

Agreement on the Establishment of the Pacific Islands Universities Research Network

The University of the South Pacific

Suva Fiji

10 July 2013

Agreement on the Establishment of the Pacific Islands Universities Research Network

The Vice-Chancellors/Presidents or their nominees of eleven (11) Pacific Islands universities at their meeting on the 9th and 10th of July 2013 at the University of the South Pacific hereby confirm the establishment of the **Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN)**, as detailed in the PIURN COMMUNIQUÉ of 7 November 2012, and agree on the underlying characteristics of the new network, as follows:

Vision

A prosperous Pacific Region where research and innovation collaboration address the needs of the people in identified priority areas.

Mission

To enhance research, innovation and collaboration to better serve the needs and aspirations of Pacific communities.

Goals

- Validate and generate knowledge through research and publication on priority challenges in the Pacific region;
- Share physical and intellectual resources, in an equitable manner, to facilitate quality research;
- Develop shared research training initiatives;
- Collectively work with regional and international organizations to strengthen the quantity and quality of research conducted in fields of major importance;
- Strengthen research content in the curriculum and in teaching, with a focus on strengthening the postgraduate training and enhancing joint degrees at the Masters and PhD levels;
- Protect and apply local and indigenous knowledge systems;
- Provide Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) policy advice at the regional and national levels; and
- Use the knowledge generated through research for the well-being of the Pacific Island communities.

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Benefits

- Enhance research culture and outputs;
- Enhance quality of research;
- Enhance complementarities and commonalities;
- Reduce duplication;
- Enhance academic and research standing of universities;
- Increase cooperation in research;
- Overcome challenges that are difficult to meet individually;
- Attract resources;
- Increase positive relations between universities;
- Impact, advise on policies;
- Improve well-being of communities;
- Collectively address national and regional research priorities;
- Provide database for decision-making;
- Create greater opportunities for staff and students; and
- Empower people through research.


Initial Priority Activities

- Collect and provide essential data on research in the region. Mapping or inventory or auditing of institutional research capacity;
- Share or exchange standards, policies and information about academic (research and postgraduate training) programs; store research-related policy documentation and resources (such as postgraduate policies of each member university, ethics-related policies, research permits requirements of Pacific island countries);
- Foster research student and staff exchanges;
- Hold a PIURN Annual/Biennial Conference, during which training courses, seminars, workshops, and awards for research can also be held concurrently;
- Support grant applications and resource mobilization; and
- Support and disseminate research outcomes.

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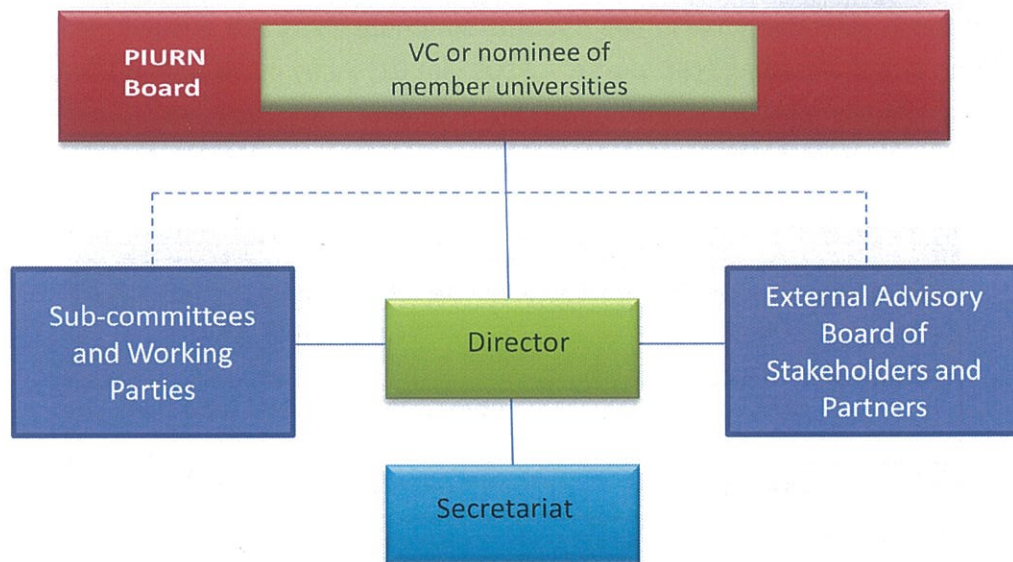
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Management Structure



Draft Constitution

A draft constitution will be endorsed at the first meeting of the board of management.

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University Financial Contribution

The members acknowledge the importance of providing financial support for the Secretariat so that PIURN can achieve the goals identified through the priority activities. Seed funding was determined for the first three years (10 July 2013 – 10 July 2015), broadly based on the student numbers of the universities. The respective annual contributions from the eleven universities are as follows:

University	Amount in US Dollars Per Annum
Fiji National University	\$6,000
National University of Samoa	\$1,000
Pacific Adventist University	\$1,000
Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment	\$1,000
The University of Fiji	\$1,000
The Papua New Guinea University of Technology	\$2,000
The University of the South Pacific	\$7,500
University of French Polynesia	\$2,000
University of Goroka	\$1,000
University of New Caledonia	\$2,000
University of Papua New Guinea	\$7,500

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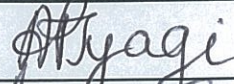
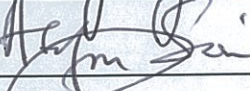


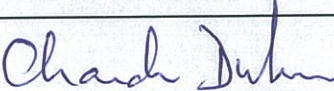

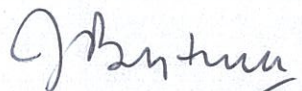


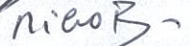

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Conclusion

The following universities have agreed to the proposal outlined above:

University	Vice-Chancellor/President or Nominee	Signature
Fiji National University	Professor Anand Tyagi	
National University of Samoa	Professor Asofou So'o	
Pacific Adventist University	Professor Ben Thomas	
Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment	Dr. Alan Quartermain	
The University of Fiji	Professor Chandra Dulare	
The Papua New Guinea University of Technology	Professor John Pumwa	
The University of the South Pacific	Professor John Bythell	
University of French Polynesia	Professor Alban Gabillon	
University of Goroka	Dr. James Yoko	
University of New Caledonia	Professor Bernard Rigo	
University of Papua New Guinea	Professor John Luluaki	

Date: 10 July 2013

Location: The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji