands'] trade links with Australia. It's surprising, but when you combine the trade volume, it's in billions of dollars. But you cannot really think in those terms without first establishing a connection. The presence of a mission, in Suva or wherever, would definitely facilitate that. We were very pleased with the minister, that he took the trouble to come and that he was very forthcoming and positive in many of his responses. So I think the future looks very bright. We are going to enjoy very good links with Canada.

SW: Good! and thank you.

Chan cont'd...

SW: The perception of Canada's aid program in the Pacific is generally very positive, though some would like to see it larger and more diversified. What do you see as the likely trends for Canadian aid to the Pacific?

RC: Canada faces a tremendous fiscal constraint, a debt of about \$550 billion. About 25% of our revenue goes to service this debt. One barrier in committing more resources to foreign aid is this constraint. In the short or medium term the government can't afford more. I hope our friends in the region can understand.

SW: In its trade activities, the Canadian government doesn't pay much attention to the Pacific Islands. While they are small markets by global standards, they often are useful niche markets. Do you see a possibility for greater attention by your government to trade opportunities in the Pacific?

RC: With our budget constraints, it is impossible to expand our representation overseas. There is no doubt in my mind that the Islands have potential, but we have to be focused with our efforts. If you compare the opportunities, the potential for trade growth is much bigger in Asia and Latin America. I don't see any short term expansion of our trade focus in the Pacific region.

SW: Canada's administration of Pacific Island relations from Australia and New Zealand is a sore point for some. Do you foresee a time when Canada might have a direct diplomatic presence?

RC: I think it's difficult in the short-term for the reasons I presented earlier, but I want to stress that we have a strong obligation in the region. This is why I came to the Forum. I don't want the South Pacific states to feel that they are being ignored because we don't have a consulate. We have to be realistic about what we can do in order to be effective with our limited resources.

SW: There was appreciation that you attended the Forum. Do you see Canada maintaining this level of representation?

Honorary Consuls Fill the Gaps

Canada's relations with the Pacific Islands are administered from high commissions in Canberra and Wellington. Island countries handle relations through their missions in Washington or New York. In some cases, the gap in representation is filled by an honorary consul, who provides some services and representation. Two such consuls are David Beatty, Papua New Guinea's honorary consul to Canada, and Ron Hiatt, Canada's honorary consul to PNG.

In 1973 David and his wife Debby packed up their four children and moved from Toronto to Port Moresby, capital of the soon to be independent Papua New Guinea. David spent the next four years in the Central Planning Office, reporting to First Minister (later Prime Minister) Michael Somare and Finance Minister Julius Chan. Initially serving as director of the Central Planning Office, David later acted as an advisor to Charles Lepani, the first Papua New Guinean named to the post.

PNG's new leaders were keen to develop the country's mineral potential, but in a way that would benefit Papua New Guineans. While foreign companies were critical to this aim, there was much criticism of the existing agreement with Bougainville Copper. David was involved in renegotiating the agreement with Bougainville Copper, leading to considerably enhanced revenue for the PNG government. He was also involved in the establishment of the Ok Tedi mine.

David remembers the Ok Tedi and Bougainville experiences as "examples of the vision and courage of the first Somare-Chan coalition government. The Cabinet was led by its own sense of fairness to the people of PNG and never wavered in its determination to conclude agreements that respected the twin goals

of equity to the people and adequate rewards to the miners."

David, Debby and their children left Port Moresby in October 1977, spending the next nine months sailing the South Pacific. Upon their return to Canada, David embarked upon a highly successful business career, including a period as president of Weston Foods.

In 1985, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu asked David if he would assume the role of honorary consul,

a duty that he took on with delight. He has tried to help PNG by keeping close contact with the mining world, a role for which he was well placed. Toronto is the world's largest stock market for gold and metal mining companies.

Given the importance of the mining connection in Canada's relationship with PNG, it is not surprising that Canada's honorary consul to PNG is Ron Hiatt, manager of Placer Niugini Pty. Ltd. (the PNG subsidiary of Canadian mining company, Placer Dome). He became Canada's honorary consul to PNG in 1989. Australian by nationality, Ron has worked in PNG since 1957. With 30 years of experience in the PNG Public Service, he brings a wealth of experience and contacts to his role as honorary consul. Ron and David have been honoured for their service to PNG, Ron with a MBE in 1980 and David with an OBE in 1993.

David notes that "Papua New Guinea is a special place for our family. Our children remember their lives in Port Moresby and for many years after returning to Toronto thought of PNG as their 'real' home". For David and Debby, 1994 provided a chance to renew that bond when they travelled to PNG to visit old friends and meet with the new prime minister, Sir Julius Chan. For David, it was a trip from 'taim bilong tumbuna'.



Targeting Marine Development

The Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project

by Y. Pau Woo

Y. Pau Woo works with Canadian Ocean Resource Associates of St. John's, Newfoundland, as project manager for the CSPODP Project. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not represent the Canadian Government or the Canadian International Development Agency.

Since 1983, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has provided support to ocean development in the South Pacific. This support began modestly, with contributions to regional training and institutional development. It was not until 1988, with establishment of the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project, an umbrella of sub-projects known by its acronym CSPODP, that Canada began to have a much greater involvement in ocean development in the region.

Seven years later, CSPODP is Canada's primary vehicle for development assistance to the South Pacific. The \$10 million project has 2 1/2 years to planned completion and there are over 25 active sub-projects covering every Pacific Island nation. CSPODP is managed by Canadian

Ocean Resource Associates (CORA) Inc., a consortium of Canadian companies providing integrated fisheries and ocean services to international markets. CORA provides comprehensive management, monitoring, and technical support services to the project under a contract with CIDA.

CSPODP is characterized by its breadth of coverage, emphasis on partnership and concentration on capacity development at the institutional level. Sub-projects are delivered through partner institutions in the Pacific: the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Forum Secretariat, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme and the University of the South Pacific. In addition, there are two sub-projects delivered through bilateral arrangements with the governments of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

All sub-projects were designed in close consultation with the partner institutions and are consistent with their overall work programmes. The sub-projects typically aim to strengthen the capacity of the institutions to meet regional needs in a self-sustaining manner. In many cases, this involves training in specialized

topics by Canadians up to a point where the indigenous institutions and individuals are ready to take over the duties.

An excellent example of the human resource development effort of CSPODP can be found in the Post Harvest Fisheries Training Project, delivered through the South Pacific Commission. By providing proven Canadian expertise in fisheries post-harvest techniques at a one-time intensive regional workshop, the project established a cadre of 16 post-harvest instructors. The project went on to support the trained instructors in the provision of in-country training courses and by providing training materials. The result of this train-the-trainer strategy is that over 700 individuals from nine Pacific Island nations were able to receive practical fisheries training through a relatively modest investment by Canada.

The human resource development theme is most explicit at the University of the South Pacific. Canada is providing human and financial resources to support USP's efforts to develop an interdisciplinary Marine Studies Programme. A five year plan for the programme was accepted by the USP council in October 1991 and development of the plan is proceeding with admirable success. The philosophy of Canada's funding has been that the projects are intended as seed funding, with longer-term support being the responsibility of the University. This strategy has already worked with the Ocean Resources Management Programme, which was set up under CSPODP but is now an established offering supported by core USP funding. By 1997, it is expected that two more positions which are presently funded by CSPODP will be core funded by USP.

At the Forum Fisheries Agency, a series of CSPODP sub-projects



photo courtesy CORA Inc.

Representatives of the 6 South Pacific regional organisations, CIDA and CORA Inc. at the annual Project Steering Committee meeting in Suva February '95.

have provided a firm foundation for FFA to implement a monitoring, control and surveillance system for the region's tuna fishery. The industry is worth over \$10 billion annually and generates about \$1 billion in access fees for Pacific Island nations. Canada funded the development of FFA's surveillance plan (written by a Canadian) and has until recently funded the position of surveillance manager. FFA is now recognised as a world leader in regional fisheries management and as a model for other developing coastal states.

Canada's contribution to fisheries management in the South Pacific has a larger significance in that it promotes the prudent management of high seas fisheries and straddling stocks, an issue of particular importance to the Canadian East Coast fishery. The South Pacific countries have supported Canada's position on the management of high seas fisheries and have a direct interest in promoting international agreement on a management regime for the long-term preservation of valuable fisheries such as their own.

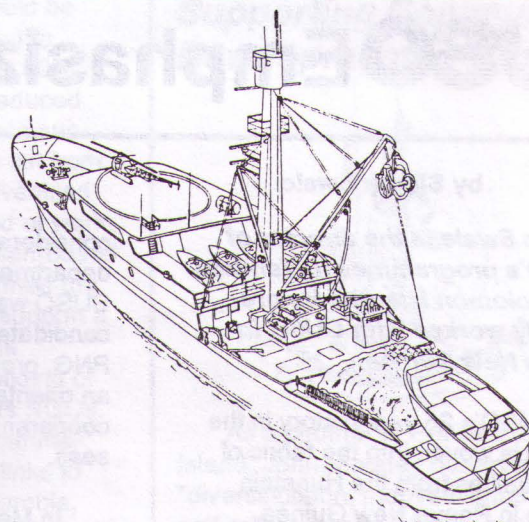
At the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, a Canadian legal advisor is providing valuable assistance in the review of existing maritime legislation and drafting of new legislation for member countries. In some countries, the legislation is outdated and not consistent with the countries' accession to international conventions. The legal advisor has spurred many countries to update their legislation. Recognising that the advisor's tenure is finite, the project has ensured that an internship programme is put in place. Representatives from the attorneys-general chambers or maritime departments of Forum countries have an opportunity to work with the advisor for up to eight weeks at a time. The project will leave behind a legacy of updated or new maritime legislation and a cadre of professionals who have the skills to continue with this work.

All CSPODP projects deal implicitly with the ocean environment, but at the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, Canada is supporting three initiatives that deal

specifically with environmental management, education, and conservation. One project, the Coastal Resource Management Programme, addresses a fundamental need in many Pacific Island nations, finding out about coastal resources and having the tools to make intelligent choices about developing those resources in a sustainable fashion. The project supports coastal resource surveys and the development of coastal resource management plans for specific countries.

At the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Canada is supporting a project that carries out research on coastal erosion, sedimentation and other coastal processes. The problem of coastal erosion is a very serious one, especially in the smaller atoll nations. In some nations, coastal development projects have not taken into consideration the physical impact on the coastal zone and the consequences for people who live and work there. This project provides some of the tools and knowledge to anticipate and avoid the possible adverse effects of coastal projects.

At the grassroots level, a sub-project in Gizo, Solomon Islands has set up a fishermen's cooperative which provides services to nearshore fisherfolk, including a commercial outlet for their catches. A project in Luganville, Vanuatu aims to strengthen the extension services capacity of the Department of Fisheries to provide assistance to the small-scale fishery sector. Another project in Papua New Guinea is aimed at improving the lives of rural women by providing training in fish processing. A number of the trained women have already established their own small businesses based on the skills acquired. Since women



Drawing of a typical tuna sloop of the type that fishes the Pacific
(from SPC Fisheries Newsletter #71)

typically control the household diet, the project has also encouraged the consumption of locally-caught fish over less nutritious and possibly more expensive alternatives.

Many of the sub-projects will be completed before the end of 1996. CIDA has begun planning for a second phase, which is being greeted with much anticipation by the South Pacific counterparts.

The history of Canada's involvement in Pacific development initiatives is short, but it has been well received by Pacific Islanders and is likely to leave a lasting and valuable legacy. As one of the few donors that did not have colonies in the region, Canada has a relationship with the Pacific characterised by mutual respect and trust. As a Pacific nation, Canada will always be bound by geography to the countries of the South Pacific. However, it is initiatives such as CSPODP that have created the human, institutional and commercial links between Canadians and Pacific Islanders which will yield mutual benefits for many years to come.

For more information on CSPODP, contact:

Y. Pau Woo, Project Manager,
CORA, Tel. 709-726-9260, Fax. 709-726-1627, e-mail: pau.woo@dev-can.ca or Ron Baird, Programme Manager, South Pacific, CIDA, Tel. 819-997-0955, Fax. 819-997-4750

Emphasizes Building Alliances

by Simon Swale

Simon Swale is the director of CUSO's programmes in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. He previously worked with CUSO in Papua New Guinea.

CUSO's 25 year history in the Pacific is woven into the fabric of communities from the Hunstein Range in Papua New Guinea, through the lagoons of Western Province in Solomon Islands to the islands of Tafea Province in Vanuatu. It includes activists using women's popular theatre and critical literacy as tools of their trade and organisers in the network of NGOs that take on the problems of environmental degradation, social change and economic dependency. It is a history that has increased the awareness of Canadians regarding Pacific issues and influenced the Pacific perception of Canada. More than 1,000 cooperants have lived and worked in these communities. 30 local and expatriate staff have been the thread that draws it all together.

CUSO came to the still colonised Pacific in 1970, initially with volunteers scattered across islands from Tonga to Manus. Realising the high costs to support such a far flung programme, the organisation's sights were soon reset on the region's largest country, Papua New Guinea. The programme grew from an initial 9 volunteers to over 50 before PNG's independence in 1975.

The volunteers (later called cooperants) were assigned to roles in teaching and in building technical skills to enable people to do things for themselves. Another goal was to diversify the emerging nation's contact with the outside world, which at that time was largely restricted to Australia. Cooperants were recruited to fill jobs identified by government ministries. The host government provided support for salaries and accommodation. The volunteers were

considered employees of the host department, school or institution and CUSO was the conduit that matched candidates in Canada to positions in PNG, provided the candidates with an orientation, and supported cooperants while they served overseas.

In Melanesia, the credibility of an organization like CUSO hinges on

Development is a process of change that enables people to take charge of their own destinies and realize their full potential. It requires building up in the people their confidence, skills, assets and freedoms necessary to achieve this goal.

John Clark

friendships. The cooperant placement program built lasting relationships between cooperants and their colleagues and students, relationships that provided a sound basis for CUSO's later work and the alliance building that CUSO is working on now. For example, when Raymond Clark returned to PNG as a CUSO staff person in 1984, he found that he was welcomed by many people in senior government positions who remembered him as their high school teacher in 1975.

