

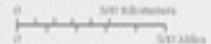


Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for Pacific Island States

Abstracts from papers submitted during
the CD Pacific policy research phase

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The Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for Pacific Island States concentrated on multilateral diplomacy conducted in International Geneva [...] Geneva is a centre of multilateral diplomacy mainly as it hosts the United Nations and other important international organisations.

”

Foreword

Small island states, especially geographically remote Pacific nations, strongly depend on international law and solidarity. For some nations, it is a question of their very existence. For example, without effective global action on climate change, states such as Kiribati may disappear because of the rise in sea level. Multilateral diplomacy conducted in International Geneva is particularly relevant for small Pacific island states. In Geneva, global policies are made in areas of vital relevance for the Pacific region: trade, climate change, health, migration, and disaster recovery, among others. Pacific island states must be represented in negotiations that can affect their economic and social development and their future prosperity.

CD Pacific (Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for Pacific Island States) was developed and delivered by DiploFoundation with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland with the aim of [strengthening the capacity of Pacific island states to participate more dynamically in multilateral diplomacy in general, and in Geneva-related activities in particular](#). It also aimed to strengthen functional links between Pacific Island States and International Geneva.

CD Pacific is part of wider efforts by the international community to strengthen the participation of small developing island states in multilateral diplomacy. The programme supports activities of the 2014 UN Year of Small Island Developing States. On 1–4 September, Samoa will host the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

CD Pacific was officially inaugurated in Vanuatu on 26 October 2013 by Prime Minister Moanna Carcasses Katotai Kalosil and Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Burkhalter. The programme was conceptualised and developed in cooperation with an international team of experts from small island states and various international organisations.

CD Pacific was delivered based on Diplo's capacity development methodology organised in three main phases: online training, online policy research, and policy immersion in Geneva. In the online training phase, participants gained knowledge in the six main areas of Geneva-based diplomacy (trade, human rights, climate change, health, humanitarian issues, and Internet governance). They applied this acquired knowledge to policy research of practical relevance for their

respective countries. In the policy immersion phase, participants received direct insight into the activities of Geneva International under the able supervision of experienced academics and diplomats.

In the following pages you will find a collection of abstracts from research projects conducted during CD Pacific, and a summary of the programme. The abstracts you see here showcase the concrete and practical policy input on the road towards more effective participation of the Pacific region in multilateral diplomacy. Along the way, participants will continue to reap the benefits of the seeds they have sown during CD Pacific, as they continue their focus on specialised areas of interest. Shared interests, personal contacts, and common projects contribute to [creating sustainable communities of practice](#) for dealing with new and complex policy issues, such as Internet governance. We are proud of their accomplishments to date and look forward to seeing our CD Pacific participants continue to flourish in their future policy work.

Dr Jovan Kurbalija
Director, DiploFoundation

Overview of the CD Pacific programme

'Geneva, being the second centre of the UN and home to many NGOs, think-tanks and other international actors has proven to be the place where solutions to many international problems are found and regulations are internationally adopted, be it on environmental issues, health, trade, migration, human rights or humanitarian action, just to name a few. Every day issues are discussed in Geneva that may have an enormous impact on the population of your country as well as the whole south Pacific region.'

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter

'For our small island, like the rest of Pacific, this type of capacity development is essential. We cannot afford to be left out of global negotiations. Geneva is the world humanitarian capital with the headquarters of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, among several others. The future of world communication and the Internet is discussed in Geneva. For us, participation in these processes is not only a matter of necessity, but also of urgency.'

Prime Minister Moanna Carcasses Katotai Kalosil



It all began in Vanuatu on 26 October 2013, with the official inauguration of CD Pacific by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu and Foreign Minister of Switzerland

Online phase

The programme began with a tutor-guided online learning course which took place from **13 January to 28 February 2014**. A new topic was discussed each week, covering some of the key multilateral diplomacy issues that are debated in International Geneva.

Research phase

From **3 to 31 March 2014**, participants engaged in the policy research phase where, under the supervision of expert consultants, they prepared a paper of 2500–3000 words on a topic of relevance to their country, connected to the Geneva multilateral diplomacy scene.

Policy immersion phase

Ten of the most successful participants were invited to Geneva for a 10-day policy immersion programme. From **17 to 26 June 2014** they attended roundtable discussions, seminars, and conferences, and engaged with subject matter experts on the fields covered in the online course.



1. Online phase

The programme began with a tutor-guided online course which took place from 13 January to 28 February 2014. It included orientation days followed by six weeks of online learning, with a new module and topic each week. The topics, each delivered by a guest lecturer, covered some of the key multilateral diplomacy issues that are debated in International Geneva:

Week 1. Environment and climate change diplomacy – **Ms Katharina Höne**

Week 2. Humanitarian diplomacy – **Ambassador Christopher Lamb**

Week 3. Trade diplomacy – **Ambassador Victor Camilleri**

Week 4. Human rights diplomacy – **Ambassador Petru Dumitriu**

Week 5. Health diplomacy – **Ms Michaela Told**

Week 6. Internet governance diplomacy – **Ms Virginia Paque**

The lecture texts served as a basis for discussions each week. Using **hypertext**, participants read actively by adding questions, comments, examples, arguments, further resources and other contributions to the text. They also read and responded to the entries added by their classmates, creating a discussion related to the lecture text.

