



Talanoa Pasifika is about telling the stories of the Pacific: sharing the stories from the churches and PCC.



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Countdown to Copenhagen - Climate Change turning a page

In December the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen aims to find a new global agreement in the struggle against climate change. Should we, as churches in the Pacific, really care about an agreement that will be signed on the other side of the world? In today's world where the effects of climate change are changing our environment, our landscape,



Photo: Clark Little, SWNS.

even our geopolitical landscape with the eventual and inevitable disappearance of island nations in the Pacific, we can no longer sit back and relish our remoteness as a gift of God. For the Pacific Churches, it is important that we focus our attention on the leaders of our countries to share with them our concern and hope that they will in turn share with the world the need

for humanity to have an ambitious agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol.

We are part of this problem and we are affected by this problem: It is at our doorsteps, flooding our homes and damaging our houses, ravaging our plantations and crops. The problem is all the pollution we make; how we desecrate our environment with no respect for it **as a gift of God for us to be good stewards of.**

In the second negotiating meeting in Bonn I was trying hard to find my reference points in such a huge international process, find my bearings as a church representative in a secular international conference. What caught my attention was that some coun-

tries still do not quite capture the extent of damage that pollution is causing – and you

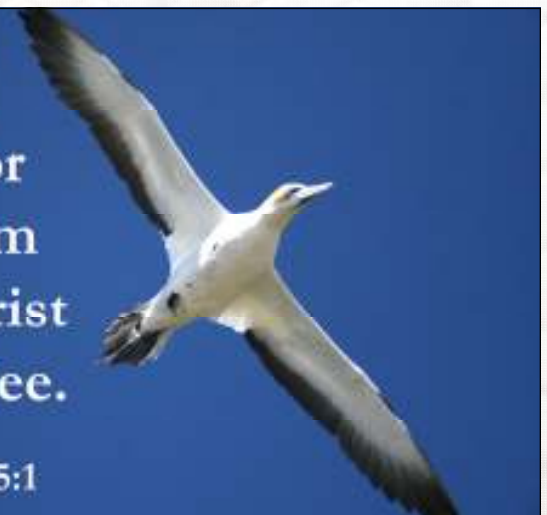


can't pay that off with money. "You take this money and do your little adaptation programmes in the Pacific and we can continue polluting" – no amount of financial assistance can clear the conscience of countries. Let us pray that good sense will prevail in Copenhagen.

Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi

**It is for
freedom
that Christ
set us free.**

Galatians 5:1





New face at the PCC Secretariat

Pasteur Francois Pihaatae is the new Ecumenical Animator for Environment & Climate Change and Good Governance

Straight from Papenoo, Tahiti comes Francois Pihaatae (43), PCC's new Ecumenical Animator for the Strategic Thematic Programmes (STPs) Environment & Climate Change and Good Governance. He was sent to the PCC Secretariat by the Maohi Protestant Church



(MPC), in which he has served as a minister in three different parishes before.

Pihaatae is former student of the Pacific Theological College and

was ordained in 1992. He is married with two sons and a daughter. Pihaatae represented the Maohi Protestant Church in the *Commission on World*

Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches (WCC) for five years. He also represented his church in PCC workshops and meetings.

Pihaatae has a special interest in the impacts of globalization on the life and culture of the people in the Pacific. "Globalization came like a wave, we were not well prepared for that", says the Theologian. "It is a threat for our cultural values." Pihaatae hopes to encourage people to face today's challenges and strengthen their spirituality. "There is a need to come back to the origin, where all things started", he says. "And that is God."

Trade agreements in the Pacific

Why churches should involve in Economic Justice - by Makoni Pulu, Ecumenical Animator for Globalisation and Trade

Pacific Church Leaders affirm the need for the Pacific churches to advocate and work on trade justice issues; particularly concerned about the push for free trade agreements in the Pacific and the grave risk that these agreements pose on our people.