While CUSO established its programme in PNG, the struggle for independence was politicising the people of Vanuatu and the term, Melanesian Socialism, was coined. CUSO decided to begin a programme in Vanuatu, like Canada a country gifted by the quirks of colonialism with English and French as official languages. A field office was opened in Port Vila in 1981, marking CUSO's return to one of the smaller island states of the Pacific.

By the 1980s, the Canadian government was providing considerable support to CUSO, which had a good record of finding worthwhile roles for Canadians overseas. CUSO had 30 cooperants in Vanuatu and 120 in PNG. The cooperant programme expanded to include Solomon Islands in the late 1980s, by which time CUSO had also established a small project fund. To manage the expanded programmes, staffing had increased to one programme officer in Vanuatu, three in PNG and a regional director. Cooperant placement and support entailed a considerable amount of travel, frequently to remote locations. There was also lots of small project vetting and reporting.

The expanding cooperant programme meant that more and more Canadians could benefit from the opportunity to contribute and learn from a two year experience in a South Pacific country. However, this expansion also began to force programming decisions into a numbers game at the expense of longer-term planning. It was easy to accept increasing amounts of money from the Canadian government without recognizing the dependency that it created.

In 1986 CUSO began to rethink the strategy behind its cooperant programme. It was recognised that individual cooperant placements on a purely responsive basis were not the

best way to have a longer term impact. The placements had to become part of a larger strategy directed towards positive change. Nobody in the Pacific was telling CUSO that it was doing anything unacceptable, but it was time to choose the best of our work and to do it better. The move to programme planning was also driven in part by a change in Canadian government policy. Budgets would no longer be increasing.

The process of change was complicated by inflexible structures. There were still 100 cooperants in the Pacific region in 1986. The region faced closure if it could not reorganize its work in terms of programming. The fact that CUSO Pacific survived this period and was being praised for its plans just 12 months later was due in no small part to programme officer Marty Horswill. Marty combined his understanding of development with his ability as a writer to describe the framework of a three year plan that enabled his colleagues to formulate a series of inter-related programmes.

By mid 1987, CUSO Pacific was set in a new direction. Vanuatu would focus on the economic alternatives offered by village-based fisheries and capacity building within local government. PNG would focus on five programmes, including women's development and community-based production and marketing. Solomon Islands was expected to develop its own programmes within the plan period. Fewer cooperants would free up staff time for other programming.

The success of our plans depended on negotiations with the Canadian government. The strategy failed as the government continued to insist that CUSO be evaluated on the number of cooperants placed overseas, rather than the quality of its programmes. The New CUSO was to be put on hold for a few more years.

As we moved into the 1990s, the Pacific programme was in disarray. Staff changes and the stalled programming changes led to a loss of direction. Once again, there were

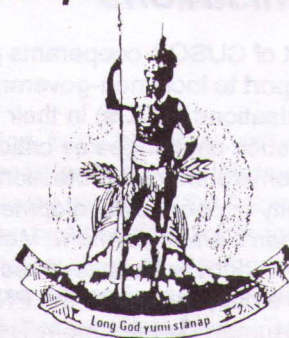
whispers that the region would be closed. Instead, CUSO opted to reduce the Pacific budget by 50%. Cooperant numbers were reduced from 80 to 15 and programme support was halved. Staff were cut from 11 to 5. These changes galvanized action around a new method of working. CUSO staff and Canadian-based Pacific activists met and formed the Canada-Pacific Alliance to support a new Pacific programme. The programme included the building of partnerships with indigenous NGOs, placing cooperants in programme-focused roles and creating links to CUSO offices in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and later, Saskatchewan.

The Pacific Regional Programme Statement clarified the philosophy behind the programming, stating that "CUSO's Pacific Programme seeks to work with people to defend their inherent right to their land. At the basis of this is our support for indigenous cultural affirmation".

The organizational review of CUSO's Pacific work in 1993 noted "the appreciation of CUSO's evolving role from provider of cooperants to catalyst. Support is required across the region for: critical literacy, drama for awareness raising, information gathering and exchange services for NGOs and organizational support". Partnerships have been developed with over 20 NGOs in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. International exchanges were arranged on popular theatre training and action to combat export logging.

CUSO produced a global Vision Statement in mid 1994. It articulates the focus of CUSO's work as "Partnerships for social justice: Building alliances around global issues of concern to Canadians". The Pacific Programme Statement adds that "Alliance building can allow people to make informed choices. In our work we are looking for models that support democratic participation. We need to bridge indigenous and non-indigenous experience. We need to share Canadian, Pacific and other dreams of an alternative future - just and sustainable - that challenges today's dominant economic model."

Supporting Community Development in Vanuatu



As a planner in Prince Edward Island, John Mooney observed that "diversification, innovativeness and self-reliance are a challenge to the dependency syndrome that grips Atlantic Canada." Such insight would prove valuable during his four years as a planner for the Luganville Municipal Council on the island of Espiritu Santo.

As a CUSO cooperant, John helped to establish a financial base for the council. He broadened participation in town planning to include women, communities and traditionally appointed chiefs. A women's centre, complex of small stores and community nakamal (meeting house) were built in a park on the beautiful waterfront. These buildings have become the focal point of the town.

John was involved in the establishment of the Santo Tourism Industry Development Association (STIDA). Tourism in Vanuatu is controlled by foreign interests, but in Luganville STIDA now represents the island communities and entrepreneurs, carrying out training programmes on the impact of tourism and negotiating directly with the international tourism industry.

John will remember his experience in Luganville for many reasons, including the Japanese volunteer he met and later married in Japan, where they now live. Of the 300 cooperants who have worked in Vanuatu, John is the only one to be given the title of custom chief, an honour conferred on him by the people with whom he lived and worked and something that is not given lightly.

Supporting Local Community Based Organisations

Most of CUSO's cooperants provide support to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their work on such challenges as critical literacy, environmental protection, community economic development and women's empowerment. Moira Bloom's work over the past three years as a cooperant with the PNG Integral Human Development Trust is typical. PNG Trust is a national umbrella organisation supporting community based literacy work. Moira has provided support to the Trust office and member organisations in bookkeeping, office systems,

report and project proposal writing, and organisational development. She has also been involved with the emergence of Trust Meri, the women's programming arm of PNG Trust.

In her third year with CUSO, Moira has become involved with CUSO's regional programming in support of Pacific women. Speaking of her work, Moira notes that "I believe strongly in the sustainability of NGOs, and that my role is as a resource person working with people, not for them, to support their own empowerment."



CUSO cooperant, Moira Bloom (far left), with some participants at a November 1994 Trust Meri meeting in Goroka

Second Time Round Enhances the Experience

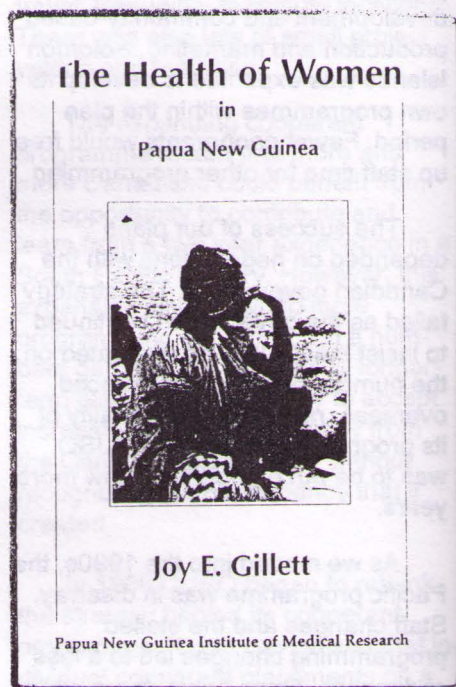
For Ellen Woodley and Brent Tegler, their experience as CUSO cooperants in PNG from 1983-85 helped prepare them for a second CUSO experience, this time in Solomon Islands. Both work for the Western Province government. Ellen's job as Cultural Affairs Advisor involves "cultural affirmation": recording custom stories, holding cultural festivals, supporting the revival of traditional canoe building and surveying archaeological sites before they are damaged by logging companies. For Brent, his job as Environment Officer involves trying to protect the environment in the face of rapid development and logging. Given the temptation of cash income, the answer lies in finding alternatives such as eco-tourism, small scale "eco-timber" projects and cooperative fish marketing.

Ellen and Brent found that their previous experience served them well. With language barriers partly overcome and some understanding of the "Melanesian Way", rapport with everyone from market sellers to the provincial premier was enhanced. This time, it's a family experience. Their children attend the local school and are learning to do without much of what Canadians take for granted. They see that wealth is not measured in dollars, but in abundant local foods, clean air and water, and close knit communities.

Life After CUSO

The 1,000 cooperants who have served with CUSO in the Pacific return to a wide range of jobs, locations and lifestyles. Many find that their Pacific experiences have changed their perspective on life and that the skills gained overseas are applied to new situations in Canada. For Joy Gillett, her experience with health issues in a cross-cultural setting while serving as a research officer with the PNG Institute of Medical Research (1987-89) has effectively translated to her current position as a zone health educator in northwestern British Columbia. Much of her work now is with First Nations communities.

Joy's research in PNG led to her writing a much cited book on *The Health of Women in Papua New Guinea* (available on a loan basis to members of SPPF). As well as providing an overview of the health issues facing women in PNG, the book identified priorities and suggested strategies for addressing those issues. Raising awareness of health issues and helping people to formulate strategies for addressing these issues is also a major part of her current work with First Nations. For Joy, her work has indeed come full circle.



Good Things Come in Small Packages: The Canada Fund

by Diane Goodwillie

Diane Goodwillie is the Fiji-based coordinator for the Canada Fund. She prepared this article with input from Helene Anderson, Australia-based Canada Fund co-ordinator.

What do rural training centres in the Solomon Islands, a conference on "Violence and the Family in Vanuatu", an educational nature trail in Tonga and solar operated fridges for health centres in Kiribati have in common? All these initiatives and many others have benefited from funding assistance by the Canada Fund.

A significant component (Cdn \$2.6 million annually) of Canadian aid to the Pacific is administered by the high commissions in Australia and New Zealand. Many see this Canada Fund for Local Initiatives as high value for the money. Administrative costs are low and money goes quickly and directly to community groups who are expected to contribute cash and in-kind labour, services and local materials. Canada supports projects in the health, nutrition, water supply, sanitation and education sectors. Projects that lift family burdens, empower women or positively affect the environment are given priority.

Canada Fund co-ordinators based in Australia (serving Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) and Fiji (serving Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Western Samoa) identify projects, make recommendations to the high commissions and monitor projects. The co-ordinators are "on the road" more than half the year. They visit communities which express an interest in the Canada Fund and sit down with people to discuss their needs, helping them to consider their project plans and strengthen the end product. The co-ordinators have often been told that they are the first

"aid people" taking time to meet with the local people.

Administrative costs are minimised. The co-ordinators in the field work with local groups, or sometimes with government offices, to ensure that projects are viable and to determine local conditions. In small countries, use of government officials and financial institutions is the insurance that money is spent carefully, although sometimes the red tape slows implementation of projects. The Canada Fund has a goal of capacity building of non-government organisations.

Networking for Women's Fitness

Projects sometimes come from unexpected beginnings. During lunch with the nutrition educator for the Cook Islands, she expressed concern about motivating overweight women to keep fit. Nurses and community leaders were starting aerobics classes, but had no training. Queries to the YWCA of Aotearoa/New Zealand identified Newrhythmic, a gentle fitness programme successful with Maori women. Local women were taught via the visit of a New Zealand trainer. The initial bubble of excitement lapsed during Christmas

feasting, but a follow-up visit and presentation of YWCA leadership certificates rekindled the flame. The women find that their joints feel better, their outlook on life improves and in some cases dangerously high blood pressure is reduced. Tuvalu, with similar problems, learned about the programme and with Canada's assistance planned their training. Canada's role was not only to fund the training, but to hear the need and introduce a possible solution.

Co-operation for Library Development

Other countries offer small grant schemes like Canada's. Efforts are made to avoid duplication and we sometimes collaborate. After Western Samoa's cyclones, many aid agencies came to the rescue. It was discovered that, through a design flaw, the roof of the Nelson Memorial Library in Apia had always leaked. The librarian, while trying to protect precious books and manuscripts, was constantly faced with hundreds of students stepping over puddles of water. Australia, New Zealand and Canada decided to jointly contribute the maximum limits of our small grants towards solving the problem.



Signing of contribution agreement for water tanks at Ipeukel, Tanna in Vanuatu. Chief standing between Lan Hoang, 2nd Secretary, Canadian High Commission and Helene Anderson, Canada Fund Coordinator for Melanesia

photo courtesy Helene Anderson

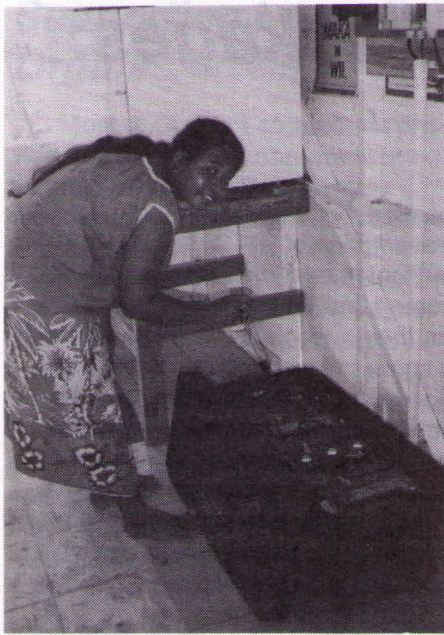


photo by Diane Goodwillie

Nurse checks battery level in solar freezer provided by Canada Fund

New Services for the Disabled

Sometimes projects can complement government priorities. The Government of Kiribati struggles to provide education for all primary school age children, but has no services for the disabled. Teachers did not know how to integrate disabled children into the classroom, disabled children were not sent to school and some deaf adults did not know how to write their names. A combined effort is being spearheaded by the Kiribati Red Cross with Canadian funds and Australian volunteers. After 3 years of operation, the Disabled Centre serves 59 children and adults. Staff are doing home visits, the Teachers' Training College has started exposing their student teachers to the Centre and there are hopes that the new government will fund staff salaries.

Facilitating Environmental Protection

Fijian government rural administrators had little understanding about why roads cut on too steep a gradient resulted in soil erosion or what caused the collapse of seawalls placed on mud or sand footings. A one week workshop funded by Canada was the first training rural officers had ever received.