*Participants were very engaged: over the course of six weeks, **23 participants** made a total of **957 hypertext entries**, 36 blog entries, and logged in **2012 times**.*

This course was conducted entirely online over a period of six weeks. Reading materials and tools for online interaction were provided through an online classroom. The course was based on a collaborative approach to learning, involving a high level of interaction. Each week, participants read the lecture text, adding questions, comments and references in the form of hypertext entries. Lecturers and other participants read and responded to these entries, creating interaction based on the lecture text. At the end of the week, participants and lecturers met online in a chat room to discuss the week's topic.

- Hypertext annotations and links were used by participants and lecturers to ask questions, provide examples or further information, respond to contributions of others, and as a group, to build knowledge beyond that found in the original text.
- Online discussion forums were used for in-depth discussion of particular topics or issues.
- Online chat was used for regular real-time group meetings to discuss course topics.
- Blogs were used for informal discussion and exchange, and posting news and notices.
- The classroom cantina provided participant and staff profiles and photos.
- Email notifications alerted participants to changes and updates in the classroom.



2. Research phase

Six expert consultants guided participants through their research proposals:



Ambassador Victor Camilleri is currently serving as Executive Director in the Ministry for European Affairs in Malta, with special responsibility for the preparations for Malta's presidency of the EU Council in 2017. In his 45-year career at the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs he has occupied a number of senior administrative and diplomatic posts including that of Permanent Secretary. He has extensive experience in multilateral affairs.



Dr Petru Dumitriu is currently Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Council of Europe to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva. He was the representative of Romania in the Executive Board of UNESCO and national coordinator of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. He also served as Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Director General for Global Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ms Katharina Höne is currently writing her PhD at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, Wales. Her research focuses on states and their interaction in international organisations from a constructivist perspective. Her research interests include international organisations, the UN Secretary-General, international mediation, the theory of international relations, international environmental politics, and climate change diplomacy.

From 3 to 31 March, participants engaged in the policy research phase where, under the supervision of expert consultants, they prepared a paper of 2500–3000 words on a topic of relevance to their country, connected to the Geneva multilateral diplomacy scene.

IGF multistakeholder diplomacy in Internet governance: Is it really making a difference to Pacific island countries and territories?

Trade Diplomacy: strengthening **Samoa's** representation in Geneva

Fiji's dilemma in EPA negotiations with the EU: converting challenges opportunities

Induced displacement as a result of climate change: the application of humanitarian diplomacy

Pathways to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) rights in the **Cook Islands**

Seventeen participants submitted a policy research proposal and eleven developed their proposals into full policy papers.

Internet governance: A **Cook Islands** case study

An analysis of health as foreign policy and its implication for new sectoral policy coherence in the **Solomon Islands**

Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) – Sustainable development: creating an enabling environment to secure the future of the Pacific

Vanuatu's main export promotion potential (in terms of goods and services) and the role that an organisation like the WTO could play in helping Vanuatu exploit that potential

Internet governance in **Vanuatu**

Vanuatu's participation in global trading

Ambassador Christopher Lamb, a former Australian diplomat and Ambassador, is currently Special Adviser to the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC. He also has advisory responsibilities with many National Societies, business groups, and universities. President of the Australia-Myanmar Institute he holds positions with several NGOs and foundations.



Ms Virginia (Ginger) Paque is currently IGCBP director for DiploFoundation, active in Civil Society discussions on Internet governance. An educator and administrator by profession, she has 25 years' experience in business and manufacturing systems consulting. The research and implementation of e-participation and online inclusion possibilities for global policy processes is another important priority area, with concrete applications in remote participation for global IG meetings such as the IGF.



Ms Michaela Told is currently Executive Director of the Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. Prior to moving into academia, she worked for more than 15 years with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at local, regional and international level in all continents, most recently heading the Principles and Values Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva.



3. Policy immersion phase

“ Eleven participants attended a 10-day policy immersion phase in Geneva in June 2014. Selections for the Geneva phase were based on results from the online course and policy research phases. ”

“ They also participated in roundtable discussions, attended seminars and conferences, and engaged with subject-matter experts on the fields covered in the online course. ”



“ Over the course of ten days, participants visited the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other multilateral organisations based in Geneva. ”





Florieann Wilson, Fiji

I am Florieann Wilson and am currently employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Fiji, in the Political and Treaties Division. My field of work encompasses issues that revolve around policy work and advice provision to senior management of the Ministry. I am fortunate to have an exciting and robust working environment, dealing with issues that are of immense interest and importance to me and contribute to the development of my society and the enhancement of Fiji's development strategies and Fiji's positive influence in the world. I studied at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and am an advanced graduate in the field of political science and workplace relations.

Through the course of my studies, I volunteered at various organisations which included: Hilton Special School, Gospel School for the Deaf, Fiji Corrections Services' Yellow Ribbon Rehabilitation Project for Offenders, the Ministry of Education, and the 'Remembering the Forgotten Child' charity programme under UNICEF. I then worked for KI Law, a private Law Firm based in Suva, Fiji.

The CD Pacific programme has been an eye-opener and has greatly enhanced my knowledge on issues of relevance to small island states and the ways in which we can strategically position ourselves as important actors in the international diplomacy forums in achieving our national targeted priorities.

Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) – Sustainable development: creating an enabling environment to secure the future of the Pacific

Florieann Wilson

Since the suspension of the Republic of Fiji from full participation in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) on 2 May 2009, Fiji found itself out in the cold, excluded by its closest neighbours from a regional body of which it was a founding member; a forum that Fiji actively participated in since 1971. In the words of Hon. Toke Talagi, Premier of Niue and Chair of the 2009 Pacific Islands Forum, the suspension of Fiji was based on the 'inability of the interim regime to return Fiji to democratic elections as dictated by the Forum members and reports of the political, legal and human rights violations within Fiji after the 2006 government transition'. The latter's suspension from PIFS, though hard-hitting on its regional relations and outlook within the international community became a game changer for Fiji. The need to remain regionally connected was of great importance. This led to the Engaging with the Pacific (EWTP) meetings, which was Fiji's alternate forum that allowed for dialogue with the region on environmental and developmental issues in the Pacific.

This paper examines the multistakeholder nature of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), a newly established regional institution in the Pacific whose time has come. Its core focus is on the mainstreaming of green growth/sustainable development policies and implementation actions from the multilateral forum of the United Nations and its regional commission of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to the national governments and local communities. It concludes that the PIDF provides a platform for multistakeholder participation and cooperation amongst Pacific island countries which adds value to regional governance and problem-solving in terms of sustainable development issues through the green economy in the Pacific. The concentrated navigated efforts of the PIDF spearheaded by the government of Fiji, focuses on the sustainable development agenda that is of relevance to survival of the Pacific, given that it faces various developmental issues with regard to the environment and the managing of its resources both human and natural.

Given that Pacific states are located at the forefront of the threats of climate change, the focus of the PIDF regional grouping on sustainable development differentiates this new regional body from other regional organisations in the Pacific as it tackles an area which is of concern to everyone in the region with the shift of the tectonic plates towards a more human/social focus as the world moves to highlight issues pertaining to natural resources and the environment towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The involvement of all spheres of society in the participatory processes of policy-making thus allows for a visionary development agenda for the Pacific which will govern the international stance of this emerging new regional body as it makes its mark on both the ESCAP and the UN platform.



Maureen Hilyard, Cook Islands

I became interested in the Internet as a tool for communication and for capacity building after I joined the New Zealand Correspondence School in 1989 as a Regional Representative and was involved in the development of e-Learning for students who lived in isolated environments. In 2004, this was expanded to introduce Correspondence School programmes to outer islands' students in the Cook Islands, working with their Ministry of Education under an NZAid project.

Because of my earlier involvement in school governance in New Zealand, I had undertaken a Business degree, and then later a Master of Management. After four years with the Cook Islands Ministry of Education, I moved to managing development projects for the Office of the Prime Minister and the National Environment Service, before working as a Development Programme Coordinator with the New Zealand High Commission.

I am now an independent project management consultant and a part-time tutor with the University of the South Pacific (Rarotonga Campus). I joined the Internet Society (ISOC) at my first PacINET in Samoa in 2006, and was elected to the Board of the Pacific Islands Chapter in 2010. I have been the Board Chair since 2012. My role on the Board has included working with other Pacific organisations to facilitate 'Internet access for all', building capacity within the region and encouraging economic opportunities that will contribute to the development of our Pacific nations.

My broader interest in Internet governance arose initially out of my Diplo studies and my first Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Hyderabad (2008) followed in 2009 by the IGF in Sharm el Sheikh as an ISOC Ambassador. This led me to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) meeting in Cartagena as an ICANN Fellow in 2010 where I joined my first working group to encourage greater recognition of the Pacific region by ICANN. I am currently a member of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the ALAC Leadership Team.

Internet governance in the Cook Islands

Maureen Hilyard

Internet governance became a hot issue in the Internet world when the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the United States Department of Commerce recently announced its intention to pass the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) over to the global multistakeholder community. This event occurred just before the meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in Singapore where consultation meetings were held to begin the transition process. While these developments may have been significant for the high-level global Internet governance community, the event and its impacts barely created a ripple of interest at the grassroots level of Internet users in the Pacific, and even less so in the Cook Islands, mainly due to a lack of awareness of what was happening or of its implications.

The impacts of high-level negotiations of influential stakeholder groups such as ICANN, or International Geneva and its associated United Nations organisations, are barely acknowledged by Internet users in the Pacific, largely because lack of accessibility to the Internet does not allow for the same level of comprehension and familiarity as for end-users in developed countries, or for any awareness of these decisions and their relevance.

This paper describes a slow but steadily growing acknowledgement by the Cook Islands government of the basic principles that arose out of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and provides a brief analysis of the follow-on benefits for Internet users in the Cook Islands. It also describes the diplomatic efforts of individuals and organisations within the community to implement the Geneva principles at a local level and to create our own model of Internet governance.

“ The impacts of high-level negotiations of influential stakeholder groups [...] are barely acknowledged by Internet users in the Pacific. ”



George Hoa'au, Solomon islands

I am currently Under Secretary for Health and Medical services in the Solomon Islands, and my responsibilities include providing budgetary analysis for all health issues including pandemics, health and foreign policy, and disease-security issues arising from disasters. I am a career-trained diplomat having served in various capacities in the Solomon Islands Foreign Ministry since 2005: Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Regional Economic Cooperation branch; Head of United Nations and Treaties branch; Assistant Secretary for the Europe, Africa, and Middle East branch; and Head of the Asia and Pacific branch.

