The First Regional Workshop on the PIDF Establishment Agreement was held at Novotel, Lami, Fiji from 6th to 7th May, 2015 and was opened by the Honorable Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral (Ret’d) Ratu Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. Addressing delegates from around the PIDF region, Prime Minister Bainimarama stated that the Workshop was an important step on our journey as Pacific Islanders to establish an institution that is a genuine expression of island priorities, embracing Governments, the private sector and civil society:

“As I said at the time, we are a grand coalition who speak for the aspirations and dreams of all Pacific Islanders. And we have opened our doors to the world, to any Government or organisation that wants to work with us to protect our interests and improve the lives of all Pacific peoples. We can all be extremely proud at the success so far of this wonderful initiative. But the time has come to take PIDF to another level by formalising and institutionalising it and give it the subsequent standing we seek in the global community”.

Delegates from Cook Island, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Solomon Is, Tonga and Tuvalu from government, civil societies, and the private sector attended the two days meeting.

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<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>May</th>
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<td>27th</td>
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<td>B2B Coordinating Committee Meeting, Suva</td>
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<td>2nd Regional Workshop on PIDF Agreement, Suva</td>
<td>3rd PIDF Summit, Fiji</td>
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Inclusivity, Representation and Participation come out strong in PIDF Agreement Development

Principles of Pacific Islands representation, participation and inclusivity came out strong at the first regional workshop on PIDF Agreement.
The workshop which was attended by more than 50 delegates from the Pacific, as well as members of the public discussed the institutional structure, character, principles and budget model of the PIDF. They also looked at membership fees, equity and equality of membership, the need to define the role of development partners and the importance of sustainability for the countries and the PIDF.

“The final outcome should enable us to be able to voice our concerns & views of the Pacific at the highest level,” said Mr Sam Savou, former PIF Trade and Invest’s Trade Commissioner to China.
Participants agreed that the PIDF Agreement should be a living document that ensures that the Pacific set the priorities instead of following an agenda set by donors that may not fully reflect Pacific ideals and issues.

"We must do things the Pacific Way. There are inherent Pacific principles that are based on our culture and the way we understand each other”, said Mr Albon Ishoda Charge de Affaires of the Embassy of the

Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji.
The PIDF priorities on the Green/Blue economy, climate change, sustainable development; low carbon development and disaster risk management were also looked at by delegates.
The outcome of two day workshop will now be translated into an establishment agreement for review at the Second Workshop in July.
LEADERS OF MAJOR REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS MEET

The Interim Secretary General of the PIDF, Mr Amena Yauvoli received the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor DBE at the PIDF Secretariat on 10th April. It was a courtesy visit by SG Taylor and also an opportunity to discuss issues between the two organisations. The PIDF and the PIF are the only two regional organisations where leaders of the Pacific meet to discuss important development challenges faced by Pacific SIDS. Both heads agreed to work collaboratively and to meet often.

OMAN ENVOY MEETS PIDF DSG

Deputy Secretary General of the PIDF, Mr Penijamini Lomaloma received the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Fiji His Excellency Sayyid Nazar bin Al-Julandi bin Ajed Al-Said, on 15th April, 2015. Ambassador Al Said thanked the PIDF for the opportunity to exchange information and expressed a readiness to explore areas of collaboration with PIDF. He highlighted especially the special challenges faced posed by young people today and offered to assist the PIDF in this area.

PIDF DSG MEETS NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Ahlberger visted PIDF Secretariat on 22nd April, 2015, and was thanked for the support given by Sweden to the Pacific through the EU the UN and other international fora. Mr Lomaloma, Deputy Secretary General, PIDF also took the opportunity to brief Ambassador Ahlberger on the host of issues relevant to the vision of PIDF.
BANGLADESH HC CALLS ON PIDF ISG

The PIDF Interim Secretary General, Mr Amen Yauvoli, received H.E. Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, Bangladesh’s Non-Resident High Commissioner to Fiji on Tuesday 28 April. ISG Yauvoli conveyed his appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh for their continued interest and support in working with PIDF and Pacific SIDS through various international fora such as the Group of 77 & China as we advance sustainable developments in the Pacific region.

PIDF FAREWELLS AMBASSADOR TELENI

Interim Secretary General of the PIDF, Mr Amen Yauvoli and Staff of the PIDF Secretariat farewelled Ambassador Esala Teleni in an afternoon tea at the PIDF Secretariat on 23rd of March, 2015.

Ambassador Teleni was the Special Advisor (Projects) for the PIDF since late 2014 upon his return from his last posting as Fiji’s Ambassador to China. ISG Yauvoli emphasized that Ambassador Teleni’s contribution to the PIDF will not end as he leaves the Secretariat as he will continue to be our Champion wherever he serves. We look forward to working closely with Ambassador Teleni in his future appointments.
The independent Pacific island nations are the least known of the over 100 new decolonized countries since WWII. These Oceanic nations gained independence by peaceful means. This is partly due to cooperation of regional organizations. Some nations predate independence, some ceased after independence, and many originated with decolonization.

Several decades have lapsed since Fiji’s Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara first popularized the term “The Pacific Way.” The need for the small and isolated Island states of the South Pacific to speak with one voice on matters of regional concern and the fact that the nations of the region share many common characteristics have both necessitated and enabled the development of several forms of regional cooperation. According to Michael Haas it is the various institutional forms that this cooperation has taken since World War II.

Pacific Way is a new form of international interaction, a refreshing contribution to theories of regional integration. Regional Cooperation in the Pacific shows how the cultural affinity among the island nations of the South Pacific, known as the Pacific Way, has led to unique regional intergovernmental organizations. In particular, the survival and vitality of regional cooperation in the South Pacific is pivoted on this peculiar cultural affinity. Many have claimed that organizations who have not adopted the Pacific Way have collapsed, while those that embrace it will survive and will continue to grow. (Haas, Michael, April 4, 1989).

* A NEC Volunteer with The PIDF Secretariat.
**Island News**

**Kiribati**
Kiribati has installed a solar power system that will feed into the South Tarawa electricity grid in Bikenibeu. Supported by the Pacific Environment Community Fund, the installation is the first time a solar link has been made to the Kiribati power grid. The system will account for nearly 4 percent of the electricity needs of the Kiribati Public Utilities Board. It is expected to save in diesel oil costs of about a quarter of a million US dollars and make a substantial cut in greenhouse gas emissions each year. (Source: Radio New Zealand)

**Guam**
HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — According to a U.S. Navy draft environmental assessment, Guam could be getting land to build solar farms, which would provide clean, renewable energy and lessen energy costs and dependency on fossil fuels. The (Guam) Pacific Daily News reports (http://bit.ly/1EwLHnw) that the assessment from the lead agency on the project states that approximately 192 acres of land would be leased to Guam Power Authority to build eight solar farms for 37 years, including renewal options. The proposed farms would produce up to 43.8 megawatts of direct-current solar-generated energy. The energy would feed into Guam Power Authority's electric grid for public and military use. Guam's first major solar farm is a $108 million project currently being built in Inarajan. It will power about 10,000 homes when it is complete.

If you have any feedback, suggestions or information please contact us at:

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