In Kiribati, the Environment Department has embarked on a Canadian funded campaign to edu-

cate people about the dangers of used dry cell batteries. Unaware of its affects, children chew the metal centres, women dye mats with the dry lead powder and discarded batteries pollute shorelines and spawn grounds for marine life.

With Canadian funding, the students of Tonga's Tupou High School have built an educational nature trail through the last stand of rainforest on Tongatapu, helping to preserve it and providing a venue for tourists to admire Tonga's natural history.

Speaking up for Women

A large part of the Canada Fund helps to lighten women's loads, but women's organizations can run into administrative difficulties in pushing through their projects and getting the necessary government approval. The Canada Fund co-ordinator often provides a valuable ally for navigating projects to a successful conclusion.

Shortly after Canada funded the Tuvalu Women's Centre, plans fell through when newly discovered airport regulations prohibited a second floor extension to the women's handcraft centre. Finding a block of land was the next hurdle. The Minister of Women's Affairs pursued the matter and a small area was leased to the women. A plan developed by a Japanese volunteer required more money; New Zealand agreed to provide funds. By then, the original purpose of the building, providing a guest house, had changed to providing office space. As the Japanese design was too costly to convert, a new structure was designed over the next 6 months. But new legislation requires that any structure built on government land must obtain permission from the land owner. No-one was surprised to hear that he wants \$10,000 for his permission. The women can fight, but any delay will mean increased building costs; even if they pay, they still have to pay land rent to the government. Throughout this ordeal, the Canada Fund co-ordinator has tried to help, but the odds seem stacked against the women. There will be "great dancing in the streets" once the project is completed!

Breaking New Ground with Women's Projects

Traditional programmes to teach sewing and cooking continue in some areas. But women are increasingly finding that home made clothes are more expensive than second hand goods. Nutrition education and income generating activities are supplanting the old lessons. Women are taking up the need for education about domestic violence, legal literacy and child molestation. Canada has assisted, for example by supporting a conference on "Violence and the Family in Vanuatu" which gave women an opportunity to talk about violence and cultural changes affecting Melanesian society. In rural areas, Canada has shared costs with Tongan and ni-Vanuatu village women to provide households with rainwater catchment tanks and improved kitchens.

Women's Projects Camouflaged

Some projects don't appear to be aimed at women, but women are the main recipients and managers. Most rural health centres are staffed by female nurses. Canadian assistance to Fiji's Nurses Association for health and nutrition books for rural nursing centres, and the provision of solar powered fridges for storage of medicines in Papua New Guinea's and Kiribati's health clinics has helped the nurses and the mothers and children they serve. Preschool education is another such area. In Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu, Canada has assisted with training workshops. The Canada Fund supported a conference of the Early Childhood Association of Vanuatu and provided a monitor and generator for the Association's video shows on the island of Tanna. In Western Samoa, sixty sets of tables, preschool books and educational toys were provided for centres which were poorly equipped as a result of cyclone damage.

Youth and Vocational Training

The Canada Fund has assisted with the development of rural training centres in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Very few children enter secondary school in these and other Pacific Island countries due to the limited places.

Although governments are extending the number of years in primary school from 6 to 8, the problem of "masta liu" (unemployed youth hanging around) will remain. Concerned agencies are setting up rural training centres to provide young men and women with new skills through a hands-on approach. It was gratifying to come across a graduate from one such centre running a furniture and carpentry workshop in Kirakira, Solomon Islands. Young women who graduate from Canada Fund supported typing schools in PNG are finding work in local industry.

Partnership

The Canada Fund is a partnership between the world's largest and smallest countries. These small projects are drops in the bucket compared to major Canadian dollars given to the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project and the Institutional Partnership Scheme, which teams up Canadian universities with training institutes in the Pacific. The Canada Fund gives immediate relief to pressing local problems while helping South Pacific people learn about that unknown country called Canada. Small Canadian gifts rewarding local self-help schemes are often more valued and more valuable.



photo by Diane Goodwillie

Cassava grinders supplied by Canada Fund help Cook Islanders to make cassava starch.

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

The Canada Fund finances small-scale projects which contribute to economic, technical, educational, cultural or social development. Funding requests are responded to quickly and with flexibility. Funding in the South Pacific is channelled through the Canadian High Commissions in Canberra and Wellington by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Canadian High Commission in Canberra works through their Canada Fund Co-ordinator, Helene Anderson, to oversee projects in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Projects in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa are administered by the Canadian High Commission in Wellington through their Canada Fund Co-ordinator, Diane Goodwillie.

There is no Canada Fund operating for Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Palau, Guam, American Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Niue, Tokelau Islands or Nauru.

Projects are normally Cdn \$5,000-20,000. The maximum funding for any one project is Cdn \$50,000. Project requests must be made in writing to the respective co-ordinators and indicate: background information about the group or organisation, its membership and past experience in administering projects; the needs, objectives and a description of the project; who will benefit and how; when the project will be implemented; a detailed budget with local contributions; and the name, address and phone number of the person responsible for the project. Some projects are coordinated through government planning offices.

Priority is given to projects which help people help themselves, have a substantial local contribution, are well planned, do not duplicate other resources, increase the participation of women, support sound environmental development and enhance good governance. Projects which aim to alleviate poverty through improving access to health, family planning, nutrition, education, employment and decision-making are generally supported by the Canada Fund. The Canada Fund recognizes the importance of institutional capacity building of NGOs and aims to support this. Scholarships and recurrent administrative costs are not normally acceptable. Projects must be completed within two years. Most projects are supported on a one-time only, non-recurring basis. The Canada Fund co-ordinators can be called on to assist with planning and preparing project requests.

A Regional Fund administered from Wellington has been set up for projects which involve cooperation between a number of countries, especially within the NGO sector.

Yearly country allocations are provided for government and non-government projects, based on a fiscal year ending March 31.

For further information or to submit a proposal, contact:

For Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa:

Diane Goodwillie, Canada Fund Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 9233, Nadi Airport Post Office, Fiji

For Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Helene Anderson, Canada Fund Co-ordinator, The Canadian High Commission, Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia

First Nations North and South Find Common Ground

by Dora Demers

Dora Demers is a member of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation, a First Nation whose traditional territory includes a large area in central B.C. Since July 1994, she has been working with CUSO as a programme officer responsible for Aboriginal Initiatives.

I first became involved in the "international scene" when I attended the South Pacific Peoples Foundation's annual Pacific Networking Conference in 1993. At this event they had a speaker from Papua New Guinea, Nick Faraclas. His presentation was on "globalisation", more specifically on how "western society" has pushed the notion of "enclosure", meaning that a few rich and powerful people take over what used to belong to everyone.

This is apparent when it comes to Indigenous peoples around the

world. We have been enclosed in mind, spirit and body. We are made to believe that what the non-native has to offer (processed foods, religion, etc.) is better than what we had before they ever set foot onto our lands. We are enclosed physically by being put onto reserves here in Canada. Other Indigenous peoples around the world may not even have this type of land set aside for them. We First Nations people once relied on our extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. This has slowly been dismantled. More and more we are turning to looking out for Number 1.

When it came to development, we thought of a whole community, using our traditional system of "bottom up", the power coming from within. Everyone had an equal say; no one was above. This usually meant that the elected leaders were only spokespersons for the people. Decisions were made at the grassroots level and carried out by

the leadership. The end goal of working in this fashion is harmony. The non-native structure is top down, even in the family unit of husband, wife and children. One person is always at the top. You are powerless otherwise. The end goal is consumption.

After listening to Nick, Canoe Creek Band chief, Agnes Snow, and I got to thinking that we had to have him come back and speak to our Nation. This is where the seed was planted to "bridge the gap" between First Nations here in BC and overseas. We worked with CUSO-BC to make this a reality. Rather than have Nick come back by himself, it was decided

that an elder from PNG should also attend. Nick is Bataningke Oli's adopted son. Bataningke was the Elder chosen to make the trip. I cannot fully express my gratitude to CUSO for assisting in bringing Bataningke and Nick here to our Shuswap traditional territory.

Bataningke and Nick visited us in August 1994. They attended the Kamloops Pow Wow. We had a hard time prying Bataningke away, so that he might get some rest. He was thoroughly impressed by the small children who were dancing. Nick and Bataningke took part in a sweat, one of our traditional ceremonies.

The principal focus for Nick and Bataningke's visit was a two day workshop on land and culture held at Soda Creek. There was a lot of sharing amongst the participants. We didn't have many, but the way I look at it, this is only the first of many more such events.

Bataningke told us that his people have control of 97% of their land. He said that the non-aboriginals are trying to get them to register their land in order for them to be able to get the almighty dollar for projects. In their traditional way, the extended families hold title and no one specific person can make a decision about the land. The system being imposed on them is that one person registers the land. Bataningke feels this makes it easier to put pressure on or bribe one person to give up the land.

In PNG they live much by their traditional ways. We told Bataningke to bring back to his people the truth about the turmoil we are going through here in Canada in trying to rebuild our cultures, languages, religion, etc.

Bataningke was afraid for our people when he first arrived because he did not hear anyone speaking the



Nick Faraclas, Bataningke Oli and CUSO staff member Delyse Sylvester at Soda Creek, B.C.

photo courtesy CUSO-B.C.

language, there was no one growing gardens, no one was living in traditional homes and so on.

As time passed, he began to see and hear that all these things are not completely lost to us. He heard the Elders at Soda Creek speak in Secwepemc, he saw people growing gardens at the Secwepemc Heritage Park in Kamloops, and at the "heritage village" in Soda Creek he saw winter homes being built.

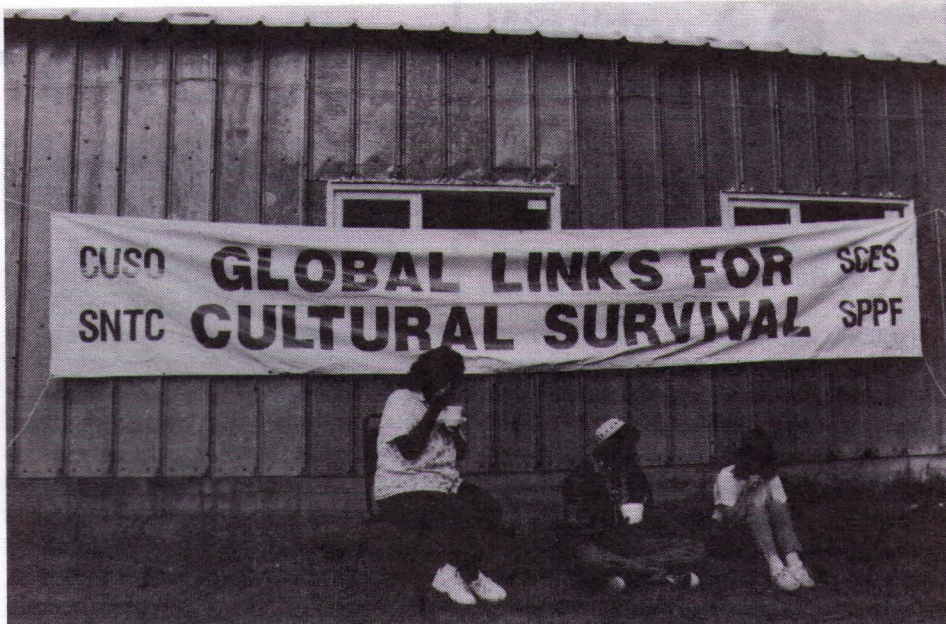
After the Soda Creek workshop I had the opportunity to share Nick and Bataninge's company for three days. My family and I cannot put into words the bond that was made.

We attended a community meeting in Dog Creek. This was well-attended by Elders, youth and parents. An Elder told me after the meeting, "What that man (Bataninge) had to say, we as Elders have been trying to say for many, many years. It took someone like him to come here to our country for people to listen. This is good. We need to share with one another, whether it be here in our own community, other communities within our Nation, or people from across the oceans." Coming from this Elder, this was the piece of the puzzle that gave me the courage and the determination to continue this type of work between Canadian First Nations and First Nations throughout the CUSO world.

We visited with Chief Victor York, who works at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), and Eunice Watson, coordinator for the Community Economic Development (CED) programme run out of NVIT. Bataninge asked Victor and Eunice if the CED programme could be brought to his country. They told him it could be possible as they run the programme across Canada.

We also took Nick and Bataninge to see the destruction caused by the Highland Copper Mine.

On their last day, we met with Chief Ron Ignace, who is the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society (SCES) chair. There was talk of



Participants at Soda Creek meeting enjoy a meal

possible exchanges with other First Nations through the SCES/Simon Fraser University programme. They have their first exchange student in Ghana this year.

Even before the visit of Nick and Bataninge, other connections were being made. SPPF's 1994 Pacific Networking Conference brought together larger numbers of First Nations people from here and the Pacific. Following the conference, the Pacific Islanders visited First Nations communities and participated in an Inter-Regional Forum hosted by the Secwepemc Nation (and co-sponsored by CUSO and SPPF). As a means of moving ahead some of the ideas and concerns that arose from the Forum, a group of people who are interested in working with First Nations from overseas has been formed. This Aboriginal Reference Group has around 13 First Nations people. It provides advice to me in my work. I am the first Native person that CUSO has hired here in Canada. Across Canada we are in the beginning stages of forming an Aboriginal Rights Network.

Here in BC, we've been mainly connecting with the South Pacific (Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea). In order to move the work ahead, we as a Reference Group felt that we needed to send a delegation to the South Pacific to do an assessment of

opportunities and to build on the relationships that have been formed. A member of the Secwepemc Nation (Councillor Ralph Phillips from the Soda Creek Band) has already attended a land rights workshop and visited communities in PNG. Another Reference Group member, Monique Gray Smith, is spending three months in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. For part of that time, Monique is being accompanied by Marni York, a woman from the Haida Nation. We hope to send a larger delegation, including an elder and a youth, later in 1995. Plans are already well advanced for SPPF's 1995 Pacific Networking Conference and further visits by Pacific Islanders to First Nations communities.

I believe it was destiny that brought the meeting of Nick and Bataninge with many people throughout the Secwepemc territory. Sometime in the near future, our paths may cross again with Nick and Bataninge or someone from their extended family.

photo courtesy CUSO-B.C.

Churches Build Strong Pacific Partnerships

by Rev. Terry Brown

Terry Brown is the Asia/Pacific Mission Coordinator for the Anglican Church of Canada.