I previously served as the Pacific Islands Trade Officer in the office of the Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

I hold a Master of International law from the Australian National University's college of law (Canberra), and has also a BA (Political Science) degree and Postgraduate Diploma (Governance) – both from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. I also studied at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (Hawaii), Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law (Sydney), and the Institute for Technical Cooperation (Geneva) Switzerland. I currently reside in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

An analysis of health as foreign policy and its implication for new sectoral policy coherence in Solomon Islands

George Hoa'au

While the relationship between health and foreign policy has become an emerging feature of our globalised world, it is yet to inform Solomon Islands foreign policy crafting since it gained independence in 1978. As international relations and its dynamics and determinants transcend both national borders and the mandates of the traditional foreign diplomat, it is important that this relationship be realised through domestic policy-making – for diseases surveillance, building capacity for health responses, and building new alliances, to name but a few. It has important implications, particularly regarding the opportunity for creating effective new national policy coherence amongst government ministries in small countries such as Solomon Islands.

This paper investigates current Solomon Islands health and foreign policies – in particular their issues and challenges. It explores how 'health as foreign policy' has implications for Solomon Islands. And it recommends new policy coherence for the country.

It seeks to answer two questions:

- What specific health issues could be part of Solomon Islands foreign policy?
- How could such a health-foreign policy inform new policy coherences for Solomon Islands?

This research has potential application for other small island Pacific states. In the immediate, it is hoped that its recommendations will be presented during the Solomon Islands annual national health conference, July 2014. Additionally, since nationwide elections will be held in December this year, its recommendations could constitute a set of new health-foreign policy nexus directions, which an incoming government, after the general elections around October 2014, could consider adopting.

“ It is important that this relationship [between health and foreign policy] be realised through domestic policy-making. ”



Ratu Eroni Duaibe, Fiji

My name is Ratu Eroni Biyaukula Duabie. People call me Eroni. I graduated with honours with a BA from India, majoring in Political Science and Economics.

I'm currently the Aide-de-Camp and Research Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. My career spans a period of 12 years during which I have held several appointments, both locally and abroad. My overseas appointments included service with the United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor (UNMISET), Regional Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).

My scope of involvement in the community expands beyond the confines of my career. I'm a member of Global Leadership Interlink (GLI), a global network of thousands of professionals and university students committed to transformation in society through the development of values-based leaders. GLI has more than 50 Chapters or Groups in 24 countries across 6 continents. I am also a member of the Order of St John Council which specialises in first aid and ambulance services.

Induced displacement as a result of climate change: the application of humanitarian diplomacy

Ratu Eroni Duaibe

Several causes can be attributed to the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and asylum seekers. Though policies have been put in place to address some of these displacements, this paper pays particular attention to displacement as a result of threats to humanity.

Attempts were made to engage in dialogue with various people from humanitarian agencies. All were reluctant to speak in a formal capacity as representatives of their organisation; they mentioned the sensitivity of the issue, especially in the Pacific region. However, many of the issues they mentioned were backed up by their respective websites and various books and publications.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (1738/2006) talks about the protection of civilians due to a prevalent threat. It defines what can be termed as a threat. If we take the UN definition of a threat as that which poses a risk for humanity, global warming in general and the rising sea level in particular pose an imminent threat to the lives of individuals who live in low-lying coastal areas. In view of this prevailing threat, and in respect of the applications of humanitarian diplomacy tools, Fiji has taken some steps to assist in the relocation of people of certain Pacific island states that will be underwater in years to come. In fact there have been bilateral talks in terms of allotment of land for the relocation.

This paper seeks to identify mandates, resolutions, policies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and so forth that focus on humanitarian assistance. It highlights their lack of capacity to address the rising issues of displacement that is looming on the horizon.

“ Fiji has taken some steps to assist in the relocation of people of certain Pacific Island States that will be underwater in years to come. ”



Anju Mangal, Fiji

I work for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), a regional and international organisation providing technical assistance to the 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). As the information and knowledge management (IKM) specialist/coordinator, I have an advisory role in information and communication technology (ICT) and IKM development to the staff and to PICTS. I provide leadership and advice as a trainer on the use of ICT, IKM, social media, and e-learning platforms in the Pacific.

Academically, I have an MA in Governance, a BSc in Information Systems and Geographical Information Systems, and am certified in knowledge management, Web 2.0 and e-learning opportunity, Internet governance and ICT Policy, and ArcGIS/GIS emergency response. I tutored DiploFoundation's ICT Strategy course, and am a research expert and active member of DiploFoundation's research and teaching faculty. An alumni of the IGCBP 2009, I was an ISOC Ambassador to the IGF in 2008 in Hyderabad, India, and a Commonwealth IGF fellow and member of IGF Secretariat team in Sharm El-Sheikh. I was chosen to represent Fiji and the Pacific region to work as a fellow at the UN IGF Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. During my tenure at the IGF Secretariat, I was in charge of maintaining and updating the IGF website and also working with the IGF team to facilitate the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings. I am currently a MAG member of the UN IGF and a board member of the University of the South Pacific – Pacific Emergency Response Team (PacCert). I served as a board member of the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC) and am currently the treasurer and chairwoman of the PICISOC Women and ICT group. I co-ordinate and develop innovative ideas on ICT and KM for development and advocates on IG issues in the Pacific and am the Pacific adviser/co-ordinator for the Youth and ICT in agriculture advisory team administered under the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Netherlands.

IGF multistakeholder diplomacy in Internet governance: Is it really making a difference to Pacific island countries and territories?

Anju Mangal

The Internet is made up of diverse communities coming from different places at different times, all working at their own pace with common interests, plans, and visions. Internet users are the heart of the Internet but the majority of ordinary users are not part of the decision-making process in the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF). There is a need for cross-border and cross-collaboration to solve the most challenging issues in the area of Internet governance.