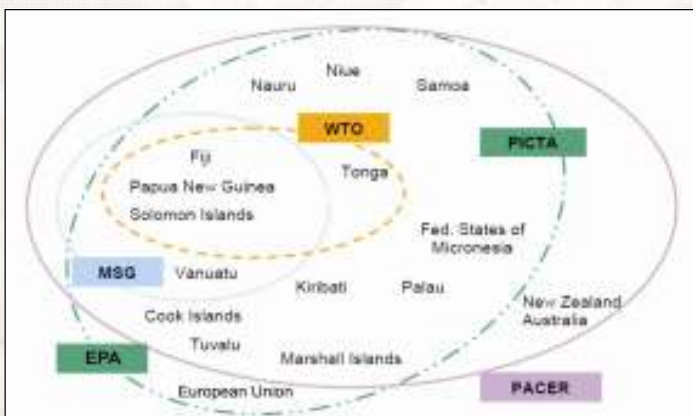
For much of the past decade Pacific Island Countries have faced pressure from our developed country partners, international financial institutions and aid donors to move towards trade liberation through free trade agreements (FTAs) and through

joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Here in the Pacific, the region is currently involved in negotiating the services component of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), a highly controversial Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union, and the fast-tracking of the Pacific Agreement on

Closer Economic Relations (PACER+) with Australia and New Zealand.

The hard-line approach taken by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union, and signals that Australia and New Zealand are likely to take a similar approach in putting their own economic and business interests ahead of the development aspirations of the people of the Pacific in the view of the Pacific Churches, NGOs and Trade Union is, in direct violation of the principles of good Governance. Such inequitable trade agreements pose grave risks on our people and future generations.



Proliferation of bilateral free trade agreements in the Pacific.



On the road to Copenhagen

PCC is highly involved in Climate Change negotiations leading to the Conference of Parties (COP) 15 meeting in December

As reported in the recent newsletter, PCC's involvement in the struggle against Climate Change is still high



Impacts of Climate Change in Tuvalu.

Global South to prepare Civil Society Organizations for the COP 15 Intersessional in Bonn. The five day meeting saw plenary discussions and workshops on the Bali Action Plan (BAP) thematic pillars (Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology

Transfers

and ambitious. Peter Emberson, Climate Change Campaigns Officer, recently joined the preparatory meeting of the Group 92 in Copenhagen.

The meeting brought together 100 participants from Europe, USA, Russia, Africa, India, China and the

and Financing). At the end of the meeting multi pronged strategies were put forth. PCC was engaged in the Adaptation working group discussions together with 20 other participants. Furthermore, PCC was invited as an observer to a

closed session meeting with the Danish Climate Change Minister and made a presentation at an intergovernmental meeting at the University of Copenhagen. PCC was represented on a panel with the Ambassador of Bolivia, Greenpeace India and the Danish Climate Change Minister.

PCC's GS Fei Tevi and Peter Emberson attended the Sixth Session of the COP15 Intersessional in Bonn.

"We need you to change your point of view and look at this issue of Climate change from the impacts on the everyday lives of human beings.

We need you to have the courage to face the fact that your way of life is obstructing our way of life."

From Peter Emberson's article, published in a Danish newspaper.



Meeting of the PCC Executive Committee

The members of PCC's Executive Committee experienced one week of discussions, decisions and ecumenical fellowship from March 30th to April 2nd in the Jovili Meo Mission Center at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji. Reports were given by PCC's Modera-

tor Bishop Apimeleki Qiliho, General Secretary Fei Tevi and the Ecumenical Animators.

The group also spent a visit to the Methodist church of Fiji and Rotuma and was welcomed by the

community of the PTC with a Kava ceremony and a welcome feast.



The Executive Committee and PCC staff in front of the Jovili Meo Mission Center.



Dialogue on the resettlement of Pacific peoples due to Climate Change

Review on the Pacific Church Leaders Meeting 2009 in Nadi



Patrick Nunn (USP)



Chris Ferguson (WCC)



Peter Forau (PIF)



Faautu Talapusi (WCC)



Fe'iloakitau Tevi (PCC)

FACES AT THE CLM

“Empowering church communities through a sustained dialogue process on resettlement” - the concern about resettlement of affected populations due to sea level rise and other global warming impacts grew out of the 9th Pacific Conference of Churches General Assembly held in 2007 in their discussions on climate change and the responsibility of the Churches to help address its impacts on their members.

The issue of resettlement also raises a number of other relevant and important issues that the churches will need to address during the course of this dialogue. Of increasing importance is the issue of the sustainability of lifestyles and livelihoods. With the current economic crisis affecting our economies, the question that begs to be addressed is whether our current way of life is a sustainable one.

The Oikoumene Pasifika - Pacific Church Leaders Meeting 2009 was the starting point for the initiative on

resettlement. This dialogue will also reflect on social models that would best suit the Pacific Island communities in the near future.