The two Canadian churches with the strongest South Pacific relationships are the United and Anglican Churches of Canada. Both are primarily involved with Melanesia, though the Anglican Church (ACC) also relates with Polynesia. Both churches support regional ecumenical organizations such as the Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Theological College and the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools. They also work with national church councils such as the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches and the Solomon Islands Christian Association.

The closest relations are often with denominational partners. The United Church's (UCC's) primary denominational partner is the United Church of PNG and the Solomon Islands while ACC's is the South Pacific Anglican Council - the Anglican provinces and dioceses of PNG, the Solomons, Vanuatu, Fiji and Polynesia. UCC is also linked with the Evangelical Church of Irian Jaya (West Papua).

These partnerships, both ecumenical and denominational, are expressed through: exchange of personnel and visits; Canadian financial support to theological education, evangelism and development of church infrastructure; relief and development; and advocacy on peace and justice issues relating to the region such as human rights, demilitarisation and decolonisation.

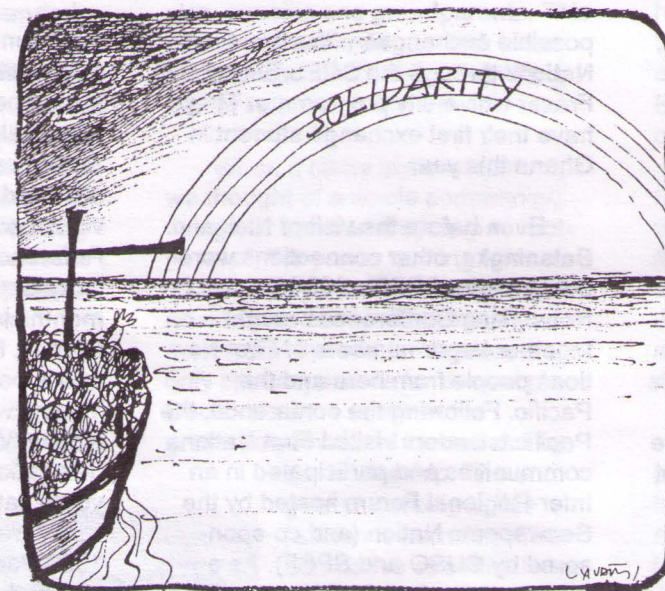
Because Canadian churches do not have a long history in the Pacific, they've been able to operate without too much "baggage" from the past. From the beginning, Canadian and Pacific churches agreed that developing local Pacific leadership was a high priority. Therefore, Canadian resources have gone (and continue to go) into building up staff and facilities of theological colleges rather than sending large numbers of

and Vanuatu). These centres provide training for school leavers who have no opportunity for further education, a major problem in Melanesia. PWRDF also supports the malaria eradication and AIDS education programmes of the Solomon Islands Development Trust.

Because the Canadian churches are committed to listening to their Pacific partners, relations are difficult when Pacific partners give different messages, for example on Bougainville. However, we listen to everyone and, with Pacific partners, try to discern the way forward. In the case of Bougainville, Canadian churches also relate directly with Bougainvillean refugees in the Solomons. We have done advocacy with the Canadian government on Bougainville and NFIP (Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific) issues.

Beyond the Pacific, UCC and ACC network with the Pacific Desk of the World Council of Churches in Geneva and the Pacific Joint Action Group of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. We also communicate with denominational partner churches and missionary societies in the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand who have relations with the Pacific. In Canada, we participate in the South Pacific Peoples Foundation. Both churches maintain Pacific Desks in their national offices in Toronto.

The Pacific churches have become important partners of the Anglican and United Churches of Canada. There has been much mutual support and encouragement. We look forward to these partnerships growing even stronger in the future.



Canadian missionaries. Where Canadian personnel are sent, usually for limited periods, their focus is usually on building up local leadership. UCC and ACC have provided staff for Pacific Theological College in Fiji and Bishop Patteson Theological College in the Solomons.

As the political, economic and social situation in the Pacific comes under more strain, the Canadian churches have come to see partnership also in terms of advocacy and support of social development. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) of ACC supports the diocesan training centres of the Church of Melanesia (Solomons

Christian Service in the Pacific

by Fr. Dermot Doran

Another Canadian church connection with the Pacific occurs through Volunteer International Christian Service (VICS). Fr. Doran is the director of VICS.

For 24 years, VICS has been sending technically skilled and professionally qualified Canadians to assist with development projects in the Pacific. Founded in 1971 under the auspices of the Spiritans, a Roman Catholic International Order, VICS is dedicated to assisting the peoples of developing nations in their struggle to conquer disease, illiteracy and social injustice. The main thrust of VICS is to help people develop themselves by benefiting from the fullest potential of their own human and natural resources, while at the same time enabling Canadians to participate in development by sharing their skills in a cross-cultural environment. More than 400 Canadians have served with VICS in 35 countries worldwide.

VICS volunteers went first to Papua New Guinea in 1971 in response to requests for medical personnel. The first VICS group began work in the Southern Highlands. Later, other members were assigned to the East Sepik and Sandaun Provinces. Since those early days, more than 50 Canadians

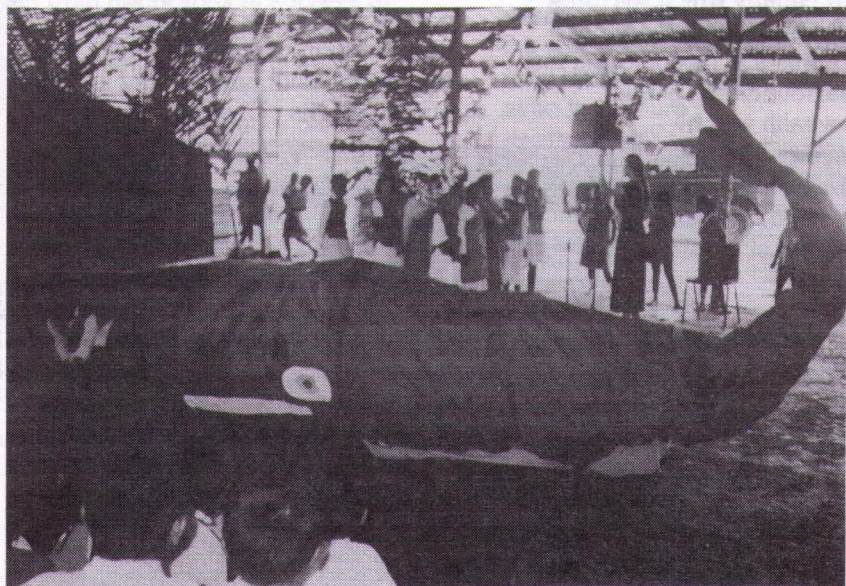


VICS volunteers, Christine and Charlie Fagan, with Nauruan friends

serving with VICS have assisted in medical, social and educational/training programmes in PNG. The average period of service is two years though this time is often extended.

During the 1980s, VICS began responding to requests from Western and American Samoa, Kiribati and Nauru. To date, about 20 Canadians have served in the Samoas. Since 1987, 20 VICS have been assigned to Kiribati and Nauru, with 8 VICS presently serving in formal education, health care and skills training.

On their return to Canada, VICS volunteers are encouraged to share their experiences through presentations to schools, local service groups and churches as a way of opening the eyes of fellow Canadians to the reality of development issues facing other cultures and nations.



photos courtesy Christine Fagan

Christine Fagan is seen here conducting the choir for the student production of "Jonah and the Whale".

Working for a Peaceful Pacific

by Patti Willis

Patti Willis staffs the PCDS Resource Office on Denman Island, BC, Canada.

The Pacific Campaign for Disarmament & Security (PCDS) is working to free the Asia-Pacific region and its peoples from the threat of military intervention and war. For almost 10 years, PCDS has functioned as a research, information and support network as part of a worldwide search for mutual security. It contributes to local, national and regional initiatives relating to these broad goals. Its regular publication, **Information Update**, is a digest of news pertinent to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the past year, PCDS work has focused on regional security from a people's perspective. Activities have included publication of a briefing paper - "Asia-Pacific Regional Security Gaining Momentum: Peace Movement Must Add Its Voice", the convening of a meeting in Thailand - "Bangkok Peace Seminar: People's Agenda for Asia-Pacific Security" (July 1994), and publication of "Asia-Pacific Regional Security: Status Report #1".

1995 marks the 50th anniversary of 1945 events that have had a lasting legacy for the Asia-Pacific region: the liberation of many Asia-Pacific countries from Japanese imperialism and the start of an era of decolonisation from European powers; the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the beginning of a nuclear era that has had severe consequences for the Pacific; the division of the Korean peninsula. PCDS has recently issued a "Call for Information and Action" to mark the "50th Anniversary of Historical Events in the Asia-Pacific - 1945". For information on the Call for Action or PCDS, contact:
PCDS Resource Office
3780 Lake Road
Denman Island, BC, V0R 1T0
Canada

ViVa Brings Canada and Vanuatu Closer Together

by Sandy Slobodian

Sandy Slobodian recently returned to Canada from the island of Tanna in Vanuatu. She was living there with her physician husband, Pat, and two children as participants in the Victoria Vanuatu (ViVa) Physician Project.

How many of us, when pondering global development and equitable sharing of resources, have wished there was a straightforward way to engage in the international exchange? Stories about aid-gone-bad have inspired many toward non-governmental, simple structures that go right to the "grass roots" and circumvent the financially demanding bureaucracy of aid agencies. A small group of Canadians have found what for us seems close to an ideal solution.

In 1990 Colleen Kasting of CUSO approached Pat Slobodian, a physician working in Victoria's James Bay Community Project, with the idea of developing an interchange between the community of James Bay and a South Pacific community. These discussions led to the formation of ViVa, the Victoria Vanuatu Physician Project. ViVa is a registered charity composed of physicians and their families who live and work in Greater Victoria. Ms. Kasting linked our small group with the island of Tanna in Vanuatu and we began a collaboration with CUSO which would last until 1993, when ViVa became an independent "international development project".

The physician's term of employment is six and a half months, with an overlap between successive families of at least two weeks. Seven families have gone to Tanna since 1991, some with as many as four children. All those who have gone to this very rural, isolated island have found it to be one of the highlights of their lives. The aging house and hospital, ailing vehicle, cyclones, earthquakes and ever-active volcano may challenge the average pampered Victorian, but the uncultivated, natural beauty of the land

and its people provides six months of enjoyable cultural immersion.

Once on Tanna you become one of less than a handful of foreigners (unless there is a tour boat anchored off shore, in which case the new tourist industry provides you and the islanders with lots of entertainment). The language of the market and streets is a lingua franca called bislama, developed during the last century much like in other Melanesian countries. The people of Tanna are Melanesian, subsistence farmers to a large extent and rich in their culture which reaches back into the timeless history of the South Pacific. Their knowledge of healing arts, village social order and their indigenous languages would be the envy of many aboriginal peoples of the world. During the six month placement, most people have been invited to learn about the "kastom" ways of Tanna through ceremonies for youth or other annual events. These times bring out the "grass skirts" (made in fact from an inner bark in a very time-consuming process), colourful cloths wrapping up painted bodies of men, women and children, and evenings of dancing and drumming that can leave you feeling like you are in a National Geographic photo.

Tanna and all of Vanuatu are, like the rest of the world, being thrust into a new century which will force change. Perhaps more than most places, Tanna is at risk of losing the substantial foundation of their society's wealth which is found in the people, their knowledge and vision of themselves. ViVa members, in the fashion of Hippocrates, hope to "first do no harm" while providing medical expertise and organizational skills to the community. Non-medical members of ViVa have

engaged in community life through projects such as sharing gardening skills, attending local schools, playing sports, cooperating in a local kindergarten, providing sewing workshops, working with national women's organizations and initiating community dialogue on social and health issues.

From initial engagement with ViVa through the Tanna placement and afterwards, we find ourselves involved in a supportive group which is based in Victoria, but always has Tanna on its mind. While preparing to leave, support is provided in the form of informal gatherings, medical information exchange, language introduction and story-telling. Once in Tanna, an extensive and regularly updated field manual complements the two week overlap of physicians and their families.

The ViVa project enables some Victoria citizens to experience total immersion in a unique society, encouraging a mutual exchange of knowledge, cultural wealth and life views. Indirectly this experience is shared with thousands of Victorians who follow the experiences of their family physicians via regular newsletters. The children have been involved in cross-cultural education through presentations in local schools and other community events.

Most fundamentally, we members of ViVa have experienced a deep confirmation of the reality that "the earth is but one country and all humankind its citizens".



ViVa members and Tanna community members celebrate the opening of a women's craft centre.

photo courtesy Sandy Slobodian

Studying and Training Together

Education Networks between Canada and the Pacific

by Alison Gardner

Alison Gardner is a freelance writer and national magazine editor who has served on the SPPF Board of Directors for nearly three years.

It is impossible to do justice to the rich tapestry of Canada-South Pacific education connections in an overview article. This article will present only a selection from the full menu, ranging from South Pacific high school students to PhD candidates, from community college technical education linkages to joint university research ventures. **Tok Blong Pasifik** readers can look forward to an ongoing spotlight on key players in the educational network. As future issues highlight more of the multi-level institutional and individual links, readers are invited to draw to SPPF's attention those of which we may be unaware.

Educational links between Canada and the island nations of the South Pacific have never been stronger and more varied than they are today. Over the past 10 years, a total of 22 Canadian universities have participated in 49 projects ranging from geographical surveys to higher education teacher training to nutrition and community health care. Projects with Canadian community colleges add even more diversity to our linkages, both in subject matter and South Pacific national participation. According to the International Division of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the educational initiatives among its members have been strongest in Fiji and various regions of Indonesia.

Commonwealth of Learning

While many educational liaisons have been negotiated directly with the country partners of the South Pacific and their parallel institutions in Canada, most often with the strong financial collaboration of the

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), other linkages have been fostered through international organizations such as the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) based in Vancouver. Created by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1987 to encourage the development and sharing of distance education resources throughout member nations, it is the only Commonwealth inter-governmental organization located outside Britain. In pursuing its four key goals of developing communications technologies, educational materials, training skills and information services, COL has established a good working relationship with many of Canada's educational institutions.