In the case of the Internet, governance is essential within the Pacific, among other things, to: safeguard the rights and define the responsibilities of the people in the Pacific; protect end users from misuse and abuse; protect the Pacific people's interest at the national, regional and the global level; and encourage further sustainable development.

The topics of Internet governance are being debated and can be controversial, especially for countries that don't have policies that protect end users. Many initiatives have emerged in the Pacific island states but the region is struggling to be part of the multistakeholder process. Not all countries and territories in the Pacific have an international and or regional agreement to be concerned with influencing national policy in this area. Under the global IGF, the Internet has become an urgent priority. Every Pacific island country and territory should embrace innovation and new technology. The policies and actions regarding Internet governance must be strategic and coherent to ensure that the voices of the Pacific small island countries and territories are heard. One of the main strengths of the Internet in the Pacific is its people's nature, which facilitated its fast growth, and also promoted originality and creativity. How to protect the Pacific island region from emerging issues of the Internet will remain an ongoing concern for some of the organisations working towards policies, strategies, and standards to combat threats such as cyber-bullying, cyberterrorism, and cybersecurity. There is a growing demand for security standards which enable an organisation to practice safe security to avoid cyber-attacks.

The IGF provides a space where challenges, obstacles, and issues are raised and discussed. This forum allows lessons learnt and innovative methodologies to be exchanged but the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) are not being prioritised on the global agenda. This paper focuses on whether PICTS are providing input into the global IGF process and what constraints they face. It raises concerns as to why PICTS are not effectively participating in the global IGF process. It looks at some of the ways to improve the global multistakeholder collaboration and process by involving PICTS. A good example would be to see how an organisation like DiploFoundation can continue to provide assistance through strengthening Geneva-based negotiations with multilateral organisations to provide capacity building programmes to PICTS in the area of Internet governance.



Eirangi Marsters, Cook Islands

Kia Orana. Our greeting in the Cook Islands directly translates to ‘may you live long’. This is the essence of our culture and a description of the nature of our people. I was born and raised in the tropical Cook Islands. My native language is Cook Islands Maori; the common language spoken here is English.

I come from a tight-knit family. My parents, Tom and Tuaine Marsters, have always encouraged higher learning. My father was the former Deputy Prime Minister for the Cook Islands, and is now the current Head of State. My mother is an accountant who in the last couple of years graduated with a degree in Law from the Waikato University in Hamilton, New Zealand. I have three brothers, two older and one younger. I am also the proud mother of three beautiful sons, and aunt to two handsome nephews and one gorgeous niece.

I am currently employed as the Foreign Affairs Officer for the International Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration for the Cook Islands. The role is an enlightening one and exciting challenge. I have had opportunities to be involved in high-level meetings, and have attended overseas meetings, conferences, and workshop in order to develop capacity for the goals of our organisation and our country. I am proud to be part of this organisation, one that looks to strengthen our aims and aspirations as a nation as well as continue to progress our international relations in a global context.

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for the Pacific Islands States offered by DiploFoundation, as this initiative will deepen my understanding of policy research and analysis methods used in Geneva to enhance my capacity in this area of importance. I also see this as a stepping-stone towards elevating the profile of the Cook Islands in an international arena. This is something that I am proud to be involved in.

Ultimately, gaining higher learning will progress my personal and professional development, as I aspire to be a leader and a role model for my nation, to contribute at many levels from social, economic, and political perspectives.

Pathways to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) rights in the Cook Islands

Eirangi Marsters

The principal purpose of this research is to establish an understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) rights in the Cook Islands. There has not been any formal data collected for the LGBT community in the Cook Islands; however, there are plans to develop statistics for this minority group by Te Tiare Association Incorporated (TTA), the only LGBT community group in the Cook Islands. The purpose of data collection is in line with the TTA Action Plan 2012–2017 to raise awareness within the community as well as its bigger plans to address legislation issues which criminalise homosexuality in the Cook Islands.

This paper defines human rights and how human rights are perceived in the Cook Islands. It gives a snapshot of the LGBT community in the Cook Islands, and further highlights its historical journey. It also highlights progress made by its Pacific sisters towards the development of LGBT rights in their respective countries and gives some background to the Cook Islands Human Rights Conventions as well as the Cook Islands Crimes Act, briefly discussing the barriers around the legislative implications towards LGBT. It touches lightly on human rights instruments to which the Cook Islands are party and notes how these instruments reflect on a small community. The paper also briefly discusses the only LGBT community in the Cook Islands and how it is currently dealing with issues regarding this minority group. Finally, it outlines a pathway towards LGBT rights and further develops recommendations in order to alleviate pressure towards LGBT rights in the Cook Islands and how the country may move forward as a community in order to support LGBT rights.

“ This paper defines human rights and how human rights are perceived in the Cook Islands. ”



Jackson Miake, Vanuatu

I am the ICT Program Manager at the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, Prime Minister's Office at the government of the Republic of Vanuatu. My role is to develop and implement government policies in the information and communication technology (ICT) and telecommunications sector. I have been in this role for the past three years and enjoy working in a vibrant and enthusiastic office with a team committed to developing a nation such as Vanuatu. Prior to taking up the role, I worked in the public sector as in ICT and in the banking and aviation industries.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) was established in May 2011 and is the first such office in the South Pacific region with a Chief Information Officer and technical staff. The office has two roles: (i) to manage the Government Broadband Network, which connects all government offices throughout Vanuatu; and (ii) to advise the government on policy matters relating to ICT and telecommunications. The success of ICT in Vanuatu is marked by the arrival of the first submarine cable into Vanuatu in November 2013; the establishment of the first Internet Exchange Point in the South Pacific islands; and the development of three key policies. Vanuatu is seen as a leader in ICT policy and development, thanks to the political will both from former and current governments, and the good working relationship with the private sector and civil society.