46 participants from all over the world looked at the issue



What can we say to our people in the Pacific about this change that needs to happen? How can the church be instrumental in bringing about this discussion of a different way of life that would be in sync with our environment?



from a Biblical Basis, learned about the scientific



view and the relations to Ecumenism, Human Rights or Trade in Bible Studies, presentations and Theological Cafes.

Working groups on Ecumenism, Governance, Eco-



Economics and Human Rights discussed the issues, proposed a framework of strategies for each area and identified linkages of issues and strategies.

The main outcome of the Pacific Church Leaders Meeting 2009 is the Moana Declaration you can see on the next page.



Maake Masango (RSA)



Cliff Bird (PTC)



Siketi Tonga (TNCC)



Frank Ecke (BftW)

Pacific Church Leaders Meeting Statement on Resettlement as a direct consequence of climate induced calamities

Our Oikos – a new consciousness on climate change and our call to action

The “MOANA Declaration”

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji - 24 April 2009

On the occasion of the Church Leaders Meeting on Resettlement as a direct consequence of climate induced calamities, Pacific Church Leaders issue the following statement on climate change and the imminent threat of forced relocation and displacement faced by Pacific peoples.

Mindful of the impacts on food and water security; our way of life; our culture; our community; our overall health and well being; the ecological systems on which we depend; other creatures with whom we share Gods creation;

Led by our faith traditions and the life of Jesus Christ, we stand on behalf of the poor, those who have little power and with those throughout history who have acted for justice,

We the Church Leaders from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) present at this meeting call upon the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), affected states and the international community of states to:

1. **Ensure** that all persons and communities affected by climate induced catastrophes in the Pacific as well as other affected world regions, in particular those who are forced to flee their homes and lands, are afforded the respect and protection of the full spectrum of rights enshrined within the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties;

2. **Develop** local, national, sub-regional, regional and international plans to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of forced climate migrants;

3. **Develop** the framework for a new Convention or Protocol on Resettlement to cater for the specific and unique situation of persons, communities and states affected by climatic induced catastrophes.

4. **Undertake** immediate measures to identify available land and other appropriate resources for the purposes of relocating and resettling all forced climate migrants, both those displaced internally as well as those likely to seek resettlement in other countries;

5. **Carry out** intensive public consultations with Pacific communities affected and will be affected by rising sea levels or other consequences of climate change, with a view to developing viable and practical plans to protect the

rights of forced climate migrants, in particular their housing, land and property and related rights;

6. **Develop** in a proactive way, in full partnership, cooperation and consultation with vulnerable people and communities affected by climate, policies, strategies and practical programmes that mitigate the worst effects and consequences of climate change on affected populations, and enable and empower such populations to adapt to changing environmental factors;

7. **Devote**, where mitigation and adaptation responses are likely to be insufficient per se, adequate resources, in particular financial resources, to practical measures designed to assist forced climate migrants to relocate and resettle in a manner consistent with their rights and in ways that secure for them an adequate standard of living and sustainable livelihoods;

8. **Explore** creative and innovative methods of identifying long-term relocation and resettlement options for forced climate migrants, consistent with their housing, land, property and related rights, whilst preserving their dignity as human beings;

9. **Develop** and support projects that demonstrate an alternative economic model reflecting faith based values of justice, equity, and sustainability – in challenge to the values inherent in the neo-liberal economic model dominant in the world today;

10. **Ensure** the rights of other populations affected by the forced displacement of climate change migrants, such as host or receiving communities in areas where climate change migrants are settled, are fully and adequately protected;

11. **Call** on the peoples of the Pacific and the international community of states, to act toward exhausting all avenues available toward the realization of the critical issues in this Moana Declaration;

12: **Reaffirm** the prophetic role of the church and its responsibility to recognize and speak out against the injustices wrought on by climate change and call on all persons, communities and states to act now.



The Participants of the Pacific Church Leaders Meeting 2009.

PCC interns “Face to Face” with other cultures

Every year, young theological scholars from all over the world come together in Fiji to experience the Fijian way of life and faith in the “Face to Face” programme, which is organized by God’s Pacific People programme of the PTC.

The four interns of the Secretariat of the PCC recently joined part of the programme to learn more about Fijian history and culture, to gain knowledge on mission and Theology in Oceania and last but not least to enjoy the exchange with the other participants, who come from India,

Indonesia, Madagascar, Zambia, Germany and the Pacific. After one week of introduction the participants went to the island of Viwa to experience Fijian village life in their host families, to hold church services and to facilitate Talanoa Sessions on the Environment, relation-

ships between church and state or present cultural items from their Pacific home countries. For our interns this is not only a great opportunity to

enjoy the fellowship with people from all over the world, but also to discuss topics related to their programmes with them.