A Sampling of University Projects

In response to a 1987 U.N. study showing that Pacific Islanders display the world's most rapidly increasing rate of malnutrition due to consumption of western food, the University of the South Pacific (USP) is collaborating with Simon Fraser University in a broad-based initiative to combat this alarming problem. As USP is a regional and international institution serving 12 Pacific Island countries, it is expected that the impact of this eight year joint project will be widespread. The process of reversing what have become destructive food habits causing ill health and even premature death will require the development of suitable distance education programmes, written materials and custom designed computer modules, which are being developed and tested to meet the culture- and language-specific needs of each region.

Both institutions have also been involved in training 400 educators as community trainers; they return to their assigned territories to try to improve nutrition and living standards at the local level.

The University of Victoria is entering the final year of another successful joint venture with USP in Fiji. Enriched by the participation of several regional South Pacific institutions and government departments and by complementary centres of activity at UVic, this training programme is designed to improve the capability of USP staff and other scientists in the region to assess and control marine pollution. This has been done through training and upgrading qualifications of the teaching staff. Workshops in environmental impact assessment, professional development through short term attachment at UVic, co-operative education training for USP and UVic students and the development of a degree course in marine pollution are just some of the activities which have been established through the five year life of this project.

Community College Linkages

At the community college level, relationships have frequently been fostered not only with the South Pacific but also with fellow Canadian



photo courtesy Derek Ellis

A shipboard workshop at USP: Professor Ellis (UVic) instructs students on procedures for pollution assessment.

colleges, infusing each project with a strong blend of creative innovation and co-operation.

Since 1991, the Saskatchewan Institute for Applied Science and Technology (SIASST) and Ontario's Confederation College have been working with the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) -- blessedly known by their short and relatively pronounceable acronyms! -- to develop a capacity to deliver distance education to six schools throughout the Solomon Islands. A recent collaboration with COL is also ensuring that the objectives of this project will support and enhance any current efforts in the Solomons. On-going Canadian technical assistance and study for Solomon Islanders in this country have allowed for distance education planning, delivery system development and equipment procurement, materials design and production, and teacher training. Having completed learning packages in Math and English, researchers are currently working on materials for teacher training and health care practices. On the wish list for future development are distance education study packages in accounting/advanced bookkeeping and in the hospitality industry.

Fanshawe College in Ontario and Okanagan University College in British Columbia have joined forces with the Fiji National Training Council (FNTC) to target skills training and upgrading in specific areas for already employed workers in Fiji. As an outreach training organization established in 1973, FNTC has a significant track record of coordinating diverse workshops, seminars and courses with assistance from the U.K., Australia, Germany and Canada. Hundreds of courses involving thousands of participants are offered annually.

Fanshawe and Okanagan are offering technical expertise as part of this ongoing international support network to FNTC, including the organization of six week "train the trainer" sessions in which key teachers spend time in Canada learning specific methodology for analysis of training needs already designed

for education delivery in this country. The latest participant to spend six weeks at Fanshawe in February and March was electronics training officer, Mukesh Chand, visiting Canada to look at the College's Electronics Servicing Program in order to take back to Fiji ideas for modularization of training courses with a flexible, self-directed component.

South Pacific Students

Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific has had one of the longest on-going associations with the region and probably one of the least recognized. As the second oldest of the eight United World Colleges spread across the globe, it has welcomed over the past 20 years dozens of 16 to 19 year old students from Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Western Samoa to its west coast campus near Victoria, British Columbia. Attending the two year senior high school/first year university program on full scholarships financed by the Canadian business community, government and private donors, these students go on to post-secondary educational opportunities and leadership roles in their own countries which would have been impossible to achieve otherwise.

Individual students from the South Pacific attending other institutions throughout the country also lend richness to Canada's educational mosaic. According to the latest available Statistics Canada figures assembled on international student participation in Canadian education, in 1992 we hosted 61 South Pacific Islanders representing nine countries from the grade school level through to university studies and trade school training.

As an experienced native language teacher of 5 to 12 year olds, Viki Haoa has just returned to her home on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) after completing a six month leadership training programme for indigenous people in the Americas (Rapa Nui being a Chilean colony). Funded by CIDA and offered by the Centre for International Indigenous Studies & Development of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (an affiliate of the University of Regina), this programme hopes to encourage further participation from Rapa Nui.

Solomon Islander, Kabini Sanga, is no stranger to Canada, having acquired his Masters degree at the University of Regina before returning home to serve as head of the School of Education and Cultural Studies at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education. He has returned to this country with his Tongan wife, Jenny, and their two children for three years to do a PhD in Educational Administration at the University of Saskatchewan. While in Canada, Kabini is proving to be a capable resource person and knowledgeable ambassador for his country and the South Pacific region in general. He is also using the opportunity to explore alternatives for future educational links between Canada and the South Pacific, ensuring that the Canada-South Pacific connection will remain strong in future years.



1995 Pearson College students from the Philippines, Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu (missing from photo) cross paths with students from Canada's most northerly regions, the Northwest and Yukon territories.

Crossroads Builds Bridges

by Ilona Brake

Ilona Brake was a Canadian Crossroads International volunteer in Fiji in 1988. She has remained active with CCI's Pacific programme.

Many development organizations build wells or schools or health clinics. Canadian Crossroads International (CCI) is devoted to building bridges, people bridges linking Canadians to other people in countries around the globe.

Louise Valin, a Quebec City artist and music teacher, taught music to Fijian students. Brendan Dickson, a Dalhousie University student hoping to become a doctor, taught health and science at a secondary school in Fiji. Ontario environmentalist, Michele Tyson, worked with Fiji's Ministry of Tourism to develop nature conservation areas. In Western Samoa, Christine Arab of Nova Scotia promoted environmental education. In Canada, Fijian educator Meli Tauvoli explored Canadian and First Nations approaches to education.

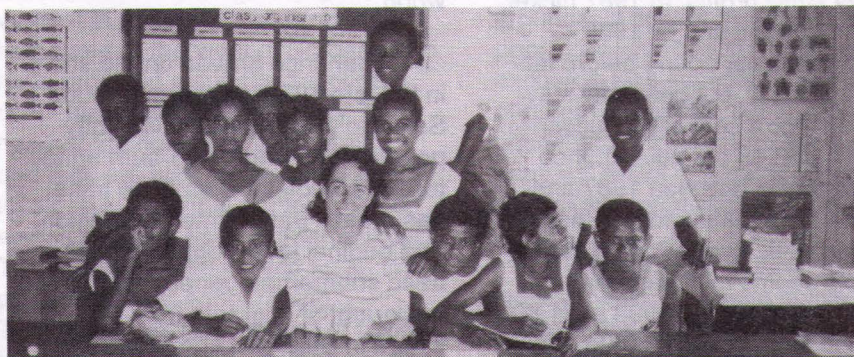
CCI is a non-profit NGO with a focus on cross-cultural understanding and development education. A key element in CCI's philosophy is that we must take the time to gain some understanding of other peoples, their cultures and values, before attempting to offer any sort of "assistance". With that mandate, CCI sends Canadian volunteers to developing countries to learn through cultural immersion. In turn, participants from those countries come to Canada. This exchange provides a wonderful experience for

the participants and affords others in the host countries the opportunity to learn from exposure to these visitors.

CCI has been in Fiji for many years and recently developed a programme with Western Samoa. Each year 5-10 Canadians and 1-2 Fijians spend 4-6 months working in schools, government offices and community organizations. Everyone benefits: the host agencies receive keen volunteers who often have useful skills; everyone has a chance to learn about how others understand the world. During their stays, volunteers live with host families and are encouraged to experience and learn as much as possible about the host culture.

Pre-journey preparation involves development education, country orientation and, inevitably, fundraising. Following the return, each participant volunteers a minimum of 200 hours to further the goals of CCI. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers extend their commitment and remain active for many years, making it possible to operate the programmes with minimal paid staff.

We are always interested in expanding our Crossroads family. Many opportunities exist for those interested in volunteering with Crossroads in Canada and overseas - hosting volunteers in your home or workplace or even becoming an overseas volunteer yourself. **For more information, please contact: CCI, 31 Madison Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5R 2S2 (TEL: 416-967-0801).**



Canadian Crossroaders, Ilona Brake with Grade 7 class at Ratu Nalvalu Memorial School in the Yasawa Islands, Fiji

International Needs Supports Headstart Training

by Akesa Ratu and Alfred Powell,
International Needs Fiji

International Needs Fiji is committed to development of the rural and underprivileged people of Fiji. It was established in 1987 with the help of International Needs Canada. Staff are recruited from within the community, reducing reliance on outside expertise.

In 1990 International Needs Fiji began a Headstart Training Project for pre-school children in response to a request from village women, chiefs and the government to establish a programme in the villages. International Needs has helped establish 7 pre-schools. Funding for this project came through International Needs Canada and International Needs New Zealand.

The headstart training enables children to gain basic learning skills to equip them for primary school. The project provides training of parents, particularly women, in the importance of teaching pre-school children basic learning skills and reinforcing the importance of learning. Women are also taught the importance of maintaining a healthy diet for the children.

The pre-schools are taught by trained teachers. During the year there are training programmes for teachers and mothers covering topics such as child development, food and nutrition, child care and curriculum development. The programmes also feature discussion of community problems and ways to minimize these situations. Several mothers have been trained in pre-school education and assist during school hours.

As the children move on to primary schools, one can see the better results when compared to children with no pre-school programme. More mothers are packing a nutritious snack for their children to take to school. Mothers are encouraged to plant vegetable gardens around their homes and have created new recipes for local foods. The Headstart Project has been a great tool of development and a source of blessing for underprivileged people in Fiji. **Contact: c/o DHL International (Fiji) Ltd, 10 Holland St, Toorak, Suva, Fiji.**

Canadian Mining Interests in the South Pacific

by Michael C. Howard

*Michael Howard teaches anthropology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. For more information on mining in the South Pacific, see M.C. Howard, **Mining, Politics, and Development in the South Pacific**. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991.*

While Canada's mining industry has historically focused its attention on Canada and the United States, a few companies have relatively long histories of operating elsewhere in the world. Two important mining companies with significant foreign operations are Inco and Placer Dome. Both are major players in the islands of the South Pacific, primarily nickel mining on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi on the part of Inco and gold mining in Papua New Guinea on the part of Placer Dome.

Inco in Indonesia

Inco is the world's biggest nickel producer and one of the lowest cost producers. The bulk of its production (a total of 370 million tons in 1993) comes from mines in Ontario and Manitoba. Most of the rest comes from Indonesia, where Inco owns 58% of PT Inco, mining and processing nickel at Soroako on the island of Sulawesi.

Volatility in the international nickel market has been reflected in the history of PT Inco. Buoyed by healthy nickel prices in the late 1960s, Inco sought to expand operations in Canada and internationally. Lured by the proximity of the important Japanese market, Inco signed an agreement in 1968 with the Indonesian government to explore for nickel on Sulawesi and established PT Inco. This agreement was the first of what are known as "second generation" work contracts that the

Indonesian government signed between 1968 and 1972. These contracts eliminated tax holidays that had been offered previously, imposed various royalty levels and made provision for incremental acquisition of up to 20% interest in the company by the Indonesian public.

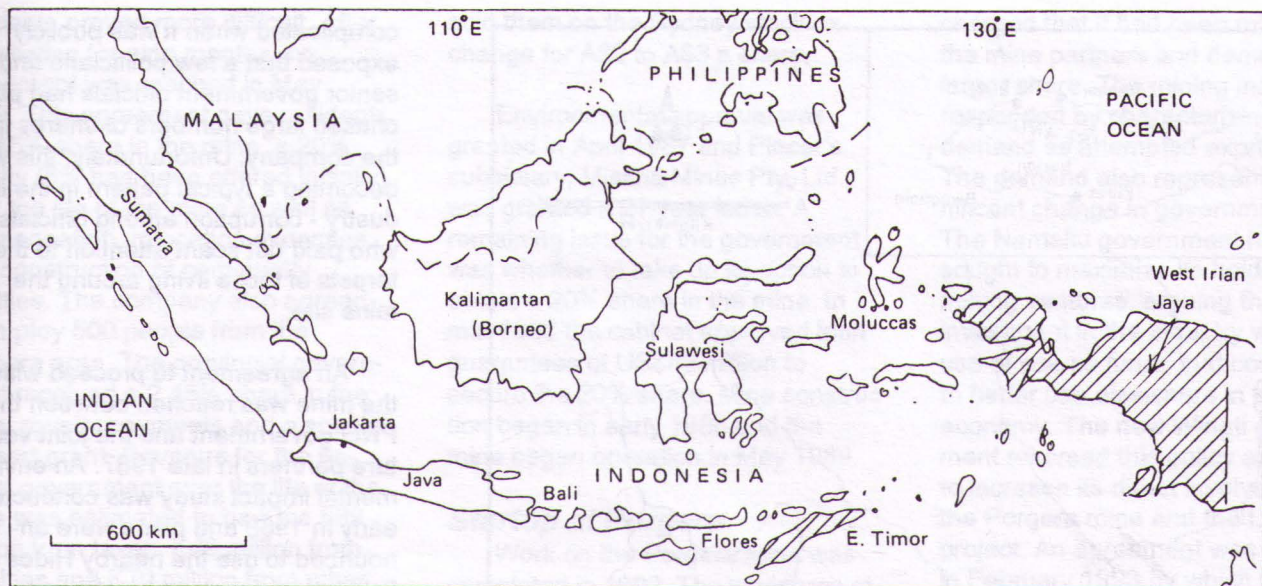
Exploration began in 1969 and production in 1977. During this period Inco invested around US\$850 million in the operation. Included was construction of the world's largest smelting plant, port facilities at Balantang, Malili, and a great deal of infrastructure to support mining in this relatively isolated area. There were technical problems at the outset with the smelting plant, but of more serious concern was a drop in the price of nickel to substantially below anticipated levels. Inco was in financial trouble and was forced to close its mine in Guatemala and scale back activities in Canada and Indonesia. After four years of reporting losses, PT Inco sought to reduce its debts in 1982 by selling a 20% stake to the Indonesian government and the Bank of Japan. The Indonesian government had its own problems and was not interested. As a result, PT Inco temporarily suspended operations.