Internet governance in Vanuatu

Jackson Miake

Our world is connected and fast-changing, largely due to the rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Internet governance is multifaceted, complex, and far from transparent. It raises contentious issues of public policy and will continue to do so..

The strategies that the government of Vanuatu has in place recognise that ICT is an enabler of services in our socio-economic development to support the national vision of A Just, Educated, Healthy and Wealthy Vanuatu. The strategies are: (i) Multistakeholder and Multisector collaboration; (ii) Pragmatic approach; (iii) Private, in particular locally-based, sector driven development; (iv) Sustainable best practice ICT sector governance; (v) Fair and effective competition and enhancement of economies of scale; (vi) 'Squeezing-the-assets' and 'Thinking-of-a-greater-good'; (vii) Kick-Starting sustainable development; (viii) Subsidiarity and stakeholder ownership and drive; (ix) Policy as a process; (x) Integration into work as usual; (xi) Socially inclusive and equitable development; (xii) Being a responsible member of the international and regional community; (xiii) Prioritising the priorities; and (xiiii) Utilisation of appropriate tools. The strategies are based on international practise and local experience and what can be achieved using available resources.

This paper reviews those Internet governance strategies currently in place in Vanuatu, with a view towards sharing best practices to offer increased cooperation and support for the rest of the South Pacific Island countries. Its main finding as to why Vanuatu is moving ahead with ICT, and in particular Internet governance, is because of good multiple stakeholder collaboration between the government, the private sector and civil society.

“ Vanuatu is moving ahead with ICT [...] because of good multiple stakeholder collaboration between the government, the private sector and civil society. ”



Steve Siro, Vanuatu

I come from an island called Pentecost in the northern part of Vanuatu. Pentecost is well known globally for its land-diving ceremonies. The land-diving ritual is an annual ceremony put on by people on the south of the island. During this ritual, men jump from towers 20–30 metres tall with vines tied to their feet in a ritual believed to ensure a good yam harvest and fertility for men. The idea of modern-day bungee jumping was developed from this ancient ritual.

I work as a manager responsible for Customs Revenue in the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue. Customs revenue (from import duties, excise tax, and VAT at imports) contributes about 57% of total government revenue and so I consider my job to be very important.

Early this year, I completed a Master of International Trade and Development at the University of Adelaide in Australia. I also spent four years in Beijing in the PRC studying the Chinese language (Mandarin) and so I am privileged (in a way) to be able to speak the Chinese national language. I like meeting new people and making new friends and learning about their culture.

Vanuatu's main export promotion potential (in terms of goods and services) and the role that an organisation like the WTO could play in helping Vanuatu exploit that potential

Steve Siro

Tourism is the mainstay of Vanuatu's economy comprising 40% of the country's GDP and 80% of its total export services. However, Vanuatu needs to be able to attract tourists from other countries, not just from Australia and New Zealand. Also, it is vital that policymakers implement policies that support the tourist value chain to effectively engage the poor in tourism development.

Kava, a priority commodity, is facing a ban by developed countries like Germany and Australia on health grounds. This has impacted the effective utilisation of this product which has great potential in the pharmaceutical industry. Vanuatu needs to address the kava ban in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee as a Trade Concern. Also, Vanuatu might wish to pursue the case through the dispute settlement mechanism. To effectively utilise kava and other primary products earmarked for export, Vanuatu needs to develop a cluster development strategy supported by a proper value chain analysis for each product. It needs to take immediate measures to develop a national export strategy to enhance the export of primary and semi-processed products.

The WTO, through its Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) and Aid for Trade (Aft) programmes, has assisted Vanuatu in addressing trade-related supply constraints and building a sustainable trade-related capacity. Vanuatu, on its part, also needs to strengthen its Aft monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism with an Aft policy. The National Trade and Development Committee (NTDC) needs to address those recommendations of the Trade Policy Framework (TPF) that have gone off track and those that have had little progress with implementation.

This paper recommends that Vanuatu develops a 'WTO legal culture' and uses WTO law actively to promote its interests.

“ [Vanuatu] needs to take immediate measures to develop a national export strategy to enhance the export of primary and semi-processed products. ”



Sandra Tisam, Cook Islands

I have been based at the Cook Islands High Commission in Wellington since 2013 as First Secretary. I started at the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in 2005 in the International Division after graduating from the University of the South Pacific. I am currently studying towards a Master's in International Relations at Victoria University of Wellington. During DiploFoundation's Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for Pacific Island States we were introduced to Internet governance – a term I had vaguely heard about but which I was unfamiliar with and it sparked my interest in writing about it.

