

ANNEX 1

Media Release

26 April 2007

Pacific Civil Society Challenges the EU over Trade Negotiations.

Pacific Civil Society groups participating in the Pacific Trade and Education Programme (PTEP) from 23rd – 25th April, at the Samoa National Council of Churches Ecumenical Centre in Apia, issue a challenge to the European Union either to negotiate a trade deal in the Pacific that is to the benefit of the Pacific's people or to offer alternatives that are at least as good as the current trade regime.

“The EU has so far failed to live up to their rhetoric that the Economic Partnership Agreement should be an instrument for development” said Ms. Roina F. Vavatau, CEO of the Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations (SUNGO). Despite repeated letters over the past nine months, the EU has still so far failed to respond constructively to the Pacific's proposals. It is ridiculous that they are still insisting on a deadline for conclusion of negotiations by the end of this year.

Participants agreed with the Mid-Term Review of the EPA negotiations commissioned by the Pacific Trade Ministers, using a highly respected European research institute, which concluded that the Pacific and EU were still far apart in negotiations and that the Pacific was not ready to conclude a deal by the end of the year. The review laid much of the responsibility at the feet of the EU, criticising their insistence on an inflexible free trade agreement.

The WTO waiver granted to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires on 31st December 2007. This deadline only applies to trade in goods. Negotiations on other aspects, in particular the complex issues of services, can be concluded when the Pacific region is ready, when adequate research, impact assessment and consultation are undertaken.

The EU is playing negotiating games, using the end of year deadline to try to put pressure on Pacific negotiators. They are claiming that the only alternative to an EPA is a worse deal under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). Yet there are other alternatives on trade in goods, such as GSP plus, that are both feasible and fully compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organisation. Under the terms of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, signed between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in 2000, the EU is obliged to offer market access at least as good as at present to those countries that are unwilling to sign an EPA.

Uncertainty over a future trade regime is already negatively impacting Pacific businesses. Because of the EU's negotiating tactics, our businesses have no certainty that the current market access rules into the EU will be maintained into 2008 and beyond. Hence Pacific businesses are unable to plan ahead for production, contracts and investment. This has particularly severe consequences for locally owned small and medium enterprises.

“We find these negotiating tactics unacceptable. It is unacceptable to risk people’s livelihoods, vital jobs for young people and the future sustainability of Pacific societies in the course of negotiating a trade agreement that is supposedly in the development interests of the Pacific Island countries” said Mr. Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Chairperson of the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG).

This meeting reiterates the concerns expressed by over a hundred Pacific civil society groups over the likely social, cultural, gender, environmental and economic impacts of an EPA Agreement.

The participants call for suspension of further negotiations between the Pacific and the EU until the results of the recently initiated social impact assessment are fully incorporated into negotiating positions.

Notes to editors:

The meeting in Apia was held from the 23rd – 25th of April and was organised jointly by SUNGO and PANG. PTEP aims to build an advocacy platform on trade issues amongst civil society groups across the Pacific. This was the first of four workshops addressing issues around trade, building networks and capacities on trade advocacy and identifying strategies leading to a greater involvement of civil society in trade discussions. Its next meeting will be held in June 2007 in Tonga.

GSP+ is known as “special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance. It applies to 15 developing countries mainly in Latin America. It requires commitments on labour rights, human rights, environmental protection, the fight against drugs and good governance.

We would like to thank the government officials who attended and briefed us on Samoa’s situation in the negotiations.

Attendance of Organisation at the Workshop:

Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters (SAME)
Samoa National Council of Churches
Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO)
O le Siosiomaga Incorporated (OLSSI)
Women In Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI)
Faataua le Ola (FLO)
Pan Pacific East Asia Women’s Association (PPSEAWA)
Samoa Crops Corporations Association Incorporated for Exports (SCCA)
Council of Pacific Education (COPE)
Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)
Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)
Foundation of the Peoples’ of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
Cook Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (CIANGO)
Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)
Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)
Solomon Islands Council of Trade Unions (SICTU)
Vanuatu National Union of Labour (NUL)
Tonga Small Association
Tongan National Council of Churches
Oxfam New Zealand

Roshni Sami

From: Tupou Vere [tvere@pcrc.org.fj]
Sent: Thursday, 12 April 2007 12:35 p.m.
To: admin@pang.org.fj; 'Feiloakitau_Kaho Tevi'; coordinator@pang.org.fj
Subject: FW: Pacific Trade Education Programme

Importance: High

Attachments: Tupou Vere.pdf



Tupou Vere.pdf
(115 KB)

Attention: Roshni Sami, Coordinator of PANG and Fei Tevi, Chairperson of PANG

Dear Roshni and Fei:

Please allow me to outline in writing the disappointment and concern we have regarding our proposed nomination from PCRC for the upcoming Trade Workshop in Apia.

The letter of invitation (as enclosed) sent to us was not clear that the invitation was meant for me personally to attend. At PCRC we have partner CSO organisations that work on matters of trade. Since I am unable to attend the Apia meeting we had hoped that a partner organization of PCRC would be able to attend. We reviewed our decision on suggesting a partner CSO in Samoa since SUNGO that is also a partner organization of PCRC is already involved in the organising. It was not until yesterday that I received a call from Roshni directly that this was meant for me personally when I mentioned that we have selected National Council of Women. Fiji (NCWF).

We received letters of invitations here that are addressed to me personally but this does not mean that I attend all meetings. Our internal policy is such that if we are not able to have the relevant staff at PCRC office to attend we will nominate a partner organisation and since the letter clearly stated that any member of our organisation can attend we opted to nominate a member/partner organisation from Fiji.

Please be rest assured that these concerns are not borne out of politics as Roshni told me on the phone this morning. The selection by PCRC of NCWF as representative of our organisation is based on their long involvement with us on ACP-EU matters, their membership and participation in government's trade committee and national "consultations" on EPA matters organised by government and Pacific Islands Forum secretariat. We believe their participation in the Apia Trade Workshop would be an opportunity for them to strengthen and consolidate their efforts on trade issues and engagement. Sadly their participation is now overlooked because it seems there are clear preferences for Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) and Fiji Forum Of Non State Actors (FFONSA when I mentioned NCWF yesterday.

There are principles at stake here and we find these very disturbing.

I hope this will help clarify further our position.

Tupou
PCRC

-----Original Message-----

From: Tupou Vere [mailto:tvere@pcrc.org.fj]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2007 11:00 AM
To: 'admin@pang.org.fj'

Subject: FW: Pacific Trade Education Programme
Importance: High

Roshni: This is the invite we received on 15/03. The letter is self-explanatory and we hope you will understand our position on the matter.

Thank you,

Tupou

Dear Ms. Kumari:

We will certainly do that. I just spoke with Roshni and as discussed we will await your advice following her discussions with Fei. Vinaka,

Tupou

From: Rachana Kumari [mailto:admin@pang.org.fj]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 2:45 AM
To: tvere@pcrc.org.fj
Subject: RE: PTEP(1) - Workshop - Samoa

Dear Ms Vere,

Can you please forward me the name of the organisation, the persons name and position in the organisation.

And then i will forward it to the workshop organisations for further consideration.

Thank you

Kind Regards,

Rachana Kumari

Admin / Accounts Assistant

PANG

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From: Tupou Vere [mailto:tvere@pcrc.org.fj]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 11:13 AM
To: 'Rachana Kumari'
Subject: RE: PTEP(1) - Workshop - Samoa
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Rachna Kumari:

Please could we instead nominate a representative from one of our local partners here in Fiji? I apologise as I will not make it to the Samoa meeting. We also have an Arms Trade Meeting Consultation in Suva around the same time. I will await your further advice. Vinaka,

Tupou Vere

From: Rachana Kumari [mailto:admin@pang.org.fj]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 2:14 AM
To: tvere@pcrc.org.fj
Cc: sungomanagement@lesamoa.net; coordinator@pang.org.fj
Subject: PTEP(1) - Workshop - Samoa

Dear Ms Vere,

Thank you so much for offering to send a local representative from Samoa, however local participants are being invited by SUNGO.

I am copying this email to Roina, please let her know any suggestions for representaitve to replace you.

