The second half of 2015 is an exciting period for UNESCO in the Pacific!

In September, the Commonwealth Youth Games were held in Samoa. For this occasion, young champions (athletes and actors) were trained under our “Voices of the Athletes” programme to deliver key messages to young people on HIV/AIDS, environment, anti-doping and leadership. A very lively event!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, UNESCO’s response to the people of Vanuatu after Cyclone PAM initially focused on the assessment of the damage to the cultural heritage. As a result, several initiatives were launched, including the restoration of damaged heritage buildings and sites and a Melanesian workshop on the “Fight against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property”. In October, UNESCO will support two regional meetings related to disaster: a workshop for Youth entitled “Looking beyond disaster” in collaboration with New Zealand National Commission and a Regional Pacific Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage.

In education, I am very pleased to announce that UNESCO, UIS, SPC, PIFS and the Australian DFAT have collaborated in producing a Pacific Sub-Regional EFA 2015 Review, a synthesis of 11 EFA country reviews, to be published in September. This will be completed in time for the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) meeting; a very important meeting to be held in Port Vila from 20 to 21 October and to be followed by a one-day meeting of Pacific National Commissions for UNESCO.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic commission (IOC) of UNESCO will also undertake in-country training on Tsunami Detection, Warning and Response for Tonga, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands. Several capacity-building activities in the area of Communication and Information are also planned in Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu.

If you have a chance to open our web site (www.unesco.org/apia), you will discover the new logo for the Pacific Man and the Biosphere programme (PacMAB) and brand new web pages to promote the Pacific Man and the Biosphere Reserves.

Finally, 2015 is also the year of UNESCO General Conference which takes place every two years in Paris. It is an important opportunity for Pacific delegations to contribute in the decision-making process in our Organization. I hope to meet some of our readers during this event when our Member States will celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO!

Etienne Clement
Director and Representative
UNESCO Office for the Pacific States
**Education**

**Education for All (EFA)**

Eight Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) have submitted their final Education for All (EFA) reports to UNESCO in addition to New Zealand and Australia. Nauru is in the final stages of completing their report after the Secretary of Education in Nauru submitted her comments and Niue and the Solomon Islands need some additional time to complete their reports.

**Pacific Sub-Regional EFA 2015 Review**

UNESCO, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) are working together to produce a synthesis report for the Pacific on EFA based on the 11 EFA reports from the Pacific Island countries. A second draft report was completed in April 2015 and widely circulated for comments to the development partners in education in the Pacific. UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia received the comments from the partners in early June and it is expected that these will be integrated into the report in order to complete the final draft by 3 July 2015.

**World Education Forum (19-22 May 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea)**

Eleven Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu) together with Australia and New Zealand participated in the World Education Forum which was held in May 2015 in the Republic of Korea.

**Kiribati**

The Ministry of Education in Kiribati has implemented their first two major activities under the Implementation Partners Agreement with UNESCO. The first activity was the organization of a consultation workshop relating to the new Years 5 and 6 syllabus in Kiritimati Island and the second was a workshop for the professional development of school leaders. The Ministry of Education is planning to implement the third activity in the week of 29 June 2015 to organize a workshop to develop the Years 5 and 6 assessment guidelines. This activity will have technical support from the Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) during that week.

**Japan Funds-in-Trust**

Fiji is progressing well with work on developing competency frameworks for teachers and school leaders and this work is due to finish at the end of the June. In Samoa planning is underway to develop professional standards for teachers with responsibilities in schools and a national consultant will be used to support the work of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. The School Based Management team in Vanuatu has recommenced work on professional standards for school principals after the devastation of Cyclone Pam. The Solomon Islands National University is working closely with UNESCO to develop in-service teacher education workshops to support further training for non-certificated teachers. These workshops are tentatively scheduled for August 2015.

**Teacher Education Modules**

A meeting in Suva from 23-24 June with our Australian consultants on the rewrite of the teacher education modules and EQAP to discuss the links between the UNESCO modules and those of EQAP has been confirmed.

**Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

An internal review of the draft Vanuatu Roi Mata teaching unit has been completed and the comments from the reviewers will be integrated into the draft document soon.