Internet governance: a Cook Islands case study

Sandra Tisam

Internet governance is a complex, cross-cutting issue in which small island developing states (SIDS) such as the Cook Islands are at a disadvantage when discussing issues across a wide spectrum of forums from the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meetings dealing with security and cybercrime issues to discussions on country codes and domain names in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Despite the limitations in the number of officials engaged in discussions in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the Cook Islands is ably represented in the forums that are attended. Further support and capacity building are required to ensure the continuation of effective participation in these forums. There is also a need to increase the number of officials aware of the complex issue of Internet governance and how effective participation and engagement at regional and international levels is possible through e-participation.

This paper outlines the main issues the Cook Islands is focused on within the field of Internet governance – infrastructure and capacity building. A review of existing literature on Internet governance, the Cook Islands’ national ICT policy, reports, and presentations at conferences, along with conversations with officials in the ICT field were undertaken and insights are offered from working in the Foreign Ministry. This paper focuses on the participation of the Cook Islands in some of the various forums on Internet governance, including the role Cook Islands’ participants played as facilitators, chairs of sessions, presenters, and general conference participants in discussing ideas and sharing experiences and solutions, adding to the body of knowledge about Internet governance. In this role, engagement by the Cook Islands in multilateral diplomacy has been successful, despite its size and limited capacities.

Even with limited capacities in the field of Internet governance, the Cook Islands has continued to engage in forums and to contribute effectively to shaping the framework of Internet governance. Support in the form of increased human resources, capabilities, and understanding is required to continue and maintain the work currently in progress.

“ Even with limited capacities in the field of Internet governance, the Cook Islands has continued to engage in forums and to contribute effectively to shaping the framework of Internet governance. ”



Setaita Tupua-Kalou, Fiji

I started my career at Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2006 as an Economic Planning Officer in its Economics and Trade Division with a background in international trade and issues related to the World Trade Organization (WTO). I have a Bachelor of Arts major in Economics from the University of the South Pacific (Fiji) and completed a three-month course on trade policy in Singapore in 2008 covering various WTO disciplines. This was a joint collaboration between the WTO in Geneva and the National University of Singapore.

In 2012, while on diplomatic posting in Fiji's mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, I started the Master in Contemporary Diplomacy programme through DiploFoundation and accredited by the University of Malta. I am currently working on my dissertation, entitled *Against the Odds: Negotiating for a Sustainable Tuna Fishery in the Pacific* after completing the post-graduate diploma component in 2013.

Rejoining headquarters in 2013 opened up a whole new gamut of issues for me with the refreshing shift in focus from economics and trade-related issues to the area of foreign policy under the ministry's Political and Treaties Division. In the same year, I was informed about the CD Pacific programme through Diplo's alumni network. The programme began in January 2014 and I am due to complete the final 10-day policy immersion phase in Geneva in June 2014, with other members from the Pacific region.

Fiji's dilemma in EPA negotiations with the EU: converting challenges into opportunities

Setaita Tupua-Kalou

When Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) initialled the Pacific-EU interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in 2007, it was primarily to ensure the uninterrupted preferential market access of their sugar and fisheries exports to the EU, after the expiry of the trade provisions in the Cotonou Agreement on 31 December 2007. This was made possible through the successor unilateral EC Market Access Regulation (MAR) 1528/2007.

Seven years later, Fiji continues to negotiate with the Pacific region on a comprehensive EPA, deferring the ratification of the interim EPA which it signed with PNG and the EU in 2009. In October 2013, when Pacific-EU negotiations in Brussels bordered on the dilution of the unique global sourcing provisions on fisheries in the interim EPA, PNG opted out of the talks.

Fiji will hold its national election on 17 September 2014 and is optimistic that the EU will favourably consider lifting the sanctions on development cooperation under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement post-election. Australia and New Zealand lifted all travel sanctions in April 2014, in light of the considerable progress Fiji has made in returning the country to democratic elections and the rule of law.

In light of these favourable political developments, Fiji could join PNG in benefitting from a closer trilateral agreement under the interim EPA with the EU. Why has Fiji not opted for the interim EPA ratification, but continued to strengthen regional diplomacy in the comprehensive EPA, when development cooperation is most likely to be reinstated post-election with or without a comprehensive EPA? This paper explores the possible options that may be considered by the Fijian government as the 1 October deadline rapidly draws near.

“ Fiji continues to negotiate with the Pacific region on a comprehensive EPA. ”



Anna Main, Samoa

I work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in Samoa as a Senior Foreign Service Officer within the Political, International Relations, and Protocol Division. I am passionate about diplomacy, international relations, and trade. Some of my current responsibilities focus on providing policy advice on foreign and trade matters and preparing briefs on Samoa's bilateral and multilateral relations. I also provide protocol courtesies to visiting foreign dignitaries and correspond with diplomatic missions and regional and international organisations on issues of economic and political interest to Samoa.

Previously, I was with the Trade Division of MFAT where I was part of the negotiating team on services for Samoa's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Capacity Development Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy for Pacific Island States offered by DiploFoundation has expanded my knowledge on issues of significant importance to the development of Pacific small island states. I am privileged to be part of this programme and hope to continue pursuing further studies in the field of multilateral diplomacy in the future.

Trade diplomacy: strengthening Samoa's representation in Geneva

Anna Main

One of the biggest challenges that Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) countries face in the World Trade Organization (WTO) is not having permanent representation in Geneva, Switzerland. Ultimately, if countries are not at the negotiating table to raise their concerns or to pursue their interests, they will not be heard. This paper explores how Samoa's representation in Geneva can be strengthened.