Thank you

Kind Regards,

Rachana Kumari

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<http://www.eset.com>

Roshni Sami

From: Feiloakitau_Kaho Tevi [fkt@wcc-coe.org]
Sent: Friday, 13 April 2007 11:34 a.m.
To: admin@pang.org.fj; coordinator@pang.org.fj; tvere@pcrc.org.fj
Subject: Re: FW: Pacific Trade Education Programme

Importance: High

** High Priority **

Bula Tupou,

Thanks for this letter. I note the reasons for the nomination and reasons of your position on this matter. Tupou, notwithstanding the letter of invitation, the main reason for us pursuing your personal participation in this process is because of your extended experience in matters of trade and economic justice. As we push to build this important platform of trade in the Pacific, it is of vital importance that we have the regional players on board to ensure that the platform has a strong regional voice as well as a firm national grounding.

Secondly we envisaged an important input from PCRC based on its ongoing work on trade, not its network but the secretariat since the latter has done an extensive amount of work on this issue.

Failing your ability to attend, we were then going to look for partners that could play an assembling role in the process as far as the noted country is concerned. In our view, we felt that FFONSA or FWRM could play that role.

There are no disagreements on the issue of principle. It is our hope that with this explanation of the reasons behind our insistence for your presence, PCRC would be able to see the various reasons behind the decision and subsequently an understanding as to why we had taken a particular course.

Tupou, I have taken the liberty of respond to you in person.

Your letter, as well as my response, and all other supporting documents from PANG will be tabled at the next meeting of the PANG Steering Committee for consideration. The SC would deliberate on the course of action to be taken in view of the importance of PCRC in this process and will respond as they see fit.

Tupou, I do regret any inconvenience caused. It is my hope that both organisations can work on the common interest of advancing the knowledge base on trade in the Pacific and put resources together towards achieving the goals of the Pacific Trade Education Programme and economic justice as a whole.

Pacifically Yours

Fei Tevi
Chairperson of the PANG

>>> "Tupou Vere" <tvere@pcrc.org.fj> 12/04/2007 12:34 >>>

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From: Tupou Vere [tvere@pcrc.org.fj]
Sent: Friday, 13 April 2007 2:05 p.m.
To: 'Feiloakitau_Kaho Tevi'; admin@pang.org.fj; coordinator@pang.org.fj
Subject: RE: FW: Pacific Trade Education Programme

Importance: High

Dear Fei:

Thank you for the response.

Our request to the PANG Steering Committee and its secretariat that for future invitations there would be sensitivity and consideration for these factors in mind:

a) PCRC plays a secretariat role for numerous organisations and whenever the relevant and most appropriate staff at the office is unable to attend we will draw upon our member organisations and partners and make nominations accordingly. For this reason and for future planned trade workshops organized, PCRC cannot guarantee that I or any of the staff of the secretariat will be able to attend all events. All invitations extended to us will be individually assessed in light of our own priorities and planned activities.

b) Future invitations are very specific which in this particular case I regret was not made clear. Consequently we are of the understanding that the invitation was meant for PCRC and its network and therefore feel disappointed that our own nomination was not favorably considered.

Furthermore the guidelines of selection of nominees for example need to be clarified so that invited organisations are clear when making proposals.

Our sincere gratitude for your personal attention to our letter and we would like to offer our assurances that wherever possible we will assist in furthering the cause for economic and trade justice in the region.