The Face to Face participants at their cultural night in Viwa.



Face to Face Participants from the Pacific, India and Indonesia are welcomed with a Kava ceremony at the Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji.



New internships with the PCC will be possible from August 2009 to August 2010. For more information contact your PCC member church or Makoni Pulu in the PCC Secretariat (+679 - 3311 277).

What is the “Face to Face” Programme?

PTC’s “God’s Pacific People” (GPP) hosts this programme on behalf of the Council for World Mission (CWM). It is a seven-week cross-cultural exposure programme, for ordinands of the CWM churches worldwide. The programme aims to stimulate theo-

logical reflection, encourage sensitivity to people of other cultures and motivate people to involvement in mission. GPP has been running this programme since 2001. This year’s participants come from four different parts of India, from Indonesia, Zam-

bia, Madagascar, Germany and the Pacific.

Participants spend a week’s orientation at PTC and then five weeks of field placements on Viwa Island, in Suva parishes and with the Ba Methodist Indian Circuit, before they come back to PTC for evaluation.



PCC workshop on Human Rights in Kiribati

From the 6th to the 12th of May 40 participants came together for a Workshop on Human Rights in Kiribati.

The Moderator of the Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC) opened the ecumenical workshop, which was attended by participants from three denominations belonging to the Kiribati National Council of Churches – the Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC), the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and the Church of God. The

majority of the participants were members of the KPC. The gender distribution was 36 women and four men. With the age distribution, there were five youth participants and 35 participants beyond the age of 35.

The workshop was ably facilitated by Peter and Ruby from the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the South Pacific Community (SPC). Raju Fong, PCC's Human Rights Programme Ecumenical Animator prepared the workshop logistics and ensured that workshop was well financed and accounted for. PCC Animator Aisake Casimira accompanied the team to Kiribati and conducted the sessions on Governance and Human Rights



and assisted Peter and Ruby where possible with their sessions. The feedback from the participants was very encouraging.

We wish to thank the Moderator, the General Secretary and the Secretary for Church and Society of the Kiribati Protestant Church for their support throughout the workshop. Rev. Baranite Kirata for his hard work in organising and doing the translations of the presentations each of the workshop.

Aisake Casimira



PCC at the Graduation of HIV/Aids trainers

Training people on the issue of HIV/Aids women from Suva and around participated in a workshop organized by the Pacific Founda-

tion for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW). Following their invitation PCC's Ecumenical Animator Makoni Pulu and Naatia

Kiteon, our Kiribati intern on HIV/Aids joined the graduation to open the function with a devotion on the issue.



Trainers of Trainers for HIV/Aids waiting to receive their certificates.



Ecumenical Animator Makoni Pulu and PCC Intern Naatia Kiteon leading the devotion.



Comments, questions, suggestions for improvement and contributions of information, pictures or stories to the *Talanoa Pasifika* are most welcome. Please contact Julika Meinert, call + 679 3311 277 or email to pacific@pcc.org.fj.



A PTC student from Tahiti.

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Current and upcoming events

Date	Event	Location
1/6 - 5/6	Regional Human Rights Workshop	Tonga
8/6 - 14/6	Good governance and Leadership Workshop	Samoa
8/6/ - 11/6	Globalization and Trade Workshop	Tuvalu
14/6- 25/6	National Youth Convention	Marshall Islands
22 - 25/6	Good governance and Leadership Workshop	Pohnpei
20 - 23/7	Working Group on Ecumenism Meeting	Fiji
July (tbc)	Development and Environment Workshop	Nauru
24 - 28/8	Regional Human Rights Workshop	Solomon Islands



Samoan girls dancing the Ma'ulu'ulu at the PTC College Bazaar in May 2009.

About the Pacific Conference of Churches

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) seeks to pursue the visible unity of the member churches of the Pacific Conference of Churches and promote the ecumenical movement in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Conference of Churches is the Regional Ecumenical Organisation (REO) representing the churches at all levels in the Pacific region. It seeks the visible unity of the Church on issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation, initiatives on capacity building, and solidarity with its members during times of natural disasters and internal social upheavals.

It was founded in 1961 after the first meeting held at Malua Theological Seminary in Samoa. From very modest beginnings in the early 1960s, its membership is now numbered at about 27 Pacific member Churches and 11 National Council of Churches (NCCs).