Nickel prices remained low (around US\$1 per pound) until 1987 and Inco continued to make losses or relatively small profits. In 1987 nickel prices rebounded and by 1989 reached US\$8 per pound before falling quite sharply, but generally staying above Inco's cost of production (around US\$2.45 per pound). Inco recorded profits between 1987 and 1991 and the situation for PT Inco improved as well. The bottom of the current cycle seems to have been reached in September 1993 at \$1.80 per pound. By the end of 1994, the price had recovered to over \$3 per pound, largely because of demand

from stainless steel manufacturers and stagnant levels of exports from Russia. Improving nickel prices and a feeling within the industry that higher levels would be sustained over the next few years led Inco to announce substantial expansion plans for its operations in Canada and Indonesia to result in a 20% production increase by the year 2000. PT Inco's nickel production increased from 80 million pounds in 1992 to a record 100 million pounds in 1994. In late 1994, PT Inco announced a US\$500 million six-year expansion plan. This included construction of a fourth smelting line and increased hydroelectric generation capacity from the nearby Larona River. These additions are anticipated to increase production to about 150 million pounds by 1998.

Mining, of course, is not simply a matter of corporate profits or losses. In the case of PT Inco, there are also important questions about its contribution to Indonesian development, its social and economic impact on the people of Sulawesi and its impact on the environment. The company has been criticized for exploiting cheap Third World labour, disrupting the lives of people living around the mining area and for harming the tropical environment (see, *Down to Earth*, No. 24, August 1994, pp. 16-17). Yet the company views itself as a model for mining in the developing world.

When Inco arrived on the scene in the late 1960s, the area around Soroako was isolated and lightly populated by slash-and-burn agriculturists. Needless to say, the mine has greatly transformed the region. The original local population has been submerged beneath an onslaught of migrants from elsewhere in Sulawesi and from Java and this has resulted in social problems. However, many local



people have benefited from increased earnings from the mine and from a vastly improved communications infrastructure (such as a good highway to Malili, two airstrips and relatively extensive telecommunications facilities), schools, health care facilities, electrification and improved water supplies.

In regard to labour policies, while PT Inco's practices may not be equal to those of mining companies in some developed countries, it has an extremely good record in Indonesia. Especially noteworthy are its efforts to promote localization, where it has done far better than any other foreign mining company in the country. From the outset the company sought to instill in expatriate workers the need to transfer their skills to Indonesians and actively promoted Indonesians to a wide variety of positions throughout the company. Among those who have benefited from such policies have been the Torajans. Torajans have a relatively long history of involvement in mining in and around their homeland to the west of Soroako and have provided a substantial portion of PT Inco's workforce. Today, the head of the company is a Torajan and they are well represented at all levels. A substantial portion of their wages are sent back to their families. The company also served as an important catalyst encouraging Torajans to take advantage of opportunities in mining, oil and natural gas

industries throughout Indonesia and to pursue higher levels of education.

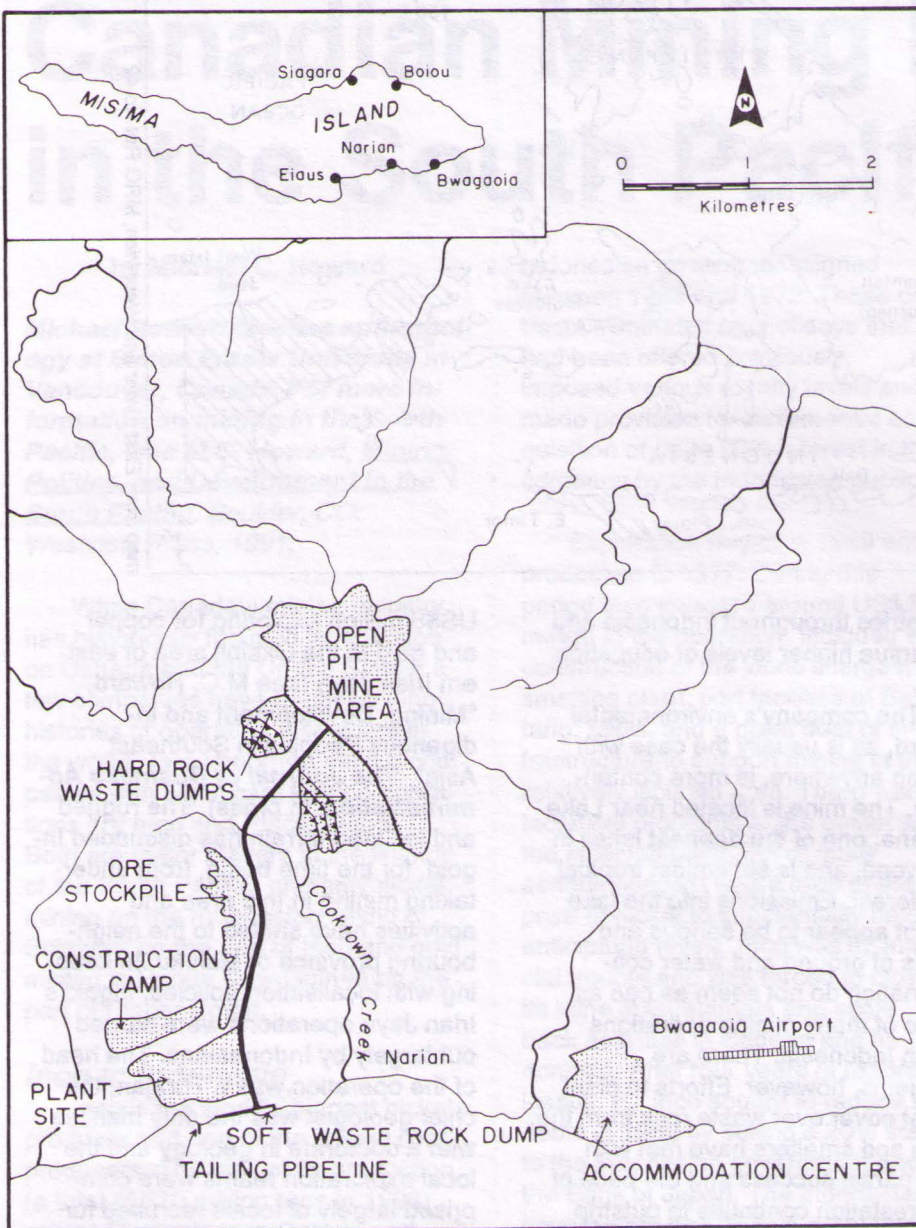
The company's environmental record, as is usually the case with mining anywhere, is more contentious. The mine is located near Lake Matana, one of the deepest lakes in the world, and is set amidst tropical rain forest. Emissions into the lake do not appear to be serious and levels of ground and water contamination do not seem as bad as those of many mining operations within Indonesia. There are problems, however. Efforts to plant forest cover over waste rock from the mine and smelters have met with only partial success and the pace of deforestation continues to outstrip reforestation to a considerable extent. The company has spent relatively little on emission controls for its smelters and dust from the smelters exceeds the levels allowed by the Indonesian government. Initially, the lack of emission controls could perhaps be defended on economic grounds, in light of the company's poor economic health, but such an excuse is less acceptable in the face of recent expansion plans. Hopefully, economic improvements for the company will result in greater efforts to control environmental problems.

PT Inco, primarily through its subsidiary Ingold, has been active over the past few years in exploration elsewhere in eastern Indonesia. Between 1989 and 1993, Ingold spent roughly

US\$8 million exploring for copper and gold in the Oksibil area of eastern Irian Jaya (see M.C. Howard, "Mining, Development and Indigenous Peoples in Southeast Asia", *The Journal of Business Administration*, in press). The rugged and isolated terrain has dissuaded Ingold, for the time being, from undertaking mining in this area and activities have shifted to the neighbouring province of Maluku. In keeping with localisation policies, Ingold's Irian Jaya operations were carried out largely by Indonesians. The head of the operation was a Torajan, the chief geologist was the only Irianese with a doctorate in geology and the local exploration teams were comprised largely of locals recruited for their knowledge of the terrain.

Placer in Papua New Guinea

During the late 1920s and 1930s, Placer Development Ltd. of Vancouver played a major role in developing the Bulolo gold field in New Guinea (later Papua New). The Japanese invasion in the 1940s halted mining and significant mining operations did not commence again until 1972, when the largely Australian-owned Panguna copper mine on Bougainville began production. Canadian mining interests once again became important in PNG in the 1980s when Placer Pacific, 75% owned by Placer Dome of Vancouver, joined in the country's gold rush. By the late 1980s, Placer was



from *Environmental Case Studies* #5, 1989, SPREP, SPC and UNEP

MISIMA GOLD MINING PROJECT

associated with two important sites: Porgera and Misima.

The Porgera mine is located on a high, isolated mountain in PNG's Enga province. Plans to exploit the site were announced in the mid-1980s by a joint venture between Placer Pacific, Mount Isa Mines, and Renison Goldfields. Initial tests indicated that this was likely to be a very large gold mine - one of the world's largest - and the PNG government announced that it would take a 10% stake in the operation. The other partners each had 30% and Placer was to assume managerial responsibilities.

The area around the mine was occupied by about 12,000 people belonging to seven tribes. In 1987 some of the local residents formed the Porgera Land Owners' Association to lobby the central government for compensation payments and infrastructure improvements. A problem throughout the mining industry at this time was that government officials involved in negotiations tended to be more concerned with national issues (especially potential national revenue) than local ones. Mining companies tended to view local concerns as the responsibility of the national government. Negotiations over financing the mine were further

complicated when it was publicly exposed that a few politicians and senior government officials had purchased large numbers of shares in the company. Unfortunately, this was becoming a typical pattern in the industry - corruption among officials who paid but scant attention to the interests of those living around the mine site.

An agreement to proceed with the mine was reached between the PNG government and the joint venture partners in late 1987. An environmental impact study was conducted early in 1988 and plans were announced to use the nearby Hides gas field being developed by British Petroleum as a source of power. Final approval of the mine was delayed, however, when a disagreement arose with the minister of the environment over plans for tailings disposal and by a change in government, with Rabbie Namaliu replacing Paias Wingti as prime minister. The environmental issue centred on a demand by the minister that a tailings dam be constructed. The company responded that the land was too newly formed and that an alternative form of disposal was needed to avoid a potential disaster.

The Namaliu government initiated an innovative approach to negotiating mining claims known as the "Development Forum". Under this approach all parties - landowners, developers, provincial government and national government representatives - met to discuss issues jointly and to come up with an agreement satisfactory to all. Porgera was to be the first mining agreement to be negotiated under this structure. One of the most contentious issues at the outset was the government's demand that a tailings dam be built. Pointing to the considerable expense of such a dam and its inappropriateness for the site, the project manager warned that, if the government did not change its mind, the project might not go ahead. The minister gave his permission to proceed with the mine.

Negotiating a settlement with the provincial government and mine site

residents proved more difficult. After negotiating for nine months, an agreement was reached in May 1989. This agreement gave residents a 2.45% share in the mine, a 20% royalty (5% had been offered initially) over the life of the mine as well as compensation, relocation expenses and construction of community facilities. The company also agreed to employ 500 people from the Porgera area. The provincial government received a 2.45% share in the mine, royalty payments and a special support grant. Revenue for the national government over the life of the mine was estimated to be Kina 589 million from taxes, K49 million from royalties and K70 million from other taxes. Clearly, this represented substantial money for all parties involved. Moreover, subsequent test drilling that increased reserve estimates and extended the life of the mine meant that national, provincial and local interests stood to receive even more money. Such compensation expenses along with adjustments in the design of the mine and inflation raised the estimated cost of developing the mine by January 1990 to K800 million. However, the mine now looked as if it would be the largest goldmine in the world outside of South Africa.

Misima Island Mine

Placer Pacific's other mining interest is on Misima Island. The island had about 9,000 inhabitants and was the site of some mining prior to World War II. Exploration of the site was carried out by a joint venture between Placer Pacific and Con Zinc Rio Tinto of Australia [CRA] (each with a 50% share). Formulating plans by early 1987, Placer estimated that the mine would have a life of 10 years and produce 400,000 ounces of gold. CRA having dropped out, Placer assumed an 80% share in the undertaking and made 12 million shares available to Papua New Guineans at A\$1 a share. A scandal emerged when it was revealed that prominent politicians and government officials (including Julius Chan and Michael Somare) had purchased the shares in violation of the country's leadership code and then

sold them on the Sydney stock exchange for A\$2 to A\$3 a share.

Environmental approval was granted in April 1987 and Placer's subsidiary, Misima Mines Pty. Ltd., was granted a 21 year lease. A remaining issue for the government was whether to take up its option to obtain a 20% share in the mine. In mid-1988 the cabinet approved loan guarantees of US\$42 million to secure the 20% share. Mine construction began in early 1988 and the mine began operation in May 1989.

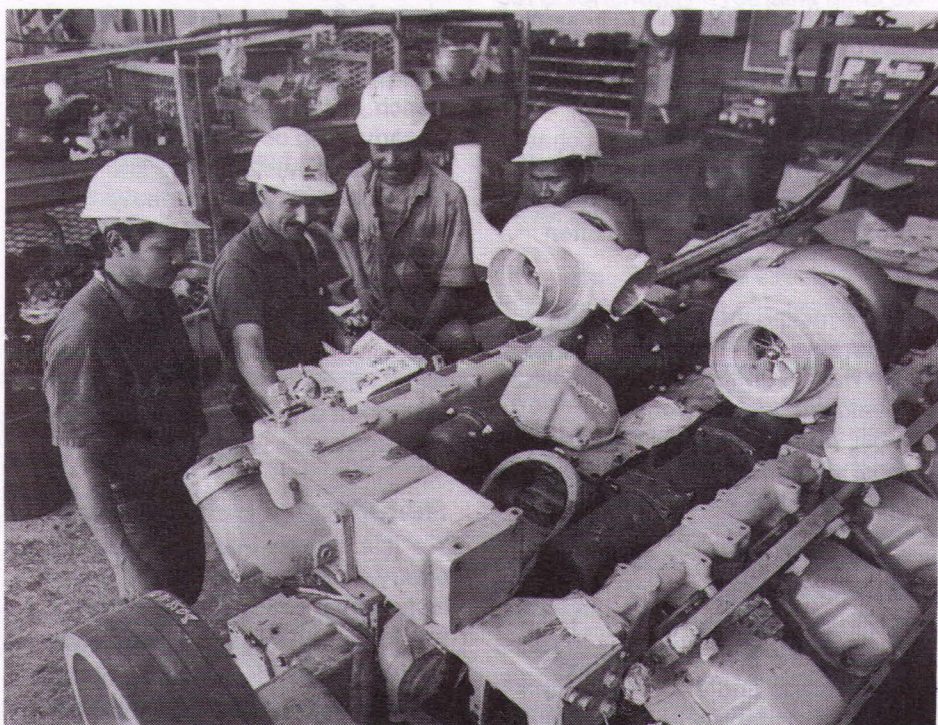
Startup at Porgera

Work on the Porgera mine was completed in 1992. The workforce at the site during initial construction was 2,300, with 1,600 workers either from Porgera itself or Enga province. Work also began on various non-mine infrastructure projects including housing designs with local residents input.

Annual production of the mine since 1993 has been over 1 million troy ounces of gold at around US\$200 per ounce. As the size and profitability of the mine became apparent, the PNG government

charged that it had been misled by the mine partners and demanded a larger share. The mining industry responded by characterizing the demand as attempted expropriation. The demand also represented a significant change in government policy. The Namaliu government had not sought to maximize its holdings in mining ventures, arguing that direct investment in the industry was a poor use of scarce funds that could be put to better use elsewhere in the economy. The new Wingti government reversed this policy and sought to increase its direct involvement in the Porgera mine and the Lihir project. An agreement was reached in February 1993 by which the government would increase its share in the Porgera mine. In return, the government dropped charges that it had been misled. In addition, the partners agreed to spend an additional K5 million a year over a 10 year period on infrastructure development in Enga province (the government allowing the amount to be tax deductible).

The equity issue and economic policies of the Wingti government were not well received by the mining



Misima Mines Limited apprentices in the training area of the maintenance workshop go over the intricacies of a diesel engine with the Placer Pacific Leading Hand.

photo courtesy Placer Dome Inc.

industry nor by many others in the international financial community. These concerns were only part of an emerging economic crisis for PNG. When Julius Chan assumed the prime ministership in mid-1994, his government inherited a serious financial situation that was the culmination of years of mismanagement, corruption and waste. Sibar Kumar Das of the United Nations Development Programme office in PNG is quoted as saying: "If you look at human development in terms of how healthy, how educated the people of PNG are, then you'll find that progress has been negligible" (Rowan Callick, "Papua New Guinea Gets a Dose of Reality," *Islands Business*, Sept 1994, p. 40).

In the face of such problems and political and social instability, investment in mining and other sectors had fallen off considerably prior to Chan's election. Since then the government has been able to restore a degree of confidence within the mining industry. Exploration has increased, stalled negotiations have progressed and, in late 1994, plans were announced to invest a further K90 million to expand production and increase the life of the Porgera mine.

Placer Moves into Fiji

Since the 1930s Fiji's mining industry has been dominated by the Tavua goldfield in western Viti Levu mined by Emperor Gold Mining. Emperor's operation has been characterized by a close relationship between its management and a handful of prominent Fijians that has often generated criticism.

Fiji's mining industry received considerable attention in 1993 when Placer Pacific announced its interest in developing a copper mine at Namosi, near Suva. While the Namosi site remains only marginally viable, with a great deal of low grade ore, current interest has been justified on the basis of relatively good copper prices (and the likelihood that they will remain good for some time to come), the site's relative accessibility to roads and the coast, and the degree of stability in Fiji's treatment of the mining industry. If developed, the mine would operate

for at least 30 years, and its economic impact on Fiji would be considerable. During the life of the mine, it would generate export earnings almost equal to total current levels and toward the end of operation probably in excess of current levels. Government revenues would be substantial and additional millions would be spent on labour and services. Employment during construction would be 2,500-3,000 and the mine would then employ around 1,500 people. Given Fiji's current economic woes and unemployment problem, this is all very attractive - especially since much of the revenue would go to the cash-strapped central government and the bulk of jobs to native Fijians, among whom unemployment is a serious concern for the current government.

Concerns have been expressed by some about the potential economic and environmental impact of the mine. More widespread have been worries over the potential environmental impact of such a large open-pit mine and especially of plans to discharge waste from the mine into the sea. To minimize the impact of the mine, Placer has agreed not to develop mining infrastructure in the valley occupied by local residents and their gardens and to ship ore slurry to the coast where a mineral separation plant will be built and tailings pumped into a deep off-shore trench. This system of disposal has already been used successfully by Placer at its Misima mine and scientists working with Placer have publicised studies indicating the relative safety of the disposal plans. Despite such assurances, concern has continued to be expressed by local environmentalists about protecting the coastal and underwater environment where the separation plant and slurry pipe will be built.

Records are Better than Most

It is unlikely that the mining industry would ever be able to satisfy its harshest critics who, in effect, would probably like to see an end to mining altogether. Nevertheless, the whole industry's record in promoting economic development and sound environmental policies is not

especially good by almost any standards. It is easy to find past examples of financial chicanery, terrible labour practices and rampant environmental destruction by mining interests. That said, Inco's and Placer Pacific's records in Indonesia, PNG and Fiji have been better than those of other foreign and national firms. Moreover, they appear to have paid greater attention to their critics and to have tried harder to respond to them than have many other firms. Thus, Placer's record in PNG lends support to its claim that the proposed Namosi mine will not be another Bougainville where some local residents staged a rebellion and forced the mine to close or Ok Tedi whose operations have heavily polluted rivers.

This is not to say that all is fine with these companies. Those working for Inco in Indonesia appear to be much more sensitive to the need to pay attention to the impact of their operations on local populations than those who are based in Canada. Placer Pacific could do more to promote training and localisation in PNG. Knowledge of local concerns is often still inadequate. Such things, however, are not entirely the fault of the mining companies. More of the blame for these shortcomings should probably be laid on national governments that have been more concerned with extracting revenue from distant mines than with creating an infrastructure that is sensitive to the needs of people in mining areas. In fact, large mining companies such as Inco and Placer usually have been the ones to take the initiative in this regard rather than national governments.

There is a pressing need for thoughtful critical analysis of the activities and proposals of such companies in order to ensure that the potential economic and social benefits of mining for local populations are maximized and potential negative social and environmental impacts minimized. Fortunately, both companies have demonstrated a willingness to engage in a dialogue, and to learn from the experiences of others and from past mistakes.

Canadian Tourism in the South Pacific

A Business Perspective

ANZA Travel's president, Colin Green, recently shared with SPPF Board member, Alison Gardner, some of his views and experiences of the South Pacific tourism market. Established in 1978 by a friendship club to serve Canada-based members interested in traveling to Australia and New Zealand, ANZA Travel has become Canada's largest retail agency specializing in travel to Australia, New Zealand and the island nations of the South Pacific. Over the years, ANZA has expanded from a small office in Vancouver to six retail agencies and one wholesale company in Canada and an American office in Seattle, Washington.

AG: How do Canadians view the South Pacific as a travel destination?

CG: Because of the great distance, even from the west coast of Canada, and the expense of getting there, Canadian tourists do think long and hard before taking a trip in that direction. Many still go to visit friends and relatives or to do business in some form. Few of our clients look at South Pacific island nations as a destination in themselves; it is most common to book people to Australia or New Zealand with an en route stopover in Fiji or the Cook Islands, which the international airlines have traditionally serviced as part of their long-haul routes. Under 3% of Canadian international travellers head to the South Pacific region as a whole, with most booking for Australia or Australia/New Zealand and a small percentage booking for New Zealand only. Realistically, most Canadians who are looking only for a palm tree and beach vacation will stop short at Hawaii, just as most New Zealanders and Australians check into Fiji, the Cook Islands or a handful of other South Pacific islands for the same experience relatively close to home.

AG: What factors influence Canadian travellers to make a stopover in the islands?

CG: Unfortunately, it is not cost effective for most travel agencies or government tourist bureaus to widely promote such small markets or even to develop tours around such geographically spread out areas. The decision to stop over is largely influenced by airline routings and pricing, as with the Cook Islands which experienced a short term tourist boom when Air New Zealand focused attention on the area. With some airlines dropping intermediate stopping points altogether or offering alternative stopovers in such Southeast Asia locations as Hong Kong and Singapore, it does not appear that they intend to promote island tourism in any significant way for the foreseeable future. There is some cruise ship activity, but it is very limited and spread out over a huge area. With only a few hours in a port, it does not provide much opportunity to experience a country or learn about its special features.

I would forecast an emphasis on theme tours developed under the sponsorship of educational institutions or specialized organizations.

AG: What would you see as the best way to share this physically beautiful and culturally rich region with Canadians?

CG: With a good deal of discretionary time and money as well as more emphasis on an active lifestyle in later years, mature Canadians are the most significant travellers today. Since they enjoy learning as they



travel, I would forecast an emphasis on theme tours developed under the sponsorship of educational institutions or specialized organizations. A very successful trip last year, likely to be repeated in 1995, was mounted by the Art Gallery of Ontario to look at traditional and modern art in Australia and New Zealand. For March 1995, the Open Learning Agency of British Columbia is sponsoring a 26 day travel package to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji which will include some focus on traditional cultures in those countries. There are also scuba diving opportunities and sailboat cruising packages which attract visitors to islands away from the main airline routes, but unfortunately it remains quite expensive to get auxiliary flights to and within these countries because of the vast distances.

AG: What future role is ANZA likely to play in introducing South Pacific travel opportunities to Canadians?

CG: Since it is a very expensive task to promote travel to any area of the world, I do not see ANZA trying to generate a greater demand for individual travel in the South Pacific. When people or institutions make the decision to visit a region, it is ANZA's role to be sufficiently well informed with current information and personal experience among its staff to help them realize their goals. We maintain a staff familiarization program both in Canada and with locational travel. It is possible to organize personal and group tours if the demand is there, or work in partnership with an institution on a specialized theme.

Sailing the South Pacific

by Tony Gibb

Many Canadians have experienced the South Pacific during lengthy sailing tours. Two such Canadians were SPPF Board member, Tony Gibb, and his wife, Connie McCann.

Sailing vessels date back thousands of years. They were developed as a means to explore, trade, escape repression and/or escape increasing land pressures due to population growth. Several thousand years ago in the Pacific, the traditional proa or catamaran spurred on the earliest migrations of people eastwards through the archipelagos of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

In the 16th century the first European, Fernando Magellan, sailed into the Pacific in what is recognized as a crude craft compared to the sleek, efficient sailing crafts of the indigenous populations inhabiting the Pacific at that time. After Magellan, the list of European explorers expanded to include such notables as Abel Tasman, Antoine De Bougainville and James Cook, all of whose names live on through familiar place names. These early

Europeans arrived in search of new lands to settle and resources to further enrich the nations of Europe. They came as conquerors ignoring the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous populations.

Today's sailors come in response to visions of peaceful island life, perpetual sunshine and in search of the reliable winds to spur their craft over the waters of the world. The mystique of the South Pacific pervades modern literature, music and art. Few of us in Canada can resist the images of warm weather and walks under the southern night sky, listening to the pounding of the surf while our boats lie safely at anchor in the lagoon.

For those departing Canada by sail, the voyage is a long and sometimes treacherous undertaking that begins with one of two landfalls in mind, the southern United States or across the 2,000 miles to Hawaii. The trade wind journey usually begins in March with an armada of vessels descending on the Marquesas from the Panama Canal, Mexico and Hawaii. In the late 1980's there were over 800 boats arriving annually in eastern French Polynesia. It is here that boats must

comply with regulations the French have imposed on the present day tourist trade. Suddenly the allure of the Pacific takes on a different meaning as one arranges the security deposit (a guarantee of one's departure) that the French bureaucracy demands. No longer is one the free roving spirit of the open ocean, but rather another number in the endless parade of tourists.

There is a difference though between the average tourist to these islands and the wind blown iconoclasts. Foremost, the craft that brings them across thousands of ocean miles is self-sufficient. Their only need is the most basic, food. Some sailing vessels carry enough food to last many months, but the average boat must replenish at several landfalls. There are a few major provisioning points along what is known as the "milk-run" - the trade wind route from Panama to French Polynesia, on through to Fiji, and then an escape to New Zealand or Australia in mid-November for the cyclone season. These provisioning points - Papeete, Pago Pago and Suva - are focal points for yachts to congregate. Here, provisions in large quantities can be purchased and repairs to equipment can be made. Communications are also facilitated by the infrastructures offered in these large centres - post offices, fax machines and international airports where crews and/or equipment can be exchanged. Being relatively self sufficient, the sailors add little to local economies except for the purchase of a souvenir, an occasional meal at a local restaurant, or dollars spent in repair work on their vessels. This is little compared to the tourist who has arrived for a 10-20 day vacation, ready to relax and spend money knowing they will be returning shortly to their homes, jobs and bi-weekly paycheques.

Away from these large centres is where the most noticeable effect from the yachting community is felt. Being independent of local



photo by Tony Gibb

In Vavu'a, Tonga, residents row out to cruise by visiting yachties.

transportation, the sailing vessel has the opportunity to visit more inaccessible areas rarely, sometimes never, visited by land based tourists. These areas are the meccas to which many wind blown tourists are attracted. Being the only visitors to these villages brings the sailors an intimate experience which cannot be had in larger tourist areas. Personal contact with local people is what sailors seek after enduring their 35 X 10 foot living spaces while travelling across large tracts of open ocean. These remote areas, often sparsely populated, offer the wind blown tourist an opportunity to experience the Pacific and its peoples in ways that other tourists miss - working alongside people in the construction of some local project, using one's health skills to assist in solving minor health problems, assisting in the classroom by offering a cross-cultural experience for school children, and a myriad of other activities that take place in the day to day lives of the villagers. For the local population, there is interaction with a different culture and an opportunity to trade for items that one would rarely see in the villages.

It is a rare sailboat that enters these waters without having enquired of other sailors as to what trading items are the most valuable. The size of these boats restricts their ability as trading vessels. Nevertheless there are advantages to both parties in trading. The goods range over a wide spectrum from bedsheets to surgical elastics used in spear guns. Other items usually asked for by village people are educational materials such as dictionaries and writing materials. Some enterprising individuals have traded with sailing vessels for items such as transistor radios, solar panels and gas generators. It's not that the wind blown tourist is looking for economic advantage; the desire to bring something useful for the local population is usually the motivation. In exchange for goods provided by sailors, the islanders usually offer fresh fruit and vegetables (rare on a boat that has been at sea for long periods of time), local handicrafts or simply the offer to



photo by Tony Gibb

A message for tourists on the island of Ouvea in Kanaky/New Caledonia:
Tourist pollution - AIDS get out of here.

share the experience of living in a small remote community.

Guided by the winds, seasonal changes and personal timetables, the sailor has time to absorb some of the complex socio-political issues of the island nations. Experiencing confrontations between the Kanaks and French paramilitary troops, seeing the effects of more housing for tourists than for locals in large tourist centres such as Bora Bora, and encountering open resentment to colonialism in Pago Pago and Papeete are a few of the experiences that I had as a sailor in the region. The idealised view of the Pacific is brought into perspective and one returns home with a greater appreciation of the complex nature of life in the islands, something the average Canadian is not exposed to in the mainstream media.

For most, the return to Canada is a sad one after taking the time and effort needed to travel in small craft to distant locations. One brings back memories of warm weather, sand and surf, but best of all are the memories of contact with the local people and their land. These memories keep us warm during the cold winter months and spur us on to continue our attempts to one day return.

A Change of Plans

What do you get when a South Pacific sailing trip meets a cyclone? If you ask Lucine Farley, the answer is a nine year stopover in Vanuatu (and counting). When Lucine and her partner, Colin Pearson, set sail for the South Pacific from Denman Island on Canada's West Coast, they had every intention of returning after a three year adventure. But plans change (as plans will) and, ten years later, they still find themselves in Port Vila.

Colin and Lucine built their boat, "Megaptera", themselves, a nine year process. The first stage of their journey, from Denman Island to Victoria, was an easy one. It was 40 days from Victoria to the Marquesas in Polynesia, by which time Lucine was beginning to lose faith in Colin's navigation skills. But the Marquesas were there, right where Colin said they would be, and the next few months were spent cruising in the area. A year in Auckland followed, during which Colin worked on boat construction and as an engineer on a fishing boat (catching orange roughie, a fish with a skin that can rot

(cont'd on back cover)

Indonesian Pot Continues to Boil

by Malia Southard

Malia Southard is a researcher and writer with an interest in Canada's relationship with Indonesia.

Once again the East Timorese, whose resistance should have been wiped out years ago, have called the Indonesian government's hand. In November, while President Suharto was proudly hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting of 18 Pacific Rim states, East Timorese students broke through Indonesian military surveillance and scaled the walls of the US embassy in Jakarta. Camped on embassy grounds, they petitioned US President Bill Clinton to press for release of their imprisoned leader, Xanana Gusmao, and to support a referendum on the political future of their country. In Dili and other East Timorese towns, people with banners calling for freedom took to the streets and Indonesian police bludgeoned their way into demonstrations commemorating the third anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre. At the University of East Timor, some 600 students, publicly denouncing the continued military occupation of their homeland, had a stone-throwing battle with riot police.

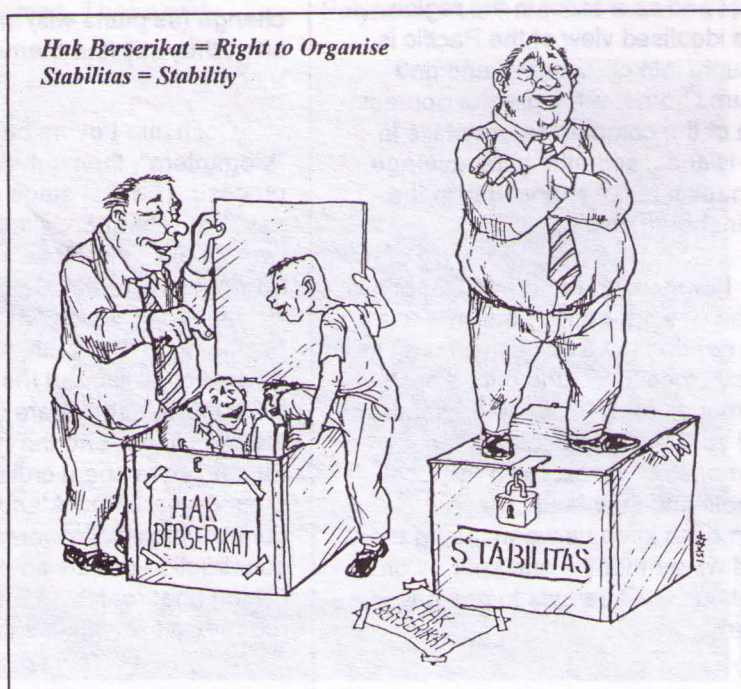
Contrary to official assurances, it was clear that the tentative period of political "openness" initiated in the early 1990s was at an end. The government was embarrassed and infuriated by the damage done to its carefully crafted image of a unified, peaceful and prosperous nation. It could no longer hide its attacks on the growing movement toward a more democratic Indonesia.

In June the Ministry of Information banned three popular periodicals - *DeTik*, *Tempo* and *Editor*. However tentative the articles in these papers, there was too much news about East Timor, land rights struggles and needed democratic reforms for the Suharto regime. The shut-downs brought forth a popular outcry and lawsuits challenging the ban. In early August, spurning their government-controlled association, journalists formed the Association of Independent Journalists (AJI). Their founding declaration rejected "all kinds of interference, intimidation, censorship and media bans which deny freedom of speech and open access to information."

Just a week before the APEC meeting, Dr. Muchtar Pakpahan, a leader of the SBSI independent

labour federation was sentenced to three years in prison. He was charged with inciting workers to protest and strike during widespread labour unrest in Sumatra. Dr. Pakpahan tops the list of scores of labour activists tried for "undermining the security of the government". Police and military intervention in labour disputes has been common and often brutal. In September four men were arrested for releasing balloons with the messages, "Uphold the Rights of Workers" and "The 1945 Constitution Guarantees the Right to Organize". They were ill-treated by police, then interrogated and tortured in military custody. Within the past year, two young labour activists were killed in labour struggles in Java. The Suharto government accepts only the officially-sponsored and controlled Indonesian Workers Union. Those Indonesian citizens who support struggles for independent unions, decent working conditions and personal dignity face intensified surveillance, the breaking up of meetings and the threat of arrest and imprisonment.

The APEC delegates already knew the score. Citizen groups from their countries had urged their governments to take a stand on press freedom, human and labour rights, and fair negotiations with independence movements in East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya. The governments reacted with muted protest. They viewed with "dismay" the repressive actions of the Indonesian regime. The US expressed "regret" at the press banning and "concern" about Dr. Pakpahan's arrest (but the US ambassador reassured the Indonesian government that the APEC meeting was not the place to raise issues about labour conditions). President Clinton discussed human rights violations in "firm and forceful terms" with President Suharto. US officials worked to facilitate the safe departure of the East Timorese protesters, who accepted the Portuguese government's offer of asylum.



cartoon from TAPOL Bulletin, No. 127, Feb '95

Canadian Prime Minister Chretien said that he raised recent developments in East Timor and Jakarta during a meeting with Suharto. Australia's foreign minister called on Indonesia to cut its military force in East Timor and to offer the East Timorese "some degree of political autonomy". Unexpectedly the Japanese government, Indonesia's largest aid donor, announced that future deliberations about aid would consider human rights in East Timor.

Such response, however muted, continues to break new ground. It reflects the ever-widening debate about what comes first in human affairs, the basic needs of human beings and the natural world which sustains them or the needs of global corporations to expand their control over natural resources, markets and human labour. International outrage about the 1991 Dili massacre compelled the industrial powers, after 30 years of profitable silence in their dealings with Indonesia, to enter this debate. Canada and Denmark suspended aid not already advanced and the Netherlands announced plans to link aid to improvements in human rights. For the first time in a quarter century, various UN bodies passed resolutions condemning the Indonesian government. The US cut funds for military training, stopped the sale of fighter jets to Indonesia and warned the Suharto government that it may lose its trading privileges unless it conforms to international labour standards.

However welcome these expressions of concern, business came first at the APEC meeting and democracy second. A few months earlier the same pattern emerged at the annual meeting of the Consultative Group on Indonesia, the multinational consortium for aid to Indonesia. The meeting took place only three weeks after the Indonesian press bans. Though some governments are understood to have expressed "concern", the CGI meeting was entirely business as usual. Five countries (Japan, Germany, France, UK, Australia and New Zealand) increased their financial commitments. The CGI meeting allotted \$US 5.2 billion in aid to

Indonesia, an increase over the previous year.

While many governments express concern about East Timor, few have objected to the violent counter-insurgency campaign against the people of Aceh, nor the killings and imprisonment of hundreds of activists for land rights, cultural autonomy and independence in Irian Jaya. These governments supply the Indonesian Army with military equipment, not for defense against a non-existent foreign foe but for suppression of independence movements within its own borders and attacks on workers, journalists, students, landholders, and all those calling for democratic reform. The British government recently sold submarines and naval vessels to Indonesia, while the Swiss provided ammunition and parts for aircraft guns. Australia conducted joint training with an Indonesian counter-insurgency unit, Kopassus, notorious for serious human rights abuses. The European Commission rejected an embargo on arms sales to Indonesia.

In violation of international law, several governments (including Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Finland, Sweden and the Vatican) have refused protection on their embassy premises to refugees seeking asylum from Indonesian repression, or have forcibly returned them after their escape from Indonesia.

At the Jakarta APEC conference, Canada was back on the business-as-usual track with Indonesia. Prime Minister Chretien happily announced a series of Canadian investments and contracts in Indonesia, the largest being Inco's \$US 500 million expansion of its nickel mine and smelter on Sulawesi. Contracts went to Trenton Works (Nova Scotia) for rail cars, to Hughes Aircraft of Canada (BC) for an air traffic control system and to CAE Electronics for aircraft simulators. Calgary oil and gas firms like Asmera and Bow Valley Energy continue with lucrative contracts in Indonesia, as do engineering firms SNC-Lavalin, H.A. Simmons and Sandwell Swan

Wooster. Trade between Canada and Indonesia continues to grow; it was expected to reach \$Cdn 1 billion for 1994. In 1993 Canadian investment, most of it in mining, gas and oil, reached about \$Cdn 3.5 billion.

Some Canadians, mainly the coalition around the East Timor Alert Network, continue urging the government to press for human rights in Indonesia. Prime Minister Chretien said during his 1991 election campaign that "progress toward respect for human rights is the direct result of pressure from Western democracies". If Canada is ever to give this statement substance, the government could take several immediate steps:

- 1) Impose a total ban on arms to Indonesia, including materials that could be used militarily;
- 2) Establish regulations to ensure that Canadian firms operating in Indonesia do not abuse human rights by taking land from indigenous peoples or allowing infringement in their enterprises of labour's right to organize for decent wages and independent unions;
- 3) Have the Canadian International Development Agency divest itself of all commercial projects and concentrate on work for education, health and small business enterprises in villages and poor urban communities; and
- 4) Create a human rights policy, established in law and consistently applied, beyond the present vague guidelines.

In the long run it depends on how much pressure citizens put on corporations and government officials. Some companies, under pressure from human rights and labour advocates, have made new guidelines for their Indonesian operations. For example, Reebok's recent policy for its suppliers in Indonesia supports the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively. Canadians fought against South African apartheid in Canadian corporate boardrooms. They have a new chance for strong advocacy on human and labour rights with Canadian companies operating in Indonesia.

CUSO COOPERANT PLACEMENTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hunstein Range Support Officer - Ambunti, East Sepik Province:

Working with the East Sepik Council of Women, this two year cooperant placement involves strengthening women's small business and marketing capacity at the village level. Experience with rural community development, small business administration and ecologically sustainable development essential.

District Training/Coordination Support Officer - Ambunti:

Working with the East Sepik Council of Women, this cooperant will assist with planning and delivering workshops in literacy, health, leadership, family planning and bookkeeping. Adult education/training experience, gender analysis and participatory methodology skills required.

Marketing Trainer - Wewak, E. Sepik Province:

This successful candidate will coordinate and train individuals in revenue generation, marketing, bookkeeping and assist in the development of production and quality control plans at the village level. Small business marketing experience essential.

Management trainer - Wewak:

This cooperant will assist the East Sepik Council of Women with developing management and administrative skills at the office, executive and local council levels. Training skills required.

Ecotourism Research Coordinator/Advisor - Port Moresby:

Cooperant duties include research and site investigation and assistance with the development and marketing of culturally appropriate ecotourism ventures in consultation with the Tourism Promotion Authority, local communities and non governmental organizations.

All of these two year cooperant positions are available immediately.

Candidates receive a living allowance in field as well as a subsidy allowance paid in Canadian dollars. Housing, medical and travel support are also provided. Couples and families can be considered for some postings. **Full job description details available by contacting CUSO BC, 1120 Hamilton Street, Suite 307, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2S2. Tel 604/683-2099 Fax 604/683-8536**

Change in Plans cont'd.....
rubber boots which is sold to McDonald's for fishburgers).

With their three daughters on board, Lucine and Colin sailed to Fiji and cruised there until Christmas 1986, when the girls departed for Canada. Colin and Lucine planned the next stage of their journey to Vanuatu, content in the knowledge that they would be home with their daughters by Christmas 1988.

"Megaptera" arrived in Port Vila just ahead of a tropical depression. They put down 3 anchors and battened down. Two days later Cyclone Uma blew in at 220 kph, dragging "Megaptera" on to the reef and holing her in three places. After the storm blew out, the country surfaced to find the worst cyclone since 1959 had killed 50 people and destroyed \$40 million worth of infrastructure.

Colin's skills as a marine engineer were called on to help salvage and repair the ships that provide a vital communication link between Vanuatu's many islands. When this was done, Colin and Lucine decided to open a marine engineering company in Port Vila, something to tide them over until they could repair their own boat.

After a few months, Lucine heard that CUSO was advertising for an administrative assistant to do bookkeeping and provide support to CUSO "cooperants" working in Vanuatu. A year and a half later, Lucine's role expanded to that of a full time special programme assistant with responsibilities for CUSO programming in Solomon Islands.

Now that three years of adventure has stretched to nine and a career in international development, what does Lucine have to say about that return to Denman Island? "When Cyclone Uma put us on the reef in 1987, we had \$25.00 cash total. We expected to stay a year or so until we could afford to repair the boat, but so far we haven't had time to fix it. Colin and I had an agreement that we wouldn't buy anything we couldn't use on board, but I stopped thinking about sailing home via the Aleutian Islands when I went out and bought an electric toaster this year!"