Under the Malaysia Funds-in-Trust (MFIT) work is continuing on developing resources for schools. In Fiji a resource book is being developed for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction using Traditional Knowledge. In Niue work has started on developing standards for numeracy and a project has commenced in Palau on the development of a vocabulary/idiom book. In Tonga workshop on the integration of ESD into the secondary curriculum is planned to be organised on 17-19 June.

An ESD project officer to support the MFIT programme has been appointed and will commence work on 1 July 2015.
Mr Andrew Peteru has left UNESCO after several years of excellent work on CSE. Kirsten Mah, an intern from Canada, has joined our team for 4 months and will be working with countries on developing preparatory processes towards developing a CSE curriculum by identifying the opportunities and risks and documenting ways of addressing these. Kirsten will also provide support to the UN Cares Inter-Agency Team. In early September, a new staff for CSE has arrived: Ms Faautu Charis Talapusi.

Pacific Island Countries are also being contacted to give their views on reviewing CSE supportive policies and identifying missing policy areas to be developed.

A first draft of the CSE programme document has been completed. This has been submitted for comments from the countries and these are being integrated into the final draft document. The document will then be given a final review before being shared with potential donors.
Natural Sciences

Climate Change / Climate Change Adaptation

Malaysia FIT Project-Loss and Damage from Climate Extremes and Climate Change

UNESCO and the University of South Pacific (USP) are about to finalize a partnership agreement to implement the project activities on the Loss and Damage from Climate Change in Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Timor Leste.

Disaster Risk Reduction/Management

An international Tsunami Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific was organized by the IOC of UNESCO, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and its Tsunami Commission, and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Hawaii, USA from 20 to 21 April 2015. The theme of the Symposium was "Making the Pacific Ready for the Tsunami Threat" to recognize the achievements of the last 50 years of Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS). The two-day Symposium was attended by over 160 country delegates and experts from over 40 countries. Pacific Island countries that attended consisted of Cook Is, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Is, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The Symposium reviewed the current state of the PTWS, and identified practical and tangible next steps, desirable partnerships, and necessary commitments needed to sustain and evolve the PTWS for the future.

The Symposium was held in conjunction with the 26th Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for PTWS that took place from 22 to 24 April 2015. It was the first time for a PTWS session to be attended by nine Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

Community Bases Multi-Hazard Alert System

UNESCO Apia is developing a new project activity with the National Meteorological Services in Tonga to improve community based Multi-Hazard Early Warning System in two villages. This will include the setting up of coastal sirens, and supporting disaster risk preparedness activities.

Man and Biosphere (MAB)

Pacific Man and Biosphere (PacMAB) Reserve Network: New Webpages and Facebook

Work is progressing well regarding the development of new web pages and logo for the Pacific Man and Biosphere Reserve Network (PacMAB). The new web pages aims to provide more appealing information about biosphere reserves in the Pacific, including information about how to nominate new sites for UNESCO biosphere reserves.

Water Sciences: Fresh Water Security

Case Study: Salt Water Intrusion

The UNESCO’s contribution to the World Water Development Report (WWDR 2015) was recently launched in India. UNESCO Apia’s Natural Science contribution can be viewed as a case study: “Challenges to freshwater security in the Pacific Small Island Developing States: Focus on saltwater intrusion in Samoa. The report is available online:


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002322/232272E.pdf


**Social and Human Sciences**

**Youth**

**Intersectoral project with Culture sector**

The siapo (tapa cloth) making and business training for 15 out-of-school youth in partnership with International Labour Organisation (ILO) was successfully completed on 20 May 2015 in Samoa. Throughout the workshop, the participants have been equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to make siapo from a paper mulberry tree as well as to earn an income by selling the final products. The closing and graduation ceremony was held on 21 May at Samoa Culture Centre attended by the OIC of ILO Suva, ACEO of Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture. Right after the workshop, some of the participants voluntarily took an initiative to formulate a Non-Governmental Organisation called ‘Association of Youth in Siapo making’ to preserve and promote the Samoan unique culture - siapo making.