Regards,

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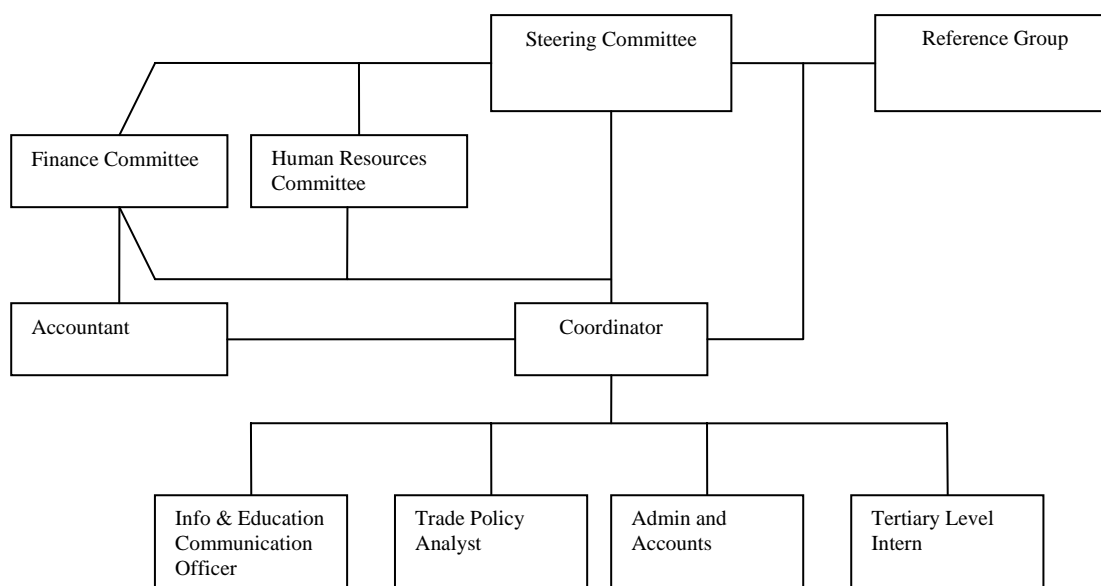
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Annex 3

PANG Suggested Structure:



<p>Steering Committee Current TOR</p>	<p>Role: The governing body of PANG, make strategic decisions about PANG, oversee the work of the Coordinator.</p> <p>Representatives from: ECREA, PIANGO, WCC Mika Bulavakarua (ECREA) Cema Bolabola (PIANGO) Feiloakitau Kaho Tevi (WCC) (Chairperson 2007)</p> <p>As well as: Claire Slatter (Independent) Fr Kevin Barr (ECREA) Virisila Buadromo (FWRM) Suliana Siwatibau (Independent) Stanley Simpson (Independent/previous Coordinator)</p> <p>Meetings: Bi-monthly or when organised. Report: Sign off on annual reports to Donors.</p>
<p>Management Board Suggested TOR</p>	<p>Role:</p> <p>Management Board Members: Role: Term: Member Admission: Meetings: Duties: Report:</p>
<p>Reference Group</p>	<p>Role: To provide advice and guidance to the SC and Coordinator where requested.</p> <p>Members: (eg)</p>

	<p>Jane Kelsey Barry Coates David Uata Francesco Rampa Fiu Mataese Ofa Guttenbeil Sandra Tarte Padma Lal</p> <p>Meetings: No regular meetings, most communication through email, by phone or in person where required or possible.</p>
Finance Committee	<p>Role: To make purchasing decisions above \$500, other duties where requested by SC/MB or Coordinator.</p> <p>Members: Two members of the SC/MB should include (Chairperson who should also be the principal cheque signatory), Coordinator, and Accountant.</p> <p>Meetings: Coordinator, Accountant and Admin person to meet once a month to go over monthly accounts. Administrator to circulate minutes to Finance Committee</p> <p>Report: to SC/MB</p>
Accountant	<p>Role: Check book-keeping, preparing monthly accounts, bank reconciliation, writing yearly financial report, preparing donor acquittals.</p> <p>Meetings: Monthly finance meeting</p> <p>Reporting: To Coordinator and Finance Committee</p>
Human Resources Committee	<p>Role: Assist with staffing issues, including performance reviews, discipline, alternative contact for staff on HR and employment issues.</p> <p>Members: Two members of the SC/MB and Coordinator</p> <p>Meetings: When required, or as per requested by SC/MB, Coordinator or staff.</p> <p>Reporting: Updates at SC/MB meetings.</p>
Coordinator	<p>Role: General running of PANG, oversee staff work, seek funding, represent PANG views publicly and at relevant fora, responsible for organisational administration including programme documentation and reporting to donors.</p> <p>Meetings: Weekly staff meeting Finance meeting – end of month SC/MB meetings – bimonthly/monthly</p> <p>Reporting: To SC/MB</p>
Trade Policy Analyst	<p>Role: To have a sound knowledge and understanding of Pacific trade policy, to develop expertise in key areas (as listed in TOR), to carry out research as requested by the Coordinator or Steering Committee.</p> <p>Meetings: Weekly staff meeting</p>

