

UNESCO In the Pacific

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Pacific commits to quality assured systems for TVET and higher education



Fourteen representatives from accreditation agencies of higher education and vocational trainings in the Pacific met in Apia, for a week long workshop on national qualifications frameworks (NQF).

At the workshop quality assurance experts in the Pacific discussed, shared best practices on how to effectively apply and monitor NQFs at national, institutional, and programme levels so that

learning outcomes are quality assured.

Samoa's Prime Minister, Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi at the opening ceremony accentuated the value of this workshop and the role of the accreditation agencies to maintain high standards of education within our countries.

In her remarks Ms Nisha the Director of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States said that 'education and training are a tool, are a means of socially developing us'.

She encouraged the participants to pay particular attention to issues that dominate the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) discussion in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Capacity Building Workshop on Implementing National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at Programme Level, was organized by UNESCO and the Samoa Qualifications Authority, with support from Malaysia Funds-In-Trust and Republic in Korea Funds-in-Trust.

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New leadership for UNESCO in the Pacific

The UNESCO Office for the Pacific member states begins 2017 with a new Director as appointed by Director General Irina Bokova.

Ms Nisha from India brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to lead the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in the next three years.

Nisha with more than

28 years of experience in multi sectoral development and humanitarian actions now leads a team of programme specialists and support staff working towards the implementation of programmes for education, natural science, social and human science, culture, communications and information that are relevant to the challenges and needs of the Pacific.



Copyright and sustainable development



UNESCO had the opportunity to share information on its role in copyrights and the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) or Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) dating back to the 1980s in two important workshops organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in collaboration with the Cook Islands Ministry of Cultural Development. The Prime Minister of Cook Islands

Honorable Henry Puna in his opening remarks, reiterated the goal on culture, history and heritage of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020 of Cook Islands, to highlight the importance of copyright systems to promote creative talents and adding value to cultural products.

He added that Cook Islands has adopted a national legislation on traditional knowledge and noted the Cook Island's acceptance of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

Hon. Puna underlined the importance of taking a combined approach with an ultimate goal of

ensuring the certain level of control on the cultural heritage that belongs to the indigenous community while supporting the growth of cultural and creative industries by capitalizing on their heritage.

This issue on protection of traditional knowledge is addressed within the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH adopted in 2003 as well as the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources, TK and Folklore that met for the first time in 2001. As for UNESCO, eleven Pacific SIDS are now signatories of the ICH Convention which provides the practical and workable system for ICH safeguarding.

ADG Natural Science attends Pacific ST&I meeting

UNESCO Office for the Pacific greeted and welcomed Flavia Schlegel, the Assistance Director General for Natural Sciences, in Apia for her visit to member states in the Pacific region.

In Apia, Schlegel officiated over the UNESCO Dialogue with the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) on Science and Science Policy for

the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific SIDS.

At the Conference participating member states shared information on the current status of ST&I, identify particular challenges faced in consolidating ST&I systems and in improving capacity and structures to more effectively inform policy-making.

The dialogue was supported with funding from the NZ

Aid and in collaboration with National Commission of Samoa– Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the National University of Samoa, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa.



ADG Science Flavia Schlegel

Communities benefit from Australia NatCom small grant scheme

The Australia National Commission small grants scheme supports a broad range of projects selected because of their close alignment with the ideals of UNESCO and their positive impact on local communities, in Australia and the region.

For 2017, the Australia Nat Com are funding a capacity-building project designed to facilitate more female STEM teachers, in Australia and in India.

The Australia NatCom are also contributing funds towards a project, which will train female Community

Leaders in Fiji to contribute to natural disaster resilience and preparedness.

Another interesting project that the Australia Nat-Com supports is a project that will see school children in Australia and the Solomon Islands collaborate on the production of children's

books and we are supporting cross-cultural exchange of learning in relation to protecting mangroves from the impacts of climate change.

Quality of television news addressed in a series of trainings

The WT Media organized series of trainings to upskill camera operators, television journalists and video editors in Samoa.

In television news, the less recognized but just as important part of the news-making process are the camera operators who film the footage and editors who compile the image for the news bulletin. Trainings continue to focus on the needs of the journalists, neglecting the development of technical personnel (camera operators and editors). This has led to inconsistencies in the technical quality of television news being produced by the local television stations and where these trainings hopes to improve.

The WT Media has been able to organise and facilitate these trainings with support they gained under the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communications.



“Let's swim” - Swimming is a part of physical education

Drowning and water safety are issues that need to be addressed by the whole Pacific. Article 2 of the UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport stresses the importance of physical activity as a delivery pathway of health benefits. It states that: “Physical education, physical activity and sport can play a significant role in the development of participants’ physical literacy, well-being, health and capabil-

ity by improving endurance, strength, flexibility, coordination, balance and control. *The ability to swim is a vital skill for every person exposed to risks of drowning.*”

Fiji Swimming, the national federation, has implemented a pilot program to address the issue of water safety in Fiji and to make swim lessons more accessible.

Supported by the Fiji Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth and Sports, Fiji Swimming’s Trisa Cheer is

working with school teachers to build both their swimming abilities and instructor capabilities. Trisa and her staff reach over 5,000 school children each week, a challenging task in itself.

Fiji Swimming aims to teach at least 2 teachers at each of the pilot schools to take on “Let’s Swim” so it can be integrated into their school’s physical education program by June



Aligning priorities with NZ National Commission

The New Zealand National Commission visited the Apia Office earlier in March.

The purpose of this visit was for the new Chair and Secretary General of the National Commission to meet with the Director and programme specialists and to identify areas of activities where the NZ Natcom can support.





From the Director and Representative's Desk

Dear friends, colleagues and partners,

What you have in your hands is the latest issue of our newsletter which is coming after a long hiatus.

It is with great pleasure that I write this note for a publication for everyone interested in UNESCO in the Pacific.

A few of the National Commissions for UNESCO in this sub-region are already active in sharing progress of their actions, information and ideas.

This issue of the newsletter gives us the opportunity to offer a panoramic view of the programmes and events that are being implemented in the Pacific. We can be proud of our efforts for their emphasis on knowledge as a cornerstone to make true impact.

As a new team-member to the UNESCO Office for the

Pacific, I am dedicated to ensuring that our programmes and their offerings are as relevant and effective as possible, that cooperation and collaboration marks the flow of information to the National Commissions, UN Country Teams and other national and regional stakeholders.

And we are open to suggestions from all and contributions from the National Commissions to improve the quality and content of the newsletter.

Nisha



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The UNESCO Office for the Pacific States based in Apia, Samoa covers 16 independent countries and one territory in the Pacific:

Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea,

Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

In line with UNESCO's global priorities, the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States sets a local programme of action in consultation with the 17 member states and territories.