**Intersectoral project with Education sector**

UNESCO in partnership with UNAIDS, Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Samoa Cancer Society (SCC) started working on the Voices of Athletes (VOA) pilot programme in Samoa. The aim of the project is to empower youth by raising awareness on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), fair play, environmental protection and healthy lifestyles and Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through school visits and the setting up of an information booth at the Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Samoa in September. UNESCO is managing the project and also providing technical support on HIV/AIDS, STIs and NCDs components via the UNAIDS liaison officer as part of the UN joint support. Other partnerships with UN agencies such as UNDP, ILO and UNV are being finalized.

**Gender**

**Intersectoral project with Culture sector**

As part of UNESCO’s effort to achieve gender equality, 16 ways to pray to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) project is being discussed with UN Women and Samoa National Council of Churches. The project is to develop 16 biblical messages to end VAWG through workshops with faith-based organizations and partner organizations. The messages will be printed in color with attractive pictures so as to visually understand the message. The final product is planned to be launched as part of the 16 days of activism campaign in November/December.

**Social Inclusion**

**Survey report on deportees in Marshall Islands**

Comments on the survey report on deportees in the Marshall Islands have been submitted by Mr. Johnathan Martens (International Organization for Migration), Ms. Susan Vize (UNESCO) and Mr. Cameron Noble (Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). These have been forwarded to the original author, Ms. Natalia Pereira, for her re-writing. IOM colleague, Ms. Kate Avery McDermott, is also working on the revision on the IOM specific sections. These comments are expected to be integrated into the final draft by the end of June for the final review.
World Heritage

An Archaeological Survey and Inventory Training for Yap State Historic Preservation Office (HPO Staff (Yap, 29 April – 23 May 2015) was held by by Pacifica Renaissance with the financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The Workshop aims to strengthen national capacity in heritage management and to contribute to the ongoing trans-boundary nomination by Palau and Yap. The Training provided hands-on experience in conducting survey and inventory-making at stone money sites, particularly dancing grounds (‘malal,’ often called “stone money banks”). Those dancing grounds generally associated with community meeting houses (‘pebaey’) or men’s house (‘faluw’) are an integral part of the cultural space of Yapese villages, where many stone discs are displayed as the wealth of a community.

Emergency Response

Tropical Cyclone Pam (Category 5) struck Vanuatu from 10 to 14 March 2015, causing widespread damage across the entire country composed of over 80 islands. Early April, Vanuatu government decided to undertake Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in cooperation with UN and WB. At the request of the Vanuatu government, UNESCO assisted the Vanuatu Culture Centre (VCC) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in undertaking PDNA of the Culture Sector in cooperation with ICOMOS and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). As a follow up of the recommendations of the PDNA Report, UNESCO has approved an emergency assistance in June 2015. This assistance aims to assist VCC to conduct emergency conservations. Emergency conservations of the Sub-Centres of the Vanuatu Culture Centre (Malekula Culture Centre in the Malekula Island and the Tafea Culture Centre in the Tanna Island), and the Malvatumauri Council of Chief’s Nakamal in Port Vila.

The Malekula Cultural Centre (MKS) had experienced significant damage to its roofs and artefacts. The Tafea Cultural Centre (TKS) was totally destroyed by the cyclone and would require significant assistance in monetary form before it becomes fully operational again. During Cyclone Pam, windborne impact caused significant damage to the thatched roof and woven bamboo walling of the Malvatumauri Chief’s Nakamal located adjacent the VCC in Port Vila, but the lightweight materials and flexible framing enabled it to survive. At present, the state of the Chief’s Nakamal is not safe due to the cyclone damages. These two Cultural Centres and the Chief’s Nakamal are built using traditional materials and its emergency conservation and restoration works supported by the emergency assistance will be documented and can be used to promote proper building techniques for traditional structures in Vanuatu with “Building Back Better” strategy.

Underwater Cultural Heritage

The launch of an report on UCH and SIDS: 3rd International Conference on SIDS (Samoa, September 2014) was organized on the occasion of the Inaugural Pacific Ocean Alliance Meeting (Suva, 25 – 27 May 2015) by PIF Secretariat in cooperation with PHHI/USP.