	<p>Reporting: Report to Coordinator.</p>
<p>Information and Education Communication Officer (IEC Officer)</p>	<p>Role: Follow up with networks, update website, small pieces of original research</p> <p>Meetings: Weekly staff meeting.</p> <p>Reporting: Report to Coordinator.</p>
<p>Admin and Accounts (Full time)</p>	<p>Role: To run the day to day accounts of PANG, as well as other office related administrative duties, or requests from the Coordinator.</p> <p>Meetings: Weekly staff meeting. Monthly Finance meeting</p> <p>Reporting: Report to Coordinator and Accountant.</p>
<p>Tertiary Level Intern</p>	<p>Role: Work plan and TOR to be developed for each intern depending on PANG work at the time and intern interest and skill areas.</p> <p>Meetings: Weekly staff meeting.</p> <p>Reporting: Report to Coordinator or staff in charge of a particular project.</p>

Multi-Function Unit Purchase Proposal

Hardware and Consumables Cost Comparison

<u>Canon MF4150</u>					<u>Brother MFC-8860dn</u>					<u>HP Laser Jet 3390 All in One</u>				
Datec	\$880				Datec	\$1,498				Datec	\$1,555			
Daltron	\$850				Daltron	\$1,375				Daltron	\$1,695			
VT	\$820				VT	\$1,340				VT	\$1,575			
VT + card	\$1,290				TFL	\$1,399								
Consumables: Toner 2500 pages					Consumables: Toner 3500 pages, Drum 25000					Consumables: Toner 2500 pages				
	Toner	Drum	Page	1000pgs		Toner	Drum	page	1000 pgs		Toner	Drum	page	1000 pgs
VT	\$155	N/A	\$0.0620	\$62.00	VT	\$111	\$310	\$0.0441	\$44.11	VT	\$135	\$0	\$0.0540	\$54.00
										Daltron	\$129	\$0	\$0.0516	\$51.60
					Consumables: Toner 7000 pages, Drum 25000					Consumables: Toner 6000 pages				
						Toner	Drum	page	1000 pgs		Toner	Drum	page	
					VT	\$167	\$310	\$0.0363	\$36.26	VT	\$245	\$0	\$0.0408	\$40.83
					Daltron	\$164	\$310	\$0.0358	\$35.83	Daltron	\$265	\$0	\$0.0442	\$44.17
Details					Details					Details				
Speed	20ppm				Speed	30ppm				Speed	22ppm			
Print	1200x600dpi				Print	1200x1200dpi				Print	1200x1200dpi			
Copy					Copy	19200x19200dpi				Copy	600x600dpi			
Memory	256 pages				Memory	32MB RAM				Memory	64MB RAM			
Reliability					Reliability	Suppliers advised against, diff getting parts.				Reliability				
Warranty	Datec	1 year parts and labour			Warranty	Datec	1 year parts and labour			Warranty	Datec	1 year parts and labour		
	Daltron	n/a				Daltron					Daltron	n/a		
	VT	1 year parts and labour				VT	n/a				VT	n/a		

Recommendation

All multi-function units quoted were chosen because they have the following functions: printer, copier, fax, scanner and network sharing facility. There several key differences between the three printers chosen: Canon is the cheapest hardware purchase at \$1,290; though has the highest consumables cost at \$62 per 1000 pages. Brother hardware is mid priced at around \$1,400; with the cheapest consumables cost at aroun \$36 per 1000 pages, however two key suppliers (Datec and VT Solutions both advised against purchase of this machine as parts supply is difficult, and they find the machine often requiring repair. HP is the highest priced machine at around \$1,600 though it has mid-priced consumable costs at around \$40 per 1000 pages, it is also one of the most widely used printers in the Pacific.

Performance-wise, all machines are relatively similar, print speed is not an issue, as we will outsource photocopying for large runs. Print and copy quality is not a significantly important factor either as it is not essential to PANG's work, both Brother and HP have the same print quality.

Therefore we recommend the purchase of the HP Laser Jet 3390 All in One