Interviews were conducted through questionnaires and e-mails in addition to online literature research for information related to the challenges of representation for small island states. In constructing possible alternatives for strengthening representation, costs of the Embassy of Samoa in Brussels provided through the Accounts Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the market rates offered by the Commonwealth Small States Office were used.

Currently, Samoa does not have permanent representation in Geneva. Its positions on WTO issues have been expressed as part of the Pacific region through the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS Geneva Office) to the WTO or through the attendance of trade officials from Capital and occasionally from the Embassy of Samoa in Brussels. Some of the alternatives that Samoa could pursue to strengthen its lack of representation in Geneva include (i) the addition of more WTO internships at the PIFS Geneva Office, (ii) setting up a Permanent Mission of Samoa to the WTO in Geneva, and (iii) establishing Single Representation (a one-person mission) in Geneva. The Embassy of Brussels was considered as an alternative but this was discarded primarily as it did not result in permanent representation in Geneva.

After weighing up the challenges, costs, and feasibility of each alternative, the recommendations for strengthening Samoa's representation are two-fold: expand the WTO Internship Programme at the PIFS Geneva Office and establish Single Representation, with the latter being the slightly preferable option.

“ Recommendations for strengthening Samoa's representation are two-fold: expand the WTO Internship Programme at the PIFS Geneva Office and establish Single Representation. ”

What participants liked ...

...about the online phase

'A flexible, practical and simple approach to learning.'

'The discussion and literature provided by the lecturers were very good and the value added by participants were very interesting and enjoyable to read.'

'The best thing [about the course] is the expanding of my knowledge on the various facets of diplomacy. Several years ago, diplomacy was a very general phenomenon, but now it has become a focused reality on tangible areas.'

'A diverse group of participants contributed a wide range of knowledge exchanged on the forum.'

'The hypertexts on the online texts made the course really interesting for me. The participants were really active and the tutors were quick to respond, so it kept the momentum going for all to be actively involved in this part of the programme.'

...about the research phase

'I could research about the topic of interest to me and to my work.'

'The freedom of the choice of topic for the research and the assistance provided from lecturers/tutors especially in terms of guidance (for the research and proposal parts).'

'This phase of the course got me thinking about a lot of things. I did not realise that I had accumulated over the years a lot of knowledge that had no reference point. It was at this point that I became determined to put references to my knowledge.'

'Allowed me to focus on an issue that was of current importance to my government and produce a paper that is useful for policy-making and hopefully decision-making.'

...about the policy immersion phase

'Excellent variety of UN organisations covered. The content of the programme was very relevant and of great relevance to my area of work.'

'Exposure to the International Geneva.'

'Everything. It was quite intense, stimulating, well structured, and good knowledge sharing. The group dynamics were wonderful.'

'Visiting the international organisations and meeting key personnel as well as building a network of contacts in Geneva.'

'Everything was a learning avenue for me. Especially from a technical background, the whole immersion opened up opportunities that can be well utilised.'

Recommendations for improvement

- Try to have more/greater coverage from those PICs that were not represented, yet still base this on merit to maintain the high standard of the course.
- Consider including contributions by former workers of international organisations, for example WTO, UNCTAD.
- Have more questions and practical exercises that count towards the overall grades for the online course.
- Spend a bit more time in the online classrooms. The interactive sessions need to be longer, or perhaps happen twice a week. Once to introduce the topic and a second session to give feedback.
- For common topics/questions, have an explanation video lecture that students can watch/downloaded later.
- Now that there is more Pacific presence in Geneva, consider involving these missions in the programme.
- Schedule group debriefs each afternoon where participants can discuss what they've learned and how it is relevant to their country and to the region.



Budget

The programme was conceived for 20 participants, who would attend the online learning/research phase. The best 10 participants would attend the intensive Geneva policy immersion programme. Due to cost effectiveness, the online phase had 23 participants and the policy immersion 11.

Budget estimate (in Chf), items covered by Switzerland are marked in colour.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Estimate</i>
Online phase	
<i>Project preparations</i>	20.000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – project conceptualisation and development – project management – communications – adverting and recruitment process – liaison with partners 	
<i>Preparing online course materials (Geneva modules)</i>	18.000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – instructional design (objectives, syllabus, learning activities, assessment) – sub-contracting expert authors for each module – advising and assistance with adapting materials provided by expert authors for online learning – coordinating review process of texts – advising and assisting authors with creating weekly assignments – editing all text materials – formatting and upload of course materials for online classroom 	
<i>Online course delivery</i>	28.000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – online classroom set-up and registering users – server hosting of the online classroom – software licence fees – course coordination (administration and learner support) – lecturing (sub-contracting topic experts as lecturers – moderating class discussion, providing feedback on assignments, leading weekly chat sessions, responding to participant questions, providing weekly summaries, etc.) – technical support to course participants – course related administration (admissions, registration) – design, printing and posting of course certificates 	

Research phase

Online policy research (research supervision and consulting)	12.000
– preparation of research guide to support participants	
– research tutors (who work individually with course participants on the research papers)	
– expert consultancy (advising, feedback and assessment of research papers)	
Publication	30.000
– preparing publication	

Policy immersion phase

– travel for 10 participants from Pacific region on economy basis	28.000
– per diem for the stay in Geneva (12 days)	5.500
– accommodation in Geneva for 10 participants	28.500
– organisation of the visit and logistics in Geneva (travel arrangements, coordination with international organisations, conference rooms, possible visit to Bern, external lecturers)	22.000

TOTAL COST	192.000
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From which contribution by Switzerland	142.000
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