The report contains a summary of activities on Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during the 3rd International Conference on SIDS (Apia, Samoa, 1 - 4 September 2014). These activities include the Introductory Course, the Youth Space, the Parallel Event and the Side Event. The outcomes and discussions at these activities fed into the SAMOA Pathway Outcome Document of the SIDS Conference, which for, the first time in the history of the UN SIDS Conference, includes reference to UCH as one of the dimensions of heritage in SIDS and as resources for SIDS sustainable development particularly through tourism activities.

Building on the positive partnership between PIF Secretariat and UNESCO, the launching event provided an opportunity to promote the importance of the UCH management in the Pacific within the framework of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy. Etienne Clement, Director of the UNESCO in Apia, delivered his speech, introducing the UCH Convention and its benefits and implications by joining the UCH Convention to the conference delegates. At present, 49 Member States of UNESCO are parties to the UCH Convention, which does not include any Pacific State. He also announced the creation of the new Pacific UCH Partnership (PUCHP) initiative which involves all stakeholders in the area of UCH in the Pacific region. The launch included a keynote address by Ms Cristelle Pratt, Deputy Secretary General of PIF Secretariat, who expressed strong support to the UCH Convention and PUCHP.
World Press Freedom Day

World Press Freedom Day Celebration in Divine Word University, PNG

Media Freedom Day was celebrated at Divine Word University on Friday May 1 by the students and staff of the Arts Faculty. The event was brought forward to Friday for the convenience of students, staff, guests and visitors so that all could participate.

The keynote speaker for the event was PNG Media Council President Alexander Rheeney who is also the Editor of Post-Courier. Other invited guests were Team Leader of Corporate Relations with PNG Power Lester Hakalits, President of the Madang Provincial Council of Women Mary Kamang and Director of Provincial Radio Maklai Bel.

The Bougainville bamboo band dancers led the guests into the SVD Main Auditorium and DWU President Fr Jan Czuba welcomed participants and highlighted the importance observing media freedom. He also launched the DWU Media excellence award for journalists in the PNG Media industry.

Media Council President Alexander Rheeney emphasised the need for social and mainstream media to work together in PNG saying that the country needed both forms of media. Lester Hakalits discussed the importance of public relations functions with mainstream media and Mary Kamang appealed for journalists to be sensitive when reporting gender issues in PNG.

Two Solomon Islands journalism students also presented a situation report on the media in Solomon Islands emphasising the need for media training and to encourage more females to become journalists.

Papua New Guineans who pioneered PNG journalism were also featured in a special presentation honouring their work in the 1950s up until the 1980s. Champions of free press in PNG were people like the first PNG editor of Post-Courier late Luke Sela and retired veteran journalist Biga Lebasi.

Students performed skits highlighting the theme of the day, and also showed short video presentations about the violence that journalists face in the world today.

The highlight of the event was a lively panel discussion on the theme of the day.

After lunch, the PNG Media Council President met with DWU president to discuss future training program for working journalists to be hosted by DWU.

World Press Freedom Day 2015 celebration in Samoa

This year’s celebration was held on Friday, May 01 2015 and was well attended by the local media, Faculty of Arts staff and friends of the Department.

Commitments by the department staff have made this celebration possible with the support of the management and finance section.

The challenge always lies with a lot of time allotted to individual students in meeting deadlines with their submissions for the annual awards.

The programme highlight was the reading of the UNESCO Message as always is the protocol each year. This year’s guest speaker was the youngest ever Acting Press Secretary to Government, Renate Rivers. She has again highlighted the commitment by the government to ensure there is a healthy relationship with the media. She also reminded professional standards of media reporting in a cultural sensitive environment like Samoa.

Talaitupu Tialavea – Winner of the World Press Freedom Day Radio Award – NUS

UNESCO Ms Akatsuki Takahashi with winner of World Press Freedom Print Media Student Award, Tusiga Taofiga Peseta

PNG Media Council President Alex Rheeney meeting the students

Media Freedom Banner – PNG

CULTURE
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is a specialized agency of the UN and works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. UNESCO in the Pacific will contribute to the construction of peace, human development and intercultural dialogue for sustainable Pacific through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

For more information about the work of UNESCO in Apia, please visit [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